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Original photo by Lucien Desjardins, courtesy of CJC National Archives

How they celebrated the Nazis' demise!

What euphoria and elation must have accompanied the news that the war in Europe was over. War would still rage in the Pacific for another five months, but the Nazi scourge was finally vanquished. For almost six years, Canada had been at war, and now its soldiers would be coming home.

The photo above is of an obviously very happy celebration in Montreal soon after the news of the Nazis' surrender.

Sixty years ago, on May 7 at 2:41 a.m. at General Allied Headquarters in Rheims, France, Gen. Alfred Jodl, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, the designated head of the German state, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command.

Editorial
See stories pages 36-37

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the news of the surrender to his countrymen and to the entire world the following day by radio broadcast at 3 p.m.

"The German war is at an end, "he said in his famously stentorian voice. "After years of intense preparation, Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of September 1939, and in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland… [we] declared war upon this foul aggressor. After gallant France had been struck down, we, from this island and from our united empire, maintained the struggle single-handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of Soviet Russia and later by the overwhelming power and resources of the United States of America.

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Former Israeli president Ezer Weizman dies at 80 — see page 41

The News in Brief

CANADA

Rabbi's Son Killed

TORONTO — The 22-year-old son of Rabbi Mordechai Levin, executive director of the Kashruth Council of Canada, died April 22 of head and back injuries from a late-night car accident involving a vehicle that was apparently fleeing Toronto police. Nesanel Levin, who was reportedly visiting for Passover on a break from yeshiva studies in Israel, was driving a Honda Civic at about 11:15 p.m. on April 19 when he was hit on Bathurst Street south of Wilson Avenue by a Plymouth Breeze. The Plymouth was being followed by police as a suspect car after a break-in on nearby Carmichael Avenue, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit said. The 55-year-old driver was not seriously injured.

Endowment Launched

OTTAWA — The Ottawa Jewish community began an endowment fundraising campaign last month with the announcement that it has already raised $15 million toward its $40-million goal. The aim is to use the interest from the endowment to fund community agencies and needs, campaign co-chair Irving Taylor told the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*. The campaign was launched April 11 at the home of Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker and closes July 31.

WORLD

Profs Boycott Schools

LONDON — A union of British university teachers has launched a boycott of Haifa and Bar-Ilan universities. The Association of University Teachers voted to suspend all links with Haifa and Bar-Ilan and to circulate a statement to members from Palestinian groups calling for a full-scale boycott of Israeli academics. Haifa University was accused of victimizing anti-Zionist lecturer Ilan Pappe, and Bar-Ilan was charged with aiding a college in a West Bank settlement. The decision was immediately condemned by Jewish and academic groups. After Pappe voiced support for the boycott, Haifa University's president asked him to resign.

Pesach Fire Kills Three

NEW YORK — Three Jewish boys in the chassidic enclave of Williamsburg in Brooklyn died when a fire on the first day of Passover ripped through their apartment. The Sunday fire began in the kitchen, where two stove burners for warming food had been left on since Friday because of halachic prohibitions against lighting or putting out flames on Shabbat and festivals. The dead boys are brothers Shyia and Yidal Matyas, 13 and 15, and their nephew Shlomi Falkowitz, 7.

Liberations Recalled

PARIS — French President Jacques Chirac addressed a April 24 ceremony in Paris attended by more than 2,000 Holocaust survivors to mark 60 years since the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. "We have not forgotten, and we will never forget" the events of the Shoah, he said. "They are engraved in letters of blood and tears on our history. They trace our duty for us."

Aussie Shul Attacked

SYDNEY — A rural white extremist group is believed responsible for an attack on a synagogue in Newcastle, Australia, a city 100 miles north of Sydney with a Jewish community of about 30. The April 20 attack took place on the 116th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. The shul's walls were daubed with swastikas and stickers with virulently anti-Semitic slogans, and its six stained glass windows were destroyed. The same week, a household in a small nearby town flew a Nazi flag, but its residents said they bought it in a market and didn't know what it symbolized. They finally took it down after pressure from local politicians, national media and Jewish groups.

Reporter Honoured

LONDON — Britain last week honoured a BBC reporter accused of anti-Israel bias. Irish-born war correspondent Orla Guerin, who has most recently been based in Jerusalem, was named a Member of the British Empire. The move angered Israeli officials, who say her coverage favours the Palestinians and fosters anti-Semitism abroad.

Partisan Bunker Tour

SAN FRANCISCO — A new website will allow visitors to have a three-dimensional tour of a virtual *zemlyanka*, an underground bunker where some of the estimated 30,000 Jewish resistance fighters in eastern Europe lived during the Shoah. The exhibit at www.jewishpartisans.org, run by the San Francisco-based Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation, has been up since late April.

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Say No to Sanctions, Jews Urge Protestants

NEW YORK — Jewish groups are urging Protestant churches not to press sanctions against Israel.

The Jewish groups signed a letter April 22 to the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the National Council of Churches, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church, asking that they not endorse calls for economic and political sanctions against Israel, as several Protestant groups have done.

The letter came after word the United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church were reportedly set to announce they would be considering sanctions in the next few months.

"At this fragile time in the Middle East peace negotiations, all who seek peace should be focused on continued economic and political engagement, and what can be done to support efforts to peace and confidence building," the letter said. "We call on our Christian colleagues to reject all negative economic and political sanctions, for they undermine peace, foster prejudice and give hope to extremists on every side."

Signatories to the letter included the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Orthodox Union, the Union for Reform Judaism and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

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Complaints dismissed against two religious schools

Case against Jewish class ruled outside ministry's purview

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

A project glorifying violence against Israel, written by a student at Ottawa's Islamic Abraar School, was an isolated incident, education minister Gerard Kennedy announced last week.

At the same time, Kennedy said the province will not act on a complaint from the Canadian Islamic Congress after a Jewish student at an afternoon synagogue school in Kingston wrote that Palestinians in 1948 wanted "to push the Israelis into the sea."

The ministry considers the afternoon Talmud Torah classes at Kingston's Beth Israel Congregation outside its purview because it's an afternoon congregational school.

"It's not within our jurisdiction," spokesperson Amanda Alvaro told *The CJN*, adding the ministry won't investigate the Islamic congress' complaint.

Only the day before, Kennedy announced he would look into the complaint, even though he had not received a formal request from the Islamic group. "We do think that the government has to uphold certain kinds of standards, especially when children are involved," he said.

But the next day, upon learning the student in question attended Hebrew classes at a congregational school, the minister said there would be no follow-up.

The Islamic congress called for the probe after a letter was published in the Kingston *Whig-Standard* on March 17. The letter, from nine-year-old Jacob Kaplan, a student at the synagogue's twice-weekly Hebrew school, was in response to a March 1 letter from Kingston resident Joseph Backus.

Backus blamed the lack of progress in Middle East peace squarely on Israel and its "war leader," who will continue building "Jewish-only settlements at a rapid pace on Palestinian land, and will continue building the apartheid separation barrier that will annex even more land to Israel and mark out the border of the Palestinian reservation or ghetto."

In his response, Jacob said he learned at his Hebrew school that Israel "does not want to fight… Jews have been trying to protect themselves in the land since Israel became a state in 1948. The reason there is war is because when the British divided the state, the Palestinians wanted more and invaded, wanting to push the Israelis into the sea."

However, in its complaint to the education ministry and in public statements, the Canadian Islamic Congress quoted Jacob's letter as saying Palestinians "want only to push the Israelis into the sea."

Congress vice-president Wahida Valiante did not return calls to explain the discrepancy.

In an earlier statement, Valiante said "the teaching that influenced the child's letter" is "damaging to healthy relationships among many Canadians in our multicultural and pluralistic society."

She said the congress hoped the government would treat the case with the "same care and speed" it showed after the complaint about racist remarks in a student's report at the private Abraar school in Ottawa. The congress said Jacob's letter was "comparable" to what took place there.

Jacob Kaplan's father, Barry, told *The CJN* he's "not interested in pursuing this any more. We've made our point, I think."

In an interview with the *Whig-Standard*, Kaplan said his son "took it upon himself to draft a response, and Bonnie [Jacob's mother] and I are very proud of him for his willingness to stand up for something he believes in.

"I think the writing that is contained in his letter is a good representation of what has happened historically," he said.

"Maybe the phrase 'Push into the sea' is a bit strong, but it's not inaccurate."

Kaplan said Jacob was concerned about the controversy surrounding his letter, and had been warned by his parents that his views may be unpopular.

Continued on page 34

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It's harder still to know what to say to convey one's thoughts and one's feelings about Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah. But here we know there is room for silence. For, as Elie Wiesel and so many others have often wondered, perhaps silence is the only truly human response to the abomination that we call the Shoah.

But, as individuals and as a people, we also know that we must always differentiate the personal response from the communal one. Whereas silence may be appropriate for an individual, silence is never appropriate for a community.

Thus, on the 27th day of Nissan, the day set aside by proclamation of the Knesset to mark the destruction of European Jewry and the heroism of the resisters, Jews all around the world come together *as communities* to publicly remember what must never be forgotten.

There remain, of course, legitimate questions about how to remember. Individuals and communities find their own paths into the hallowed, but often emotionally shattered, hall of memory.

Two years ago, the Rabbinical Assembly published *Megillat Hashoah*, the Shoah Scroll, a profoundly moving, elegiac, searing document that aims, as far as is humanly possible, to help express the cry from the heart, the *cri de coeur*, for all of us struggling to find our own ways into the hall.

"The publication of Megillat Hashoah marks a milestone in the transformation of Yom Hashoah into a a sacred day within the cycle of the Jewish year, taking its rightful place as a day of mourning and religious commemoration," wrote Rabbi Reuven Hammer, the president of the assembly, in Jerusalem two years ago when the megillah was introduced.

The Rabbinical Assembly document is actually more than the megillah, the scroll, itself. It provides an entire liturgy for Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah.

The scroll was written in concise, modern Hebrew by Avigdor Shinan and translated by Jules Harlow. It comprises six chapters: In the Beginning; The Earth is filled with Chaos and Confusion; The Darkness Spread Over All; Confronting the Abyss; A Heavenly Voice, Hovering, Cries Out; and Let There be Light Again.

The writing is modest. It never overreaches. It never substitutes artifice for narrative. It speaks with heartbreaking understatement. Nor does the scroll try to sound "biblical." Rather, it sounds as it must – namely, like a testimony.

That the testimony is delivered in Hebrew is more than a liturgical necessity. Hebrew is both the old and the new language of the Jewish people, the language of our sacred texts and the language of the State of Israel.The Hebrew of the megillah poignantly conveys the inherent Jewishness of the events described in the testimonies.

The translations from the Hebrew are superb, but inevitably they fall short of the melodic movement and alliterative flow so inherently unique to the sounds of Hebrew.

The writing of the megillah began as an idea expressed some years ago by Alex Eisen, a survivor himself, to Rabbi Philip Scheim in Toronto.

That conversation led ultimately to the writing of the scroll, a joint labour by many individuals at the Rabbinical Assembly and at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. It was under the guidance of Rabbi David Golinkin, president of the Schechter Institute, that the final document came to be written.

This year, an all-Hebrew edition and a Hebrew-French edition of the megillah have been published. The megillah will be read in synagogues and homes in England and France.

The book in which the megillah is published also features a special *Yizkor* written by Abba Kovner, as well as the now timeless poems *Undzer Shtetl Brent* (Our shtetl is burning) by Mordechai Gebertig and *Zog Nit Keyn Mol* (the Partisans' song) by Hirsh Glick, and three introductory essays by rabbis Hammer, Golinkin and Scheim.

As Rabbi Scheim expressed, it is the hope of its compilers that Megillat Hashoah will be read on Yom Hashoah every year in synagogues and communities throughout the world."

Rabbi Hammer succinctly and eloquently explains why. "With the publication of Megillat Hashoah, we express the depth of our mourning of our brothers and sisters who were destroyed in this terrible Holocaust. We pledge ourselves to keep their memories alive forever and to dedicate ourselves to the proposition that Am Yisrael Hai – we shall continue to live and to proclaim the greatness of the Jewish people and its way of life."

Megillat Hashoah should be read by all. It can help us arrive at the hall of memory. It's available through the United Synagogue Book Service by calling 1-800-594-5617, or at booksvc@uscj.org.

— MBD

PUTIN VISITS ISRAEL: Russian President Vladamir Putin, left centre, met with Israeli President Moshe Katsav, right, at the presidential residence during his visit to Israel last week. Putin is the first Russian or former Soviet Union leader to visit Israel while in power. He also met with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and visited the new Yad Vashem Holocaust museum. Putin told Sharon that while he is in power he would not do anything to harm Israel. He also told Sharon that he is concerned, just as Israel is, with the thought of a nuclear-armed Iran. **See story, page 40.**

Israeli rabbi a proponent of non-violent protest

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Shlomo Aviner says he is not a lone voice among Orthodox Jewish Israelis or even among most of the settlers when he exhorts IDF soldiers not to disobey evacuation orders during this summer's planned disengagement from Gaza.

"Mutiny is something bad. We need our army. Our army is not dealing only with disengagement. Our army is protecting our land," he said in an interview at the offices of Mizrachi Canada.

The quiet-spoken rabbi – who was born in 1943 in German-occupied Lyon, France, and served in the IDF during both the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War – was in Toronto recently to speak at Congregation B'nai Torah and meet with supporters of his Jerusalem-based yeshiva, Ateret Cohanim. He also spoke at Toronto's Bnei Akiva high schools, Yeshivat Or Chaim and its sister high school for girls, Ulpanat Orot.

Rabbi Aviner, rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Ateret Cohanim in Jerusalem and rabbi of the community of Beit El, is an electrical engineer by training and has a master's degree in mathematics. But, he said, after he made aliyah in 1966, he decided he could make a greater contribution by focusing on "spiritual edification."

A disciple of Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook, son of Israel's first chief rabbi, Rabbi Aviner is a prolific author who is well known in Israel. He grew up in the religious Zionist movement, eventually serving as national director of Bnei Akiva in France.

Aryeh Lederman, left, with Rabbi Shlomo Aviner

Rabbi Aviner's public pronouncements on disengagement in no way indicate approval of it. He said settlers should continue to struggle against disengagement, but "without violence, without insults, without hatred and – the most important thing – to convince the Jewish people in Israel that this is a very grave mistake. It's a human mistake, a national mistake, a religious mistake, a strategic mistake and a security mistake.

"We hope it will be possible to stop this process, but generally, everything we do in our state we have to do together. It's the most important thing."

Nor is he in favour of the establishment of a Palestinian state. "The Palestinians have a state," he said, referring to Jordan, which, he pointed, out, is "part of Israel according to the Bible."

He said he does not see a "moral duty" to create a Palestinian state within Israel but that he has no problem with Palestinians living in Israel as citizens, as long as they are law-abiding. "The only thing we want is for them to stop killing us."

As recently as 15 years ago, Rabbi Aviner recalls, he used to travel regularly from his home in Beit El to nearby Ramallah to shop. "We were living together in peace," he said of the pre-Oslo era.

In fact, he said, his 25-year-old yeshiva – which was also a yeshiva in the 1930s – enjoys a good relationship with its Arab neighbours in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem. There is, however, an element of wariness, he noted, explaining that three of its almost 250 students have been killed by Arabs.

Aryeh Lederman, Ateret Cohanim's director – who spent four years in Toronto as a child when his parents were shlichim in the early 1980s – added that one of the Arab neighbours safeguarded the yeshiva for more than three decades, and returned the key to an Israeli soldier when the city was reunified in 1967.

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Israeli public helps prevent terror: police general

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Terrorism in Israel isn't limited to suicide bombings. VIP assassinations, attacks on transportation and aviation and cyber-terrorism – "which is starting to be very serious" – are also threats that Israel is working to prevent, Israeli Brig-Gen. Dubi Yung said in a talk at Beth Tikvah Synagogue last week.

"The Americans suffered half a day of mega-terror," he said, referring to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, but Israel is always on guard against terror attacks.

His strategy for fighting terrorism: a three-pronged response involving public vigilance, the security fence, and extensive co-operation between different elements of Israel's security sector.

Co-operation between the intelligence service, police and security services, border guards and army is essential to keeping everyone safe, said Yung, the commander of special forces for the Israel Police.

"The best intelligence that doesn't come to the forces in the field is useless."

The goal, he emphasized, is to prevent attacks such as suicide bombings from happening in advance. "We want to hit the terrorist in his house, not at the door to the morgue."

Yung said intelligence prompted an urgent message to employees of a private security service at a mall in Kfar Saba in 2002, warning that a suicide bomber was on the way to the mall.

Mall security set out on patrol and three minutes later, a man blew himself up at the entrance. The bomb killed a security guard and injured several civilians, but the bomber never made it into the mall, where the casualty toll would likely have been higher.

"That's the one thing about fighting terrorism," Yung said. "Sometimes you have to talk about minimum damage."

In addition to private security companies, Israel has about 50,000 volunteer police officers who help the regular police force when it has to deal with security issues, said Yung.

Ordinary civilians, however, are also integral to the country's security.

"If there is a difference between Israeli citizens and the rest of the world, it's this: public awareness," he said.

Israel received seven million 911 calls last year, which works out to more than one call per citizen, Yung said. Israelis who have been in the army have learned to be aware of their surroundings, and children are also taught to keep a watchful eye.

"The public is our partner," he said. "We try to share as much as possible, as quickly as possible."

The West Bank security fence has been an important element of Israeli security, and while it's not the only reason for the reduction in suicide bombings, it's a contributing factor, Yung said.

The statistics speak for themselves: there were 162 suicide bombings before the wall was built, compared to only seven since its construction, he added.

From October 2000 to December 2004, Israel has experienced more than 8,000 terrorist attacks. More than 1,000 people have been killed, and more than 7,000 injured. Although only four per cent of terror attacks are suicide bombings, they account for 45 per cent of injuries.

"Suicide attacks are a very good weapon," he said.

Yung said he operates entirely behind the scenes, adding that he would rather do his job unhindered than talk to the media or engage in a public opinion war.

The day after his lecture at Beth Tikvah, he was scheduled to talk to 125 RCMP, CSIS and OPP officers about law enforcement strategies.

Yung's speech was sponsored by the Mackenzie Institute, a non-profit organization interested in political instability and terrorism, and the Media Action group, which promotes Israel in the media.

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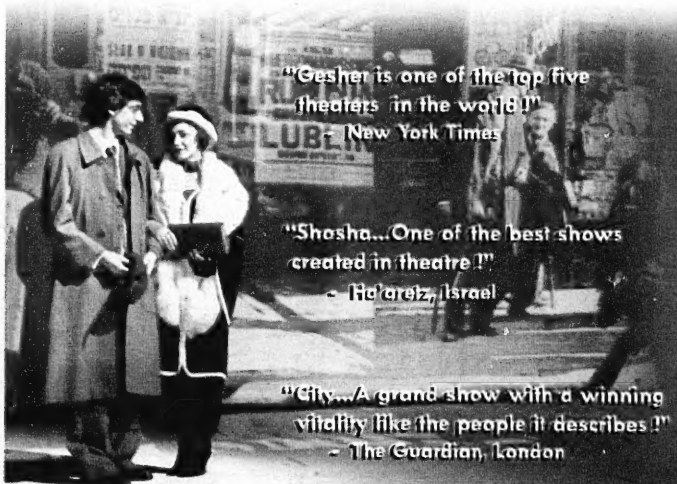
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Editorials & Letters

Dry Bones
EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARE RENEWING COOPERATION
MEANWHILE, IN UNRELATED NEWS,
EGYPT HAS BEEN HIT BY AN OUTBREAK OF TERROR ATTACKS!
"UNRELATED" ?

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U.S. troops liberate the prisoners of Dachau in 1945
[Spertus Institute photo]

Freedom's victory

Continued from page 1

The statement that the "evil-doers were prostrate before us" must have sent shivers up the spine of all those who were privileged to hear that broadcast.

But the shivers must have also brought pain, along with a sense of relief, for an entire continent lay in ruins. And everyone who heard the prime minister that afternoon knew of it.

After September 1939, Europe became a choked and choking charnel house. Nearly half a million British and Commonwealth soldiers died in World War II (in all fighting theatres). Canada alone lost 39,000 soldiers. Total allied military losses exceeded 18 million. In all, more than 55 million human beings lost their lives in the war. More than half that number, some 30 million, were civilians. It is a staggering number, well beyond our abilities to truly comprehend.

And of course, among those civilians were the Jews of Europe, who were hunted, set upon, preyed upon, rounded up, humiliated, tortured, shot, gassed and slaughtered as an overriding, pre-eminent objective of the mighty Nazi military and civilian apparatus.

For those of us born after the war, it is very difficult to relate to the emotions of V-E Day, to understand what our parents and grandparents felt when they heard the announcement.

We were born into a world where "the evil-doers" had been defeated. *Our* fighting forces, *our* way of life, *our* values had emerged victorious. We lived free, generally untroubled by world events, and we grew up, more or less, with the same ease by which we drew our breath.

But the world we were born into might have been other than free.

Freedom was not our destiny. It was an inheritance from the generation that fought for it and paid so dearly for it with so many lives.

Only those who were in England or caught in the Nazis' vise can recall the dark dread they felt after France fell in only a matter of days, when England stood alone. In the first year of the war, more than 40,000 British civilians died from the nightly bombings. And hundreds of thousands of Jews had already been murdered.

Freedom was not assured to us. It was won for us by courage and sacrifice.

The men and women in the photo on page one celebrating the defeat of the evil-doers and the imminent return home of their soldiers knew that fact as surely as they knew that they must teach it to us, their children, and as surely as they must have hoped that we, in turn, would teach it to our children.

May their hope be our promise.

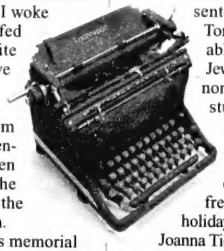
LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Israel's moments of silence

I could not agree more with the sentiments expressed in Gil Troy's column, "Let's join our Israeli cousins in their mourning" (*CJN*, April 28). During my last visit to Israel, I saw Israeli drivers getting out of their cars on the Ayalon Expressway in Tel Aviv and stand for a moment's silence as sirens blared across the country on Yom Hazikaron.

With the arrival of the Internet, we Jews in the Diaspora have a new way to join with our Israeli brothers and sisters during their moment of silence. Last year, I woke up at 3:30 a.m., fired up my computer, surfed over to Rashut Hashidur's website (http://bet.iba.org.il/) and clicked on "Bet Live – Shidur Chai." I listened to the live streaming broadcast of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's coverage of Israel's official Yom Hazikaron ceremonies and then stood at attention in front of my window, facing east, when the sound of the sirens came through the speakers hooked up to my computer. I did the same thing the week before on Yom Hashoah.



The Internet brought the sound of Israel's memorial sirens right into my home here in Canada. Wouldn't it be a powerful statement if all of us here in North America woke up in the middle of the night to stand with Israel on these two important memorial days?

Brian Dov Torobin
Toronto

* * *

Response to Zeifman

Larry Zeifman ignores what was actually said by Martin Lockshin ("Offensive material at shul steps over the line," *CJN*, April 7) and instead parrots the very thing that he cautions against ("Response to Lockshin," Letters, *CJN*, April 28).

An Orthodox rabbi and biblical scholar, Lockshin noted that we Jews do not simply read the Torah and leave it at that. Would Zeifman or his friend have us take Deuteronomy 20:9 literally and put to death all who curse their fathers or mothers?

We practise a Judaism that has millennia of textual analysis and explanation by our great sages and commentators to help us understand the meaning of the text and how it applies to our lives. And this essential process of interpretation continues in our own day.

Zeifman's sarcasm about Lockshin censoring the Torah is uncalled for and completely out of line.

Bernard Katz
Toronto

* * *

University exam on Passover

I was quite surprised and deeply disturbed by Joanne and Charles Ticker's comments and actions regarding the University of Western Ontario's setting an exam on April 23 ("Western sets exam for night of first seder", *CJN*, April 21).

I am a graduate of an Ontario university. Many of my exams fell on either Shabbat or holidays such as Passover. I was the only observant Jew in my professional program and approximately 10 per cent of my class was Jewish.

I informed the dean and the head of the professional school at the beginning of each semester of the dates of the holidays and of any scheduling conflicts. I also presented a letter from my synagogue's rabbi in Toronto to reinforce the fact that I would not be able to write an exam when it conflicted with a Jewish holiday. Support was not provided by my non-observant Jewish classmates or the Jewish student federation. My professors were not always pleased when there was a conflict, but all offered a make-up exam.

I would suggest that Jewish students enjoy the freedom of Passover and the freedom offered by universities and enjoy the holiday and write the make-up exam. No one forced Joanna Ticker to give up the Passover seder and instead write her exam on Shabbat. On the contrary, the university offered her a solution that requires a bit of sacrifice on both parts.

David Bookman
Toronto

* * *

Anti-Semitism at McMaster

In the article "McMaster students express grievances over SPHR event," (*CJN*, April 21), I am quoted as saying, "We had this nice campus community that wasn't poisoned by anti-Semitism." This is incorrect. What I should have said is that we had a good-natured academic community that, while already poisoned by some anti-Semitism, was not what one might called a completely poisoned well – nor is it completely poisoned now.

The poison of anti-Semitism existed when I arrived at McMaster University in 2003. It existed under the guise of anti-Israel activities and stances and it existed when students and faculty members took objection to Jewish practices such as Sabbat observance, daily prayer and observance of Jewish holidays. The only difference over the past two years is that the anti-Semitism at McMaster, much like the so-called "new anti-Semitism" elsewhere, has become more visible, more acceptable, more mainstream, more frequently encountered and stronger in its form.

I believe only Jews can fight anti-Semitism. Gentiles, while they can and should be enlisted in our fight, must see us fighting first. If we do not speak up for ourselves, history has taught us that no one will.

Jacob Kocsis
Hamilton

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Yad Vashem building makes a moral statement

By MARTIN PERETZ
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

It was the prophet Isaiah who gave Yad Vashem its name. "And to them will I give within my house and within my walls a memorial and… an everlasting name" – which is precisely what the site of remembrance in Jerusalem for the six million victims of the Jewish catastrophe in Europe is trying to do.

A name and a history for every one of those murdered by the Nazis and their numerous collaborators: the pious and the free-thinking; the wise and the dumb; the beautiful and the plain; scholars and shoemakers; seamstresses and skiers; serious folk and slackers; the poor and the rich and those in the middle; men, women, young children – at least 1½ million of the latter.

No exceptions made, except by luck or the special bravery of the doomed. Yad Vashem was not the first monument in Jerusalem to the European hell: a terrifying cave of artifacts and plaques was established on Mount Zion a few years after the war. But it was Yad Vashem that introduced the combined ideal of a memorial and a name, of commemoration and scholarship.

It was first imagined during World War II and formalized immediately after the war at an international Zionist conference held in London. The project was put into the hands of the National Council of the Jews of Palestine, the singularly democratic authority that had been preparing the Yishuv for sovereignty.

It opened in 1957, the first such institution anywhere, on a richly forested hill overlooking the western outskirts of the city in the Jewish state that – had it been permitted by the great powers to exist 15 years earlier – would have systematically absorbed the stalked Jews of civilized Europe.

The original installation, heavily didactic and built almost entirely around photographs, had hardly any architecture. It felt like a bomb shelter, or a cave carved out of the earth.

It did adjoin a handsome stone memorial hall, enclosing a stark floor map of Europe punctuated by the eternally horrifying names of death camps: Bergen-Belsen, Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibor, Majdanek and so on. An eternal light is all that illumines the macabre cartography.

All of this still stands, as does the Avenue of the Righteous, sided by trees planted to honour some 18,000 gentiles – not all that many of them, when you think about it – who risked their lives to rescue Jews from Moloch. It is from this route of Christian heroes that visitors make their way to the shattering experience.

Now the Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie has built a new Yad Vashem on the same sacred site.

Safdie had previously designed and set in place a memorial centred around an actual railroad car that ferried Jews from the ghettos to the lager (historians tell us that the train schedules were indispensable to the success of the Final Solution, a theme explained in the new exhibits) and a children's memorial centred on a single lit candle that, through mirror and magnification – and a recorded recitation of the known names of the perished – hauntingly conveys the magnitude of the disaster.

But, in mid-March, he unveiled an amazing new structure, a space at once primordial and highly modern, to hold the terrible evidence that no one wanted to confront at the time – not U.S. president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, not the pro-Zionist British prime minister Winston Churchill, and not the non-Jewish Jews who owned the *New York Times* – that the Jewish people were being snuffed out.

The 200-metre-long structure is a three-dimensional cement triangle, which burrows through the mountain revealing the building's beginning and its end, both of which are brilliantly cantilevered into space.

Safdie's signature command of natural light – in this case, light from a narrow skylight running along the structure's apex cutting through the alp – illumines the entire dark journey, through the deep prism itself and the historical galleries undulating on the sides.

You cannot skip one gallery for another, one part of the narrative for another. Safdie has cut angular trenches through his chronological passageway, and one of the first is filled with books – by Einstein, Freud, Werfel, Zweig, and the other Jewish degenerates – that the Nazis gathered for the burnings visible on the adjoining video screens. (It was not long before people were gathered for burnings.)

And, at the end of the dark journey, you emerge in the clear sunlight on the Jerusalem hills. From five feet back, and 10, all you see is sky. And then you are quite literally free. You are over land, the land of Israel. But the voyage is always curtained by the concrete.

Over the land of Israel: there is a Zionist dimension to the exhibit at Yad Vashem, and it is altogether apposite. Middle-class liberalism in Europe demanded of the Jews that they assimilate, and, when they did, they were resented.

Social democracy denied the Jews their peoplehood. Communism saw the Jews as enemies and even made an alliance with Adolf Hitler and then prepared its own onslaught against them. Religious Judaism (with some exceptions) instilled among Jews a debilitating passivism. Only the Zionists grasped that Europe was doomed soil for the Jewish people. A few European Jewish communities experienced an exodus during the 1930s, and almost all the people who left were Zionists.

Thessaloniki is one instance. In 1935-36, 15,000 Jews from Salonika emigrated to Palestine and built the port of Haifa. Some 50,000 Jews stayed behind, of whom fewer than 2,000 survived the war. This surely was among the highest "kill ratios" of the entire Holocaust.

The exhibit at Yad Vashem starts with an exquisite magic lantern video presentation of old footage – the home movies of the martyred – by Michal Rovner. Here you see those who were alive just before they would be dead. The footage moves from east to west, in a meshing of map and landscape, from right to left, as in a Torah scroll. I cannot get out of my mind the young girls beckoning the visitor into their lives with the gentle inward waving of their hands. I cannot forget their smiles. I bitterly note their astonishing diversity.

This building may be the most moral statement made by architecture in our time. Its rendering of the life of the murdered is searing and subtle. You can almost wear their shoes, look through their eyeglasses, read their poems of despair. You almost feel what it was like trying to get bread in the Warsaw ghetto or being trapped in Budapest when the Germans, already almost completely vanquished, mobilized themselves for their last great massacre of Hungarian Jewry in Auschwitz.

And then you come to a photograph of Heinrich Himmler, and you listen to a recording of a speech he made to SS officers in 1943:

"It is one of those things that is easily said. 'The Jewish people is being exterminated,' every party member will tell you… And then along they all come, all the 80 million upright Germans, and each one has his decent Jew…

"And none of them has seen it, has endured it. Most of you will know what it means when 100 bodies lie together, when there are 500, or when there are 1,000. And to have seen this through, and… to have remained decent, has made us hard and is a page of glory never mentioned and never to be mentioned."

It was not just six million who perished. It was an entire culture that was put to death. Still, consider the raw numbers. At Yad Vashem, three million dead men, women, and children are individually recorded in the archives, some even with pictures.

My mother, who came from a Polish village called Levertov, had six siblings, one of whom survived (he went east to Russia). His daughter and grandchildren now live in the United States, and a son and his family live in Israel. The five who perished were all married and had children, perhaps four or five each.

My father, who came from the same shtetl, left eight brothers and sisters at home, and pleaded with them to come to the United States (which wasn't so easy) or go to Palestine. All of them were married with the usual number of children. Only one of these children, a daughter of one of my father's sisters, got out, taking the underground route to Palestine, running the blockade, and ending up on a kibbutz in what is now Israel. Still alive at 90, she has two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

So here is the disaster writ small: Had her 30- or 40-odd cousins lived, how many of the family line would still be alive? How many more Jews would be alive if the six million had not been slaughtered?

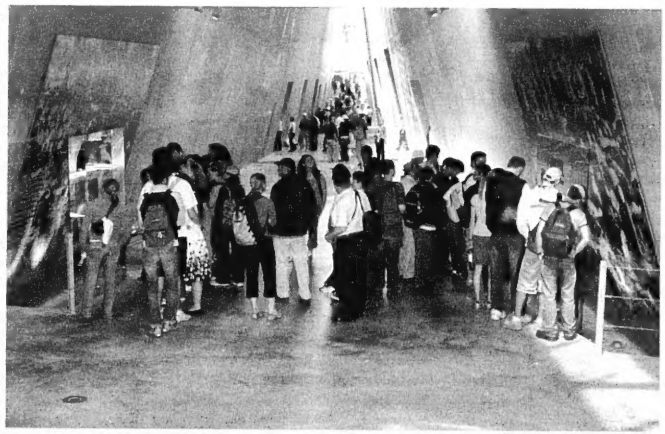
There was one discordant note in the opening ceremonies, and it was the participation of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. He had taken time out on his way to Jerusalem to pay homage at the Ramallah grave of Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat, a certified legatee of the anti-Semitism of the Nazis. How diplomatic!

The secretary-general's very presence evoked the offending memory of his predecessors: U Thant, who removed UN troops from the Sinai – a decade-old barrier to war between Israel and Egypt – on the command of then-Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, which unleashed the Six-Day War; and, most grotesquely, Kurt Waldheim, whose personal role in the Final Solution to "the Jewish problem" was suppressed by the great powers and the UN bureaucracy.

And what were Annan's qualifications for this ceremony? Well, he is an expert on genocide, an expert of a certain sort. In his diplomatic practice of the 1990s, in various UN posts, he became a genocide-denier, since he refused to act against the extermination wars in Bosnia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

If the history of our time is written honestly, it will record that Annan stood passively by as the new exterminators went to work. Shame will be his memorial, his everlasting name.

This article appeared in the April 18 issue of the New Republic.



Visitors pore over the exhibits at the new Yad Vashem museum. **[Israpet photo]**

Opinions

Anger over academic boycott

A heated debate has both preceded and followed a recent vote by Britain's Association of University Teachers (AUT) to boycott Israel's Bar Ilan and Haifa universities. Hebrew University was also slated for such censure, because of its alleged "confiscation of land occupied by Palestinian families in east Jerusalem," but, for reasons that are not immediately clear, it was later dropped from the AUT's hit list.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

Meanwhile, the charge against Haifa was that it is "failing to uphold academic freedom," because the university apparently "disciplined" one of its professors for "supporting a student who wrote about attacks on Palestinians during the founding of the State of Israel." What really happened, in fact, is that the student in question was found to have fabricated the "evidence" that constituted the basis of his thesis. He later apologized to an Israeli court for his deception, after a suit was brought against him by soldiers involved in the case. Moreover, according to the university, no disciplinary action has ever been taken against the professor.

Bar Ilan was targeted because, according to the AUT, "it runs courses at colleges in the occupied West Bank" and is thus "directly involved with the occupation of Palestinian territories, contrary to United Nations resolutions".

Both the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Anti-Defamation League have already registered their outrage against the AUT decision, and media outlets in Israel, Britain and the United States have been inundated with calls to have it revoked. Britain's National Postgraduate Committee, representing masters' and doctoral students, has come out against the boycott, and even Arab Al-Quds University in east Jerusalem, headed by Sari Nusseibeh, has expressed its opposition, preferring instead "to build bridges, not walls".

The idea of an academic boycott of Israel first began to command attention about three years ago. In a letter to the *Guardian* newspaper, 120 signatories from universities across Europe called for a moratorium on funding for Israeli research. Then, as now, there was an enormous outcry against such undisguised vilification of the Jewish state. But then, unlike now, the campaign failed to sway opinion in a way that might have had any lasting impact. The current scenario is somewhat different, though its effect may still turn out to be minimal. The reality, however, is that regardless of the actual result and no matter how unseemly, hypocritical and morally bankrupt the current initiative is, it has nonetheless created a precedent that other Israel-bashers will be quick to reference.

It is, therefore, especially important for constituencies both inside and outside of academia to speak up quickly and forcefully against the AUT's assault on the freedoms and dignity of Israel's institutes of higher learning and those who work within their framework.

Spring reveries, circa 2005

For a few weeks each spring, in keeping with the spirit of Purim, Israel dresses up in a deceptively lush green, masquerading briefly as a gentle and temperate land. The dusty river gorges gush with rushing torrents and colourful splashes of flowers spread good cheer. Birds sing merrily in the cosy, warm air. Periodic showers keep things moist, fertile, fragrant and soft.

But then, with characteristic sledge-hammer-to-the-head abruptness, you awaken one morning from this delicious vernal reverie to behold fields full of hissing yellow straw, dense thickets of mean and prickly thistles, dry seed pods rattling nastily in the wind, and a hot frying pan, called summer, beating down mercilessly and relentlessly on your sizzling skull. Your lips chapped, your nostrils parched, you rub your eyes in disbelief at how so much goodness could vanish so quickly and so completely.

Welcome to the Middle East.

Alas, this is no Denmark, no France. Spring does not ease gently, gradually and gracefully into summer. It is clobbered into extinction within a few days by withering April winds off the desert. Those sweetly warbling birds of yesterday flee into the dark shadows of trees and buildings, where all of us spend the next eight months gasping for breath.

As with the seasons, so it is with just about everything else. Hereabouts, transitions and transformations are sudden and unpredictable. "Process" is not part of the local vocabulary. The sudden geological upheavals that characterize this great earthquake zone spill over into human affairs as well. One moment you are basking in the soft, green grass daydreaming about imminent peace, and the next you are being swallowed up by the yawning black chasm of a murderous intifadah.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

So it is that I look askance at the latest political developments. As usual, everything is happening too fast and there is little sense of a natural progression from one set of conditions and attitudes to another. In what seems to be the blinking of an eye, voices in the Palestinian camp have sanitized their brutish and murderous speech and are speaking of historical reconciliations and enduring peace in place of eternal warfare against the Jew and the Zionist.

To my taste, the latest utopia smells much too much like the one five bloody years ago, when our Palestinian "partners" were about to sign a peace treaty. As I remember it, they changed their minds at the very last moment and chose, instead, to sign our death warrants.

Salim, a Palestinian shop owner and acquaintance, tried to explain to me two years ago why Israel was done for. Affluence and success, he said, had made Jews soft. "We Palestinians can survive on bread and olives," he hissed scornfully. "We will outlast you!" These days Salim is singing a very different tune. "You know," he said to me a few days back, "most of us want only peace and quiet. We want to do a little business, care for our families. After all, we Israelis and Palestinians are brothers, cousins, not so?" I nodded cordially, meaninglessly, and took my leave.

Yes, it is hard to believe, given the present optimistic mood, that scarcely one year ago we were still swimming in blood, visiting gravesites, memorials and bereaved families, blessing foreign tourists, and looking aghast upon a steady onslaught of the most hateful propaganda imaginable emerging from the Palestinian media.

Today there is not a vacant hotel room, Palestinian security personnel are sipping coffee arm-in-arm with their Israeli counterparts, and those same TV stations are promoting peace, not suicide bombings.

There was never a more riotous, more joyful, cathartic Purim than this year's celebration. Our society had slogged its way through a nightmarish episode, battered but ultimately intact. A new day, it appeared, was dawning, a day full of hope and promise. Mahmoud Abbas, George W. Bush, King Abdullah II – absolutely everybody is saying so.

With 30-odd years of Israeli reality under my belt, I move much more slowly and cautiously than once I did. There is a hallowed tradition around these parts of moods of celebration, hope and optimism melding seamlessly and precipitously into cataclysms. And though they didn't reach this far west, those tsunamis were just my kind of metaphor.

Culiner@netvision.net.il

Israel's post-Gaza strategy: conflict management

Conventional wisdom aside, the planned Israeli withdrawal of civilians and military bases from Gaza will not "kick-start the 'road map' peace plan." On the contrary, the concept of unilateral separation is a carefully considered response to the catastrophic failure of the Oslo "peace process." Polls and other indicators show that the vast majority of Israelis, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, have no expectations of a quick return to negotiations with the Palestinians. Although Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat is gone, his shadow remains dominant, and moving Palestinian society away from terror and towards compromise will take decades.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

As a result, the next steps after disengagement from Gaza (and also from the area near Jenin in the northern Samaria region of the West Bank) are not related to "permanent status negotiations." Any effort to raise complex issues such as final borders, the future of Jerusalem, and the claims of refugees will lead again to extreme demands and more violence. These issues require a gradual movement toward compromise over a period of generations. In the meantime, the emphasis must be on conflict management.

The Middle East road map – despite wide lip service in Europe, Washington and Ottawa – is only a virtual peace plan, and one that's a long way from implementation. It was adopted in 2003 as a result of the desire, particularly on the part of the European Union and the United Nations, to be seen to be doing something – anything – that could be construed to be contributing to the dream of Middle East peace. But these messianic terms have no resemblance to the situation on the ground. The first stage – dismantling Palestinian terror groups and collecting their weapons – looks more distant than ever.

Therefore, the disengagement from Gaza is better understood as a step toward conflict management through separating the Israeli and Palestinian populations to the greatest possible extent, in the absence of a formal agreement. In many ways, this is a gradual reversal of the process that began with the 1967 war, which removed the barbed wire and other barriers along the 1949 armistice lines and brought the two societies into close contact. But after almost four decades of this experiment in co-existence and integration, the evidence of failure is painfully obvious to most Israelis.

This basic fact has propelled the construction of the separation barrier, and the decision to phase out the employment of Palestinians in Israel. The long-term survival of Israel as a democratic state that is the home of the Jewish people requires the separation from the hostile and growing Palestinian population. This is a painful process, one that involves separation from parts of the biblical homeland, the removal of many Israelis from their homes, and the potential for violence from a small group of fanatics. But strategically, this process is necessary.

As a result, the unilateral disengagement from Gaza is likely to be followed by additional stages in implementing unilateral separation. Indeed, the public emphasis on completing the barrier in the areas near Jerusalem, Ariel and in the southern part of Israel has revived recently, and the government has been strongly criticized for the slow pace of construction.

Later, additional options for disengagement in Judea and Samaria will be considered in light of the success in the case of Gaza, and in combination with strengthening the Israeli hold on vital areas, particularly near Jerusalem. Success will be measured in terms of security (and the absence of terrorism) and diplomacy. If, as many expect, Palestinian terrorist groups see this as a victory, and try to escalate their rocket attacks against Israel cities, will the Israeli military response be more effective without the complications of defending settlements and civilians? And will Europe and the United States condemn Israel for responding to such attacks, ignoring the disengagement process?

The bottom line is that although separation makes sense strategically, many risks are involved, both in terms of the potential for internal violence (the possibility of "civil war" is highly exaggerated) and external conflict. But if it succeeds in managing the conflict for a generation, this will make life more bearable for both Israelis and Palestinians.

The Kirshner File

Eclectic movies from the Jewish film fest

This year's edition of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which runs from May 7 to 15, offers an eclectic selection of movies. The four diverse films previewed here reflect the festival's mission to enlighten and stimulate viewers.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Wagner's Confession, a taut documentary, tells an amazing story, one I have never previously heard. It confirms the credo that truth can be stranger than fiction, so brace yourself.

It's about a German Nazi war criminal who masqueraded as a Jew and succeeded brilliantly in his disguise.

Gunter Reinemer, known as Hans Wagner, was a human chameleon. Born in Dresden, he joined the SS as a young man. During the Holocaust, he was posted to the Treblinka death camp, where he allegedly killed more than 100 Jews.

After the war, the U.S. Secret Service recruited him as a spy. His job, no less, was to track down war criminals. As a reward for his services, his American handlers gave him some canny but unusual advice: avoid detection by pretending to be a Jew.

So much for de-Nazification.

Always on the move, he lived in France and East Germany. A ladies' man, he left his first wife and two children for a French woman, and had a number of relationships.

During the late 1960s, he visited Israel, immersed himself in Jewish customs and bought a yarmulke. Returning to Israel, he met a prosperous widow from Poland.

Claiming to be a Holocaust survivor like her, he seduced and married the woman. In 1973, the newlyweds settled in Caracas, Venezuela, and became members of the local Jewish community.

"He acted like a good Jew," says his wife, Rosa.

When he died, having gotten away with murder, he was buried in a Jewish cemetery. But after his death, two German detectives assigned to investigate his industrial espionage activities blew his cover.

Today, Rosa, feeling terribly betrayed, can't bear to hear his name. Nor can one of his sons.

By any yardstick, *Wagner's Confession* is one of the strangest films in years.

* * *

Under Strange Skies lifts the veil of a remarkable interlude of World War II.

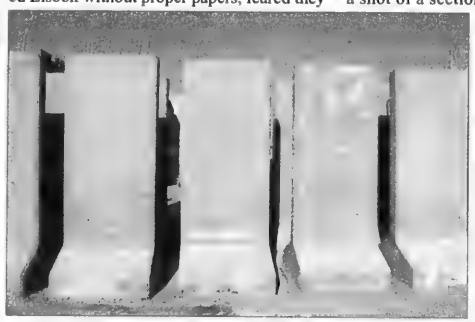
Upward of 50,000 European Jews under Nazi occupation passed through Lisbon en route to safe havens in the United States and elsewhere.

The German-Jewish grandparents of the film's director, Daniel Blaufuks, belonged to this group. They chose Portugal because it was a neutral country on a continent ravaged by turmoil and upheaval.

Blaufuks' grandparents, from Magdeburg, arrived in Lisbon – a nest of foreign intrigue and spies – in the spring of 1935, two years after Hitler's accession to power. Although permitted to enter Portugal, Jews were forbidden to work there. Nevertheless, his grandmother found gainful employment as a seamstress, and his grandfather worked as a door-to-door salesman before becoming a fairly prosperous toy manufacturer.

Less fortunate refugees depended on subsidies from American Jewish organizations. The Portuguese government did not extend financial assistance.

Ordinary Portuguese citizens had no idea that the refugees were under severe psychological pressure. Many refugees, having reached Lisbon without proper papers, feared they would be deported or arrested. In desperation, some committed suicide.



A walled section of Israel's separation fence

The majority, however, managed to rebuild their lives outside Portugal. Blaufuks' grandparents never left Portugal, where his mother was born. They felt at home there and had no desire to uproot themselves once more. Yet, on the other hand, they were culturally German and never had Portuguese friends.

Under Strange Skies, a documentary about exile and accommodation and despair and freedom, unfolds through the medium of reminiscences and vintage Portuguese newsreels.

* * *

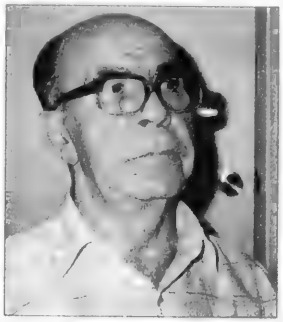
Israel is currently building its controversial separation barrier, which is expected to be finished by year's end. Built to deter terrorism, it snakes along and through the West Bank. Consisting of barbed-wire fences, high concrete walls, fortifications, ditches and no-go zones, it may yet define Israel's permanent border.

Simone Bitton's *Wall* takes a closer, somewhat jaundiced view of the barrier, which Palestinian Arabs universally regard as an obscenity intended to imprison them and thwart their desire for a contiguous state. The film resounds to the roar of tractors and earth-moving equipment lifting concrete slabs into place. It opens with a shot of a section of the wall emblazoned with fluttering doves and with a seemingly innocuous conversation between a Jewish girl and the filmmaker.

Jews and Arabs express their views. Amos Yaron, the director-general of Israel's ministry of defence, explains the rationale for building the fence (which costs about $2 million US per kilometre). It is not only meant to reduce violence against Israelis, but also to prevent the theft of cars and agricultural equipment.

Ironically, many of the labourers are Arabs who cannot find work anywhere else. This is hardly surprising. Arab workers, almost single-handedly, built the settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Ahmed is one of these workers. He is content with his salary, but says the fence is worthless without peace. His boss, an Iraqi Jew named Shimon Abraham, suggests the fence is good for Arabs because it is a source of employment.



Gunter Reinemer

Motti, an Israeli Jew and resident of Har Homa, a new development in eastern Jerusalem, seems to agree with Ahmed. He doubts whether the barrier will be effective, and dismisses it as "a waste of money." Is there an alternative? Motti has no solution.

Wall illustrates the proposition that a security fence cannot defuse the complexity of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

* * *

The sex trade in Israel flourishes on the backs of prostitutes from the former Soviet Union.

Nili Tal's revealing film, *Women for Sale*, a profile of four sex workers from Ukraine and Uzbekistan, claims that 20,000 young eastern European women work the streets of the Jewish state.

Russia is a prime supplier. In the past decade, 500,000 Russian women, facing bleak employment prospects in their ancestral homeland, have gone west and turned to the world's oldest profession.

They are brought illegally to Israel via the Sinai Peninsula. Zehava Gal-On, chair of the Knesset's committee against trade in women, said recently that from 3,000 to 5,000 women have been smuggled into the country since 2001, and that trafficking in women is an extremely lucrative business.

Sold and re-sold to pimps for $8,000 to $10,000 and forced to work seven days a week, often servicing three to four clients per hour, they are virtual commodities who despise their lot in life. They dread being touched, fondled and penetrated by total strangers.

Two of the prostitutes are Muslims. Their families, of course, have no inkling of what they do. Since their parents and siblings live in impoverished conditions in the former Soviet Union, they depend on their remittances.

Pulling no punches, *Women for Sale* exposes Israel's flesh trade and the dark underside of Israeli society.

It is not a pretty picture.

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Four Canadian Rabbis participate in mission to the Ukraine

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

Four Canadian rabbis - two from Toronto and two from Montreal - recently participated in a United Jewish Communities (UJC) Rabbis' mission to Odessa, Kiev (Ukraine) and Jerusalem where unity was more than a concept, it was reality. United Jewish Communities is the umbrella organization for Jewish federations across North America.

(l-r) Rabbis Len Muroff, Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Adam Scheier, Simon Elkelassy, Ron Muroff and David Bauman on the UJC Rabbis' Mission to Ukraine.

The mission was multi-layered in its purpose and goals, creating unity on all different levels. It not only brought Jewish leadership to Ukraine, most of whom had never been before, it also brought recently ordained rabbis together with mentors to learn and interact with one another, giving everyone new insight into the work of UJC.

"This mission was a wonderful opportunity to get to know a new generation of rabbis," Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl explained. "It is important to take younger rabbis on these kinds of missions, giving them a deeper contact with UJC."

"The mentoring process was a wonderful model," Rabbi David Bauman enthused. "Bringing young rabbis together with senior leadership offers enormous opportunity. It was a very enriching experience, professionally and spiritually."

Another unifying facet of the mission was the relationship building between rabbis representing various religious affiliations. "This was the first time I was on a mission with rabbis from all levels of observance and affiliation," Rabbi Adam Scheier said. "But it was very natural; you realize we all came to this profession for the same reasons; we all face similar issues. I found real colleagues on this trip who I will maintain a relationship with."

Camaraderie and solidarity were found in the most surprising places. While stranded in Kiev because of a winter storm, the rabbis were forced to depend on the kindness of Kiev's Jewish community for food and shelter. "I knew heading out on this trip that my awareness of the work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in these communities would improve," Rabbi Scheier said emotionally. "But it was amazing when we needed help from the Kiev community, when we were stranded, they were able to support and embrace us. It showed me that they are a true community, and this reciprocity of support was overwhelming."

Sense of Spadina expands program

The Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) has been offering a tour of the old Jewish neighborhood situated in the Kensington Market area for the past 30 years. This walking tour includes a visit to one of the original synagogues in that area, the Cecil Street Community Centre, as well as buildings that once housed Jewish theatres, restaurants and businesses.

Man and young boy walking down Spadina Avenue ca.1947.

This year the program will be expanded. Additional tour guides, who were recruited from Toronto universities and trained by senior tour guide, Cyrel Troster, have been added to the roster. This will enable the OJA to provide more tours throughout the course of the tour season, which runs from April to October.

"I am very excited about our new tour schedule," Troster said. "It essentially opens up this program to individuals who are interested in taking the tour on their own."

For scheduling information visit www.jewishtoronto.com and click on the Sense of Spadina icon. For more information or to register for a tour, please contact Donna Bernardo at 416-635-2883 ext. 187.

Perspective

Touring two troubled communities

From Lithuania to Argentina - By Harold Wolfe

Harold Wolfe recently visited Vilnius and Buenos Aires on UJA Federation of Greater Toronto fact-finding missions. This is the first of his two-part series.

The Jewish communities of Vilnius, Lithuania and Argentina share a number of similarities, but although each is under stress, the reasons for their distress are different.

In the case of Vilnius, this formerly vibrant Jewish community was substantially wiped out during World War II. The few Jews who remain (5,000 now live in Lithuania) appeared to be poor and require substantial support. Even though some Jews own assets (such as the hotel we stayed in, which we were told is owned by Israelis), kosher food did not appear to be readily available. At the one functioning synagogue that we attended Friday night and Saturday morning, there were few locals in attendance, and they were mostly elderly.

However, the Jewish community of Lithuania strongly feels the need to preserve *Yiddishkeit* and Jewish culture. After all, Lithuanian Jewry (and particularly the Jews of Vilnius) were, at one time, one of the most important communities of Jewish culture and learning, outside Israel. The current community deeply feels a responsibility to the victims of the Holocaust - who had created this great culture - to preserve Lithuania's Jewish identity so that Hitler will not have succeeded in his quest to wipe out Lithuanian Jewish life.

Harold Wolfe (centre) stands in front of the newly rebuilt AMIA Jewish Community Centre in Buenos Aires, along with Anna E. Weinstein, Director, Federation of Argentinean Jewish Communities, and Edy Huberman, Principal Latin American representative for the Jewish Agency for Israel. (Photo by Orah Buck)

It was for this reason that we found our Shabbat dinner with 28 young Jews from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - counselors at a summer camp for Jewish youngsters - to be very exciting and stimulating. We enjoyed speaking to these young adults and singing Shabbat songs together, but we were disappointed at how little "Jewishness" they displayed, although it's not surprising. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were occupied by the USSR from 1945 until 1989, when religious practice was prohibited. Today, all young Jews in these three countries are learning or relearning how to be Jewish. They will need much help to accomplish this, some of which is already being provided by Chabad and by the American Joint Distribution Committee (commonly known as the "Joint," supported, in part, by the North American Jewish federation system).

We did not witness recent acts of antisemitism in Lithuania, and I understand that, in general, Jewish and non-Jewish Lithuanians get along well. Notwithstanding this, acts of antisemitism do occur. To the credit of the Lithuanian Catholic Church, the bishops of Lithuania, in 2000, finally issued a letter expressing their regrets at the acts of "some" Catholics during World War II.

As for Argentina, which I visited earlier this year, the Jewish population of 200,000 represents about half a percent of the country's total population of 36 million. Eighty five percent of Argentinian Jewry lives in Buenos Aires, with the rest spread out over 55 communities.

My visit confirmed what I had heard on other occasions: no matter how much the general population suffers, the Jewish population suffers more.

Without going into all the ups and downs of Argentina's history, the country has suffered extended periods of poor government, which affected the economy. Between 1976 and 1983, 30,000 people "disappeared." To disappear meant to be abducted, detained, tortured and probably killed, with no hope of legal process. Many of the "disappeared" were dropped into the ocean from military airplanes. Inevitably, a large number of Jews - some seven percent - were included among the "disappeared."

Despite all this, the Jewish community was financially self-sufficient and comfortable. Then, two terrorist attacks occurred. The first destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992, with much loss of life. The second explosion, which took place in 1994, destroyed the AMIA headquarters of Jewish communal services, killing 85 and wounding 200.

If that were not enough, soon thereafter, the Argentinean economy collapsed, along with two banks, in which many Jews had deposited their life savings and suffered substantial losses. The economy still has not recovered. The savings of many formerly middle class families have been wiped out, and, now, over 25 percent of Jews in Buenos Aires require financial assistance. Equally disturbing is the tendency, we were told, of authorities not to investigate antisemitic acts or for investigations to go nowhere.

All of these difficulties have caused Argentina's Jews to view life with much cynicism. They do not trust the police, the courts, or their politicians. I was told that many young families from Buenos Aires have left Argentina. Many others are considering this option, which will cause future hardship for the Jewish community.

So what are we doing to assist Jews in Argentina and Lithuania? More in next week's column.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Walk with Israel could be a lifesaver

Bone marrow registry set to take place at Walk

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

While this year's UJA Federation Walk with Israel is a great way for participants to show their pride and support for Israel, the May 29th event also has the potential to save lives.

Dr. Gordon Arbess, an HIV primary care physician at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital, who works with the Gift of Life Foundation, will be at the Walk - which begins at Coronation Park (across from the CNE's Princes' Gates) and finishes with the RioCan Festival at Ontario Place - to register as many Jewish adults, 18 years and older to a bone marrow registry. According to Dr. Arbess, there is not enough Jewish representation in the worldwide bone marrow registry and he is seeking to remedy that problem.

"We need to see this as a Jewish issue," Dr. Arbess explained. "This is a Jewish health issue because there is a shortage of Jewish bone marrow donors. We need to increase our database and the Walk is a fantastic place to reach a lot of Jews all in one place."

Over 50 volunteers will work along side Dr. Arbess at the RioCan Festival to register as many people as possible. Last year, over 230 people stopped by Dr. Arbess' booth to have their cheeks swabbed. The worldwide bone marrow registry now includes roughly 8 million donors but only 300,000 Jews.

"It really just takes a few minutes to potentially save a life," Arbess said. "I'm proud of what we do, and we will continue to get as many people as possible involved."

Another personality who will be on hand at the RioCan Festival is Michael "Pinball" Clemons, coach of the CFL Grey Cup champion Toronto Argonauts, who officially signed on as a spokesman for this year's UJA Federation's Walk with Israel 2005.

"It is wonderful to see Toronto's Jewish community come together to celebrate Israel, year after year at the Walk with Israel," Clemons said. "I know that teamwork is important to being successful and I am proud to join an already great team in the Walk with Israel."

"Pinball" will be on hand to greet walkers at the event, as they enter Ontario Place for the RioCan Festival, which also boasts an Israeli *shuk* (marketplace). The *shuk* offers Walk participants a place to celebrate, eat, relax and hang out once the Walk has been completed. This year, among the many interesting attractions people will be able to purchase Israeli products, Judaica, crafts and kosher sushi.

"The *shuk* is so much fun," 11-year-old Sam Strelshik said, "There's a lot to do and the cotton candy is great; it's just what you need after a long walk."

For further information about how to become a vendor at the *shuk* contact Michelle Golfman @ 416-631-5854. Visit the Walk's website at www.ujawalkwithisrael.com

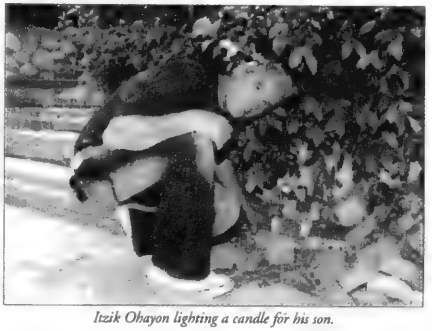
Coach of the Toronto Argonauts, Michael "Pinball" Clemons is ready to kick off the RioCan Festival at this year's Walk with Israel 2005. (Photo, Stephen Epstein, Big Dipper Communications)

The anguish of Sderot

City traumatized by rocket attacks

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

Every week, Itzik Ohayon lights a memorial candle on a quiet street in Sderot, where a Palestinian rocket attack killed his three year old son, Afik, less than a year ago. It's across the road from Afik's kindergarten. Here, many of his classmates still remember what happened and talk lovingly about their lost little friend.



Itzik Ohayon lighting a candle for his son.

Itzik Ohayon and Afik's mother, Ruti Zahavi's sorrow is the anguish of Sderot, a working class city of 20,000, just half a kilometre from the Palestinian Authority's Gaza strip. The community, which is not a Gaza region Jewish settlement about to be evacuated, will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary in a fearful atmosphere. Sderot has become the favorite target of Kassam rockets launched by Palestinian terrorists, and the city's mayor, Eli Moyal, fears the situation will worsen once Israel's disengagement from Gaza is complete.

Since the fall of 2000, over 600 missiles have hit the city - with only a 20 second warning - killing 10 residents. The indiscriminate attacks have compounded Sderot's social and economic problems, which assistance from UJA Federation-supported services have helped to relieve. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto raised nearly $25,000 to assist the Sderot community.

"During the height of attacks, no one went to work. Everyone stayed at home," said Moyal. "Small children started to go to sleep with their parents. They refused to go out after sunset. Students in school couldn't really study."

The economic consequences, noted Moyal, have been severe. "No one will buy an apartment here, not even for $10,000 or $20,000 and most people can't afford to move to another city."

As a result, many Sderot residents benefit from a catalogue of programs that range from traumatic stress counseling to employment assistance.

Still, Sderot struggles forward, hoping for a more secure future. "Sderot," said 16-year-old Rotem Yehudai, who recently moved to Beersheba, " is a city of good people who just want to live their lives normally as part of Israel."

International Leadership Reunion

An estimated 200 participants, 58 coming from Toronto, met in Las Vegas recently for the International Leadership Reunion (ILR). The participants - who represented 13 countries at the reunion - all have committed $250,000 to their local federations. Speakers included Irwin Cotler, Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and Nobel Prize-winning scholar Elie Wiesel. (Pictured above) Toronto's contingent in Las Vegas and (inset) Julia Koschitzky with Elie Wiesel). (photograph by Robert A. Cumins.)

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Greater Toronto Area

RA launches school for shamashim

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The Rabbinical Assembly of Canada has established what is in all probability the first ever School for Shamashim. Classes will begin in Toronto this summer.

Formerly, any synagogue wanting a shamash could easily find a Jewishly knowledgeable, older European immigrant to fill the role of Torah reader, lay religious leader and/or bar and bat mitzvah teacher, said Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum, dean of the new school. Now, he said, it's more common for people to learn on the job.

The School for Shamashim will be based at Beth Tzedec Congregation, where Rabbi Tanenbaum is one of the clergy.

Certification by the Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario region – of which Rabbi Tanenbaum is immediate past president – will follow a program that is just over a year long, beginning with four weeks of classes the first summer and ending with four weeks of classes the following year. There is a supervised internship in between, as well as assigned readings and six group teleconferences.

The fledgling school had, as of mid-April, about half a dozen students signed up, with about half of them from the United States. All are from the Conservative movement, although the school is open to men and women from all denominations.

Material covered in the formal classes range from Correcting Mistakes for Torah Reading and Tying Tzitzit to Record Keeping and People Skills. Along with Rabbi Tanenbaum, faculty includes Rabbi Wayne Allen, spiritual leader of Beth Tikvah Synagogue; Rabbi David Bauman, assistant rabbi of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue; and Lorne Hanick, ritual director of Beth Tzedec.

Rabbi Allen, who originally proposed the idea, said that such a school would provide "an important contribution to Jewish communal life in general, and to Jewish communal life in Canada in particular.

"In Canada, it's becoming increasingly difficult to attract Jewish professionals," he said, citing not only the lower value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar, but also lack of familiarity with Canada. As well, he noted, smaller Jewish communities without clergy still require leadership and "skilled people to handle some ritual. To create a school here would help address those issues."

He added that organizers are "looking to raise the level of competency in the area of Jewish ritual. Whether students intend to go into this as a profession or not, it offers exposure to a field of study they're not going to get at any other place."

Duties of ritual directors include "everything that goes with the running of the minyan," said Rabbi Tanenbaum.

Rabbi Allen said that prospective students should be familiar with the prayer service and synagogue life, and have a working knowledge of Hebrew.

Tuition for each summer is $1,000 (US), with Canadian dollars at par for this year.

For further information, go to www.beth-tzedec.org/access.do?ch=content&cid=4396

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May 24 • **Jews and Christians in Islamic Countries** *Presenters:* **Majed El-Shafie**, *founder of One Free World International* and **Dr. Sarah Taib-Carlen**, *program chair of Sephardi Studies at York University.*
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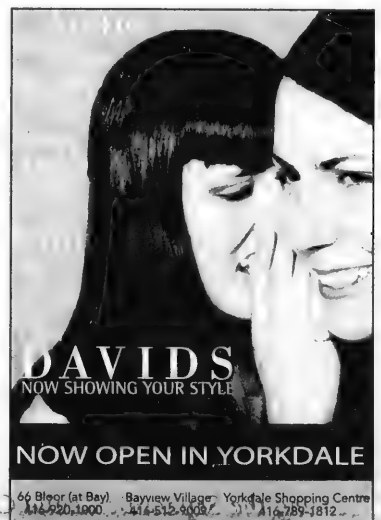

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Jewish Life

Disengagement and democracy

Guest Voice

By MARC GOLD

"Disengagement..." It sounds almost antiseptic, devoid of feeling and absent of any human emotion. Yet in the context of the planned Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank scheduled to occur this summer, the term fails to convey the human trauma associated with the voluntary uprooting of families who have made their homes in Gaza for generations.

Indeed, it is virtually impossible for us, as Canadians, to relate to the anguish this planned displacement has generated and the gut-wrenching, painful debate it has provoked within Israel and the Jewish world. In a very real sense, this innocuous phrase is a code word for a transformational development occurring within Israel that will define the character of the Jewish state for many years.

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) board of directors recently returned from a four-day series of meetings in Israel. The meetings take place annually to provide CIC leadership with an opportunity to meet with Israeli and Palestinian opinion leaders and politicians, as well as our representatives at the Canadian embassy and the representative office in Ramallah. At the meetings and encounters, the issue of disengagement dominated the agenda. We were struck by the unparalleled passion everyone brought to the discussion and the universal recognition that this initiative represents a watershed event for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Ironically, although the very notion of a unilateral Israeli disengagement from Gaza was born out of the failure of the Oslo peace process and the violence that erupted thereafter, from which Israel had to extricate itself and protect its citizenry, "disengagement" has come to be viewed by many as an essential underpinning of any progress toward peace. The CIC accepts this "de facto" characterization, despite the absence of any meaningful reciprocity on the part of the Palestinian Authority and credible intelligence warnings that various Palestinian factions might resume terrorist attacks after Israel leaves Gaza. If there is any chance that the disengagement plan will move Palestinians and Israelis closer to peace, we should err on the side of optimism. Similarly, if ever there was an opportunity for Palestinians and their supporters to take bold steps to reassure Israelis, now is the time.

There is, however, an even more compelling rationale for extending support for the initiative of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government – painful as it may be for substantial segments of Israeli society. Reduced to its very essence, this is a debate about the legitimate exercise of authority and a society's commitment to the basic principles of democracy. An elected government has advanced an initiative that benefits from both majority support in cabinet and majority support in the full Knesset. Moreover, numerous polls indicate roughly 70 per cent of Israelis support the disengagement initiative.

Opposition is, to be sure, an indispensable element of democracy and minority positions must be acknowledged. Ultimately, however, the acid test is the form this opposition takes. Israeli political culture and Israel's relationship with Diaspora Jewish communities have always been strengthened by the open exchange of diverse perspectives. There are, however, strict parameters of acceptable behaviour, defined in this instance largely by violent versus non-violent protest against the disengagement.

The immediate implications of this dichotomy relate to Israel. We cannot afford to be sanguine about just how difficult and traumatic the disengagement process will be. There is no historical precedent for the kind of displacement planned in Gaza this summer. Three and four generations of families have lived in these communities. All they have built must be abandoned, inherited in many cases by the families of those who fired rockets or launched terrorist attacks against these same communities over the last four years. Their anguish must be validated and their pain assuaged – but never at the expense of safeguarding the sanctity of the democratic values that shaped Israel.

The larger context of this debate reaches well beyond Israel. To the extent that the entire region is moving toward the development of democratic institutions, Israel's ability to reaffirm the democratic principles upon which the Jewish state is founded underscores the power of democracy and its capacity to help a society navigate through the most difficult and challenging of times.

With any luck, and with this example of Israel's commitment to democracy as inspiration, Canadians have reason to hope that these same values will shape and define the character of other countries in the Middle East in the months and years ahead.

Marc Gold is national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee.

The greatest challenge facing students

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Walking the streets of Jerusalem last summer, it occurred to me how circumscribed is much of our Diaspora thinking and teaching about Israel, especially in classroom settings.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

The Israel of the Galut imagination swings between an obsessive focus on violence and suicide bombers or equally dramatic paeans to the land's sacredness and the coming of the redemption. It often seems that the very essence of the Israeli miracle – its creation of a normal way for a Jew to practise Judaism – can easily become obscured. In Israel, Jewish life is not just a book-learning culture or a beleaguered enclave against gentile political dominance.

And what struck my children about Jerusalem at the same time that their dad was musing his abstractions? The fact that the Pizza Hut there is kosher, an ostensibly insignificant if cute observation on the one hand, but yet almost straight to the heart of the matter in a different sense. In Israel, Jews can largely eat kosher food wherever they want without thinking, Jewish holidays are national events, corrupt politicians are Jews, the tough-looking macho man with the gun is a Jew and the religious strand is woven seamlessly into many a street- corner or idle conversation. In sum, it is Jewish life lived organically.

But Israel – for reasons easy to imagine – is also a troubled country, one that we dare not distort through fantasies of omnipresent holiness and 24/7 spiritual ecstasy without also failing to perceive its serious secular-religious rift and the tremendous crisis regarding what has been referred to ad nauseam as the post-Zionist malaise. But often the only Israel that many Diaspora Jews cling to or envision, out of love or guilt or habit, is the one under attack by the Arabs, and this has serious educational consequences.

One byproduct of this intense focus on the intifidah and the war against terrorism is that much energy in Diaspora education has been devoted to raising the alarm about the necessity of training students for their potential encounters with opponents of Israel, either in the media or on campus.

This is an important task. But in the case of Canadian Jewish university students, is an inability to respond to potential Palestinian propaganda or being uncomfortable with certain professors in Middle Eastern studies departments really the greatest challenge that they face? Or is the daily encounter with thousands of attractive and interesting non-Jewish peers, and the persistent lure of inter-dating, a far more prevalent dilemma?

Is the deeper frustration an inexperience in discussing the finer points of the Arab-Israeli conflict, or is it the fundamental difficulty for many young Jews to answer or even raise for themselves the deepest questions of Jewish existence: what is our destiny as a nation? For what purpose were we given Torah? What is the particular meaning of Jewish spirituality? How can I best live a committed Jewish life? How does Israel fit into these questions?

The more we reduce the Jewish identity of high school and university students to a matter of inoculating them for the inevitable political discourse of the academy (read: the left is in charge), the more we misdiagnose the real problem and thus avoid its resolution.

Jewish Life

Bellow's work will endure

Books
Bernard Baskin

Saul Bellow was, without doubt, the most-celebrated Jewish writer of his generation.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1976 and was the only writer who won the National Book Award three times – for *The Adventures of Augie March* (1953), *Herzog* (1964) and *Mr. Sammler's Planet* (1970).

How many American writers have published first-rate, well-realized, imaginative books for almost half a century? How many can match his output of 11 novels, two collections of short stories and a clutch of seminal essays and articles?

The Nobel Prize citation praised his "exuberant ideas, flashing irony and burning compassion." It continued, "Modern man in his fiction keeps trying to find a foothold during his wonderings in our tottering world, one who can never relinquish his faith that the value of life depends on his dignity, not his success."

In his response, Bellow insisted, "The need for literature to encourage the belief that the good we hang onto – in the face of evil so obstinately – is no illusion."

Bellow was born in Lachine, Que., soon after his parents emigrated from Russia. He wrote, "My life in Canada was partly frontier, partly the Polish ghetto, partly the Middle Ages… I was brought up in a polyglot community, with Hebrew, Yiddish, French and English." When Bellow was nine, his family moved from Montreal to Chicago, where he went to the University of Chicago and graduated from Northwestern University in sociology and anthropology.

In *Herzog*, perhaps his best-known and most-celebrated novel, Bellow depicts an intellectual professor who searches his memory for solutions to his and the world's problems.

He writes letters, which he never mails, "to everyone under the sun," including Nietzsche, Spinoza and Eisenhower – even God. They need to know what it is to be human. Philosophers do not know it, but a novelist can show us (in Herzog's words) "the strength of a man's virtue or spiritual capacity measured by his ordinary life."

In *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, a 70-year-old Polish Jew who has survived the Holocaust is surrounded by young people, mostly relatives, who test his ability to live moderately and wisely. He ends up finding a place for himself in an uncertain society in the late 1960s.

Seize the Day (1956) is a tightly elegiac novella begun in the '40s. Tommy Wilhelm's penchant for success without hard work, his willingness to depend on his father, and Dr. Tamkin's cure-all advice to "seize the day" result in defeat. Though Tommy is a sloppy sentimentalist, a shlemiel, he is a worthwhile and likable man whose breakdown can be seen as a portent of a new beginning.

Bellow has resisted the label "Jewish American writer" as "intellectually vulgar, unnecessarily parochial."

"I'm well aware of being Jewish and also of being American and being a writer. But I'm also a hockey fan, a fact which nobody ever mentions."

One test of Bellow's Diaspora Jewishness took the form of a three-month Israeli sojourn in 1975, an effort few American authors have made. He wrote, "I listen carefully, closely, more closely than I've ever listened in my life." Here, "you cannot take your right to live for granted." Throughout, Bellow takes empathic, yet balanced, views and finds what's lacking in America: "Life in Israel is far from enviable, yet there is a clear purpose in it." He is "heartsick about leaving" but titles his 1976 account of this journey, significantly, *To Jerusalem and Back*.

Bellow, as writer, will not soon die. Much of his work remains pertinent, intellectually stimulating and Jewishly infused – a panoramic depiction of an age of turbulence and confusion desperately reaching out for life-enhancing values.

March of the Living

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

In 1988, Avraham Hirschson had a dream. To help stem the growing tide of Holocaust denial, the member of Knesset would encourage Jewish high school students to learn about their heritage by visiting historic Jewish and Holocaust sites in Poland. That would be followed by a week-long experience in Israel. Hirschson's idea evolved into the March of the Living, an annual trek in which over 100,000 people have retraced the three kilometres between the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camp complex. **[www.mol2005.org/about/history_vision.asp]**

Although nothing could compare to being on the March, former participants have created some excellent websites that put into word, picture and song what it is like to be on the March of the Living. As this year's participants make that trek this week, here's a look at some of those sites.

"When I began seeing the gas chamber exhibits at the Auschwitz museum I wanted to live for those who have passed away before me, and for those who will not be here much longer." Gila Ward was 16 when she went on the March of the Living. Her entire essay can found online. **[www.du.edu/~s ward/Poland.htm]**

Rachel Block was 17 when she set foot in the camps. "I could not believe my eyes when I saw the pits that people were thrown into in a forest near Treblinka. The tears just kept coming and my heart just kept aching. I said some Psalms for the lost souls…" **[http:// tinyurl.com/bfstd]**

For a different perspective, I recommend the essay written by Marcin Szydzisz of Wroclaw, Poland, who was a member of a college-aged group that included Poles and visiting Jews. **[http://hatikvah.uni.opole.pl/EN-Themarch.htm]**

The Virtual Marches section of the official March of the Living site has photos from almost 20 trips. It gives a very good idea of what participants see during their voyage. **[www.motl.org/virtualMarches.htm]**

The Canadian site **[www.marchoftheliving.org]** has three songs that set the tone for the March including a full rendition of the haunting *Eli, Eli*, and a short excerpt of the *Song of the Ghetto Partisans*. **[http://tinyurl.com/begov]** These sites also have excellent educational and other background material if someone you know is considering joining the March in the future.

As for this year's March, a record 18,000 participants representing more than 40 countries are expected including Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski who will be marking his third March. This year's event coincides closely with the 60th anniversary of V-E Day and will also honour those who fought to liberate Europe from the Nazis. **[http://tinyurl.com/b7gux]**

Former March participant Sarah Guzick says the voyage had a profound effect on her, too. After she returned, she broke up with her non-Jewish boyfriend and became involved in Holocaust education. More than six years after the trip, although she found the experience "generally worthwhile," she feels that the March emphasizes a "cult of persecution" rather than "exploring the more positive reasons to be a Jew."

In her 1998 article "Mistakes of the March," Sarah Schnitzer spoke to alumni who felt the program was too emotionally charged, particularly for high school students. Despite those criticisms, Schnitzer states that virtually all the alumni she interviewed felt the program should continue. **[www.shmoozenet.com/jsps/stories/1098Shira.shtml]**

Can going on a two-week trip to Poland and Israel really change someone? That's what sociologist William Heimreich of the City University of New York wanted to find out. In his study, Long-Range Effects of the March of the Living on its Participants, people who had been part of the earlier programs were surveyed to see if it had changed their lives. Heimreich told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "people who went to the March long ago report that even 12 years later, the march had a very, very powerful impact on them." He suggests that former participants are less likely to intermarry and more likely to provide their children with a Jewish education. Heimreich does acknowledge that people who choose to go on the March are probably more likely to be involved in Jewish concerns. **[http://tiny url.com/3lqwd]** You can download the study and read it in its entirety. **[www.mol2005.org/docs/Heimreich-MOL-Study-2004.pdf]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com

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Reality of war hit Canadian home front

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Though they didn't share the hardships of soldiers on the front lines, Canadians on the home front could not avoid the reality that their nation was at war.

In addition to the domestic political turmoil engendered because of the war's unpopularity in Quebec – as evidenced by what came to be known as the Conscription Crisis of 1944 – Canadians felt the war's consequences through food rationing, air raid drills, letters from the front and an almost Israeli-like obsession with the news.

V-E Day

At North Toronto Collegiate, near Yonge and Eglinton, students could not help but know that Canada was at war, recalled Miriam Chinsky, a graduate of the school and a *CJN* freelancer.

As she relates in her book *The Tailor's Daughter: Growing Up in North Toronto*, the school's principal, F.H. Wood, was a colonel with the Queen's Own Rifles Reserve and he created his own quasi-military atmosphere in the school.

Dressed in their school uniforms, students marched around the outdoor track; girls performed military-like drills; youngsters studied Morse code and first aid; and boys took part in target practice in the school basement.

Students also learned to identify enemy aircraft. Chinsky can still rattle off the names of German fighters and bombers, such as the Messerschmidt, Junker and Focke Wolfe.

As members of a war service club, she and her friends would send candy, cigarettes and other tastes of home to soldiers overseas. They were also pen pals with young soldiers overseas, some of them only a few years older than the students at North Toronto.

The letters, Chinsky recalled, were often filled with soldier's bravado, but some wrote about the uselessness of war and of the gruesome sights they had seen.

Aileen Romberg, who was 10 at war's end, recalled shortages of food and other staples. She remembers the mandatory blackouts and her father serving as a neighbourhood warden, ensuring that everyone in her Sunnyside neighbourhood complied.

The true nature of military conflict hit close to home for many at the school, Chinsky said. Because many students were the children of World War I veterans who had a deep affinity with the British Empire, large numbers enlisted early.

Miriam Chinsky

"Boys in my school were killed, boys in my class," she said.

One young man was shot down over enemy territory and lost a leg. The school's star quarterback lost a leg in Italy. Another, who had shipped out with adolescent acne on his face, was reported missing in action and was never heard from again. Another became an officer and was killed in Europe. One of the teachers, slightly older than the students, was killed in action.

Joe Chinsky, Miriam's husband, who had attended Northern Collegiate just down the road from North Toronto, enlisted in the RCAF and was stationed in Torquay, in the south of England.

Because of poor eyesight, he was assigned to a desk job, but his best friend, Samuel Kwinter – the son of Naftuly Kwinter, who was known for his butcher shop at the corner of Spadina and Baldwin – became an RCAF Flying Officer. He was shot down over Hungary in 1944 as he returned from a bombing mission in Romania. Kwinter had already flown sufficient times to be assigned to ground duty, but he volunteered for yet more dangerous runs.

In *The Tailor's Daughter*, Chinsky recounted her memories of V-E Day: "At last the day came when the killing stopped. We were sitting in class fidgeting, waiting for the official bulletin. When the announcement boomed over the PA system we jumped up, threw our notebooks in the air and ran out into the sunlight."

More V-E Day coverage, please see pages 36-37.

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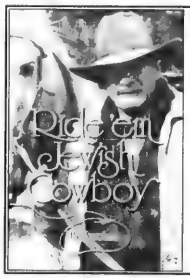

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Three events to focus on eating disorders

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Celebration of Self, a program on eating disorders sponsored by Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR), will be held at Indigo Books, 8705 Yonge St., in Richmond Hill, at 6 p.m. on May 10.

The evening will begin with a candlelighting ceremony to "support, honour and celebrate" those who struggle with an eating disorder, have overcome one, or have lost the battle, organizers said in a release.

Speakers will include Randi McCabe, associate director of the Anxiety Treatment and Research Centre at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton; Traci McFarlane, a staff psychologist with Toronto General Hospital's eating disorders program; and spiritual therapist Viola Fodor.

Indigo will donate 10 per cent of all book sales on that evening to EDOYR.

An open forum on eating disorders, also organized by EDOYR, will also be held on May 12, at 7 p.m., at the Bathurst Clark Resource Library, 900 Clark Ave. W., in Vaughan.

That event will feature Cindy Goodman Stulberg, director of Seasons Eating Disorder Services, and Terry Simonik, a feminist therapist who has worked in the eating disorders community in many capacities.

Anorexia and bulimia, the best-known eating disorders, are the only psychiatric illnesses that can kill their victims. In Canada, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people between the ages of 13 and 40 have anorexia, while double that number have bulimia. Around 20 per cent of those affected by either condition will die, either from complications from the diseases or from suicide.

People with anorexia starve themselves to dangerously low weights, due to an intense fear of gaining weight and a distorted sense of body image that makes them think they are fat, even if they are seriously underweight. Signs of the disorder include excessive exercising, obsessive dieting, loss of menstrual periods, strange food-related behaviours, depression, and hair loss.

With bulimia, people binge uncontrollably on large amounts of food, sometimes thousands of calories at a time, and then purge the calories through self-induced vomiting, laxatives, diuretics, enemas, or excessive exercise.

Frequently, people have both illnesses at the same time.

EDOYR is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2004 by friends and families of people with eating disorders when "it became clear that York Region had very little in programs, support, information or resources for those who are affected by eating disorders," the group said in a release.

It offers support groups, community outreach, education and, especially, hope to those affected. For more information, visit www.edoyr.com, e-mail info@edoyr.com, or call 905-737-8000.

In Toronto, Family and Friends Against Disordered Eating (FADE) will hold what it describes as "an afternoon of speeches, music, poetry and reflection" on May 15 at Toronto's Metro Hall, at 55 John St., from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The program will include a candlelight vigil.

USDS students to join seniors in Holocaust memorial service

More than 70 students from United Synagogue Day School will join seniors at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living for a Holocaust memorial service on May 6.

The two groups are holding the service in an attempt to strengthen the bonds between seniors and youth and keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.

"As a Jewish community, we have a brief opportunity to learn from the witnesses of the Holocaust who are still here to share their intense experiences," said Esta Wall, executive director of the centre.

"We are very excited, and the children have been enthusiastically rehearsing," said Kathy Friedman, principal of United Synagogue Day School, Richmond Hill campus.

"This is an opportunity for our students to not only learn about this significant event in our history, but to also create their own memories with Holocaust survivors in our community."

The Bernard Betel Centre modified its annual Holocaust service – 250 survivors belong to the centre – to include students.

Choirs from both groups will perform, and Helen Schwartz, a survivor will speak about her experiences on behalf of The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation.

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DOWNTOWN CELEBRATIONS: Downtown Jewish Community School students, with teachers Tally Wolf, middle row left, and Heidi Larman Brown, front row right, prepare to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary and Israel's 57th Independence Day at the school's May 15 Israel Fair, co-sponsored by the Miles Nadal JCC.

BJCC launches Parkinson's support group

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A Parkinson's disease support group being launched by the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre's special needs department is modelled after the centre's 15-year-old stroke recovery group.

Janet Klein Slavin, who oversees both groups as supervisor of the BJCC's fifty-five plus department of adult services, says the Parkinson's group will include such components as exercise and relaxation techniques, as well as social and educational activities.

"It's not a medical environment. Participants [who are either newly diagnosed or have been living with Parkinson's] will take part in activities in a friendly environment in which members can interact socially.

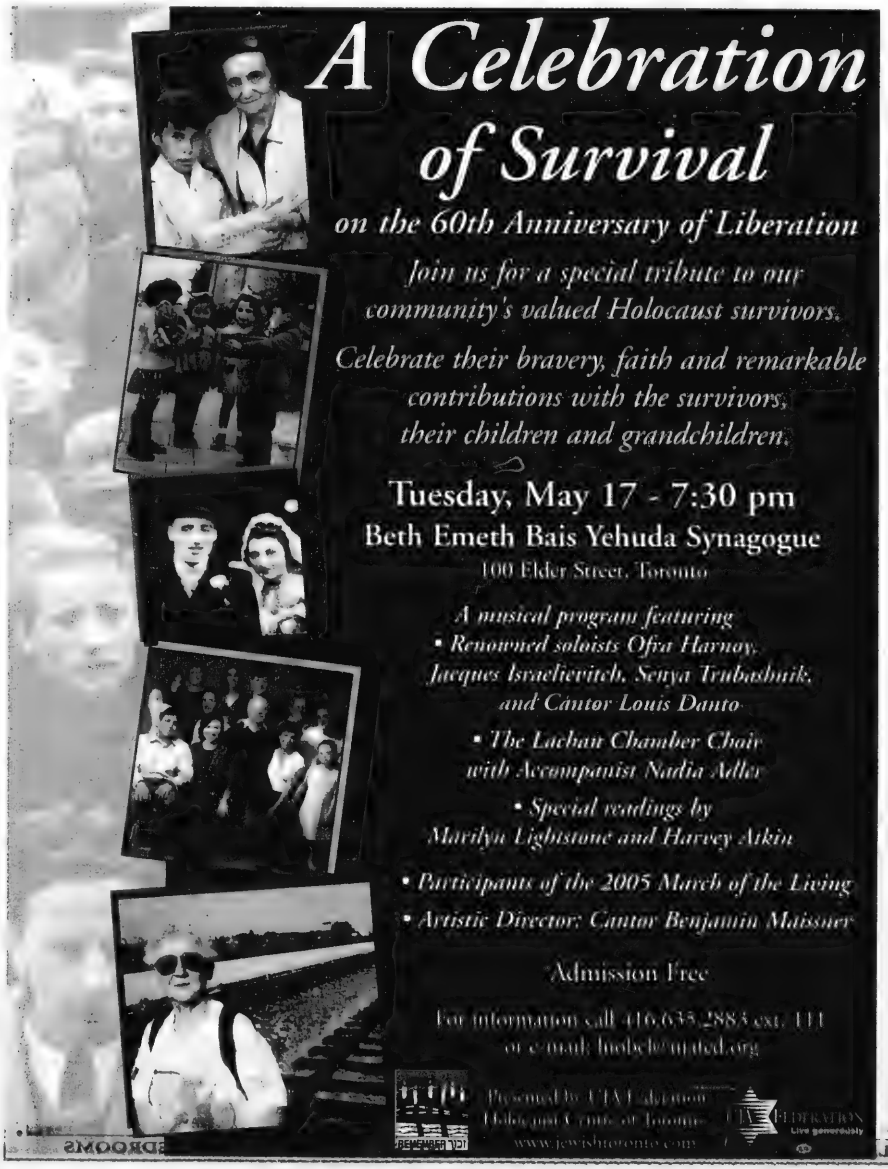
"We're taking what we do at the stroke recovery group – it meets three times a week – and adapting it to the particular needs of people living with Parkinson's disease. They'll be able to talk to each other and know they're not alone," Klein Slavin said.

Family of group members can use the community centre facilities at the same time the group meets, she said, "so they can all be here at the same time."

To spread the word about the new group, Klein Slavin said she has contacted doctors' offices and posted information on the BJCC website.

As well, an information meeting is being held on May 16, 7:30 p.m., in room 211 of the BJCC.

For information on joining the group or to volunteer, call Klein Slavin at 416-636-1880, ext. 259.


A Celebration of Survival
on the 60th Anniversary of Liberation
Join us for a special tribute to our community's valued Holocaust survivors.
Celebrate their bravery, faith and remarkable contributions with the survivors, their children and grandchildren.
Tuesday, May 17 - 7:30 pm
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
100 Elder Street, Toronto
A musical program featuring
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• The Lachair Chamber Choir with Accompanist Nadia Adler
• Special readings by Marilyn Lightstone and Harvey Atkin
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or e-mail: hobele@united.org
Presented by UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto
www.jewishtoronto.com
UJA FEDERATION
Live generously

Bridge, mah-jong program to raise funds to fight ovarian cancer

The second annual Mindy Kirsh Memorial Bridge to The Cure is set to take place May 10, 11 a.m. at the Spirale Banquet and Conference Centre.

Organizers say the bridge and mah-jong luncheon is expected to raise $60,000 for ovarian cancer research at The Princess Margaret Hospital.

The event, which is attracting an estimated 350 people, is in memory of Mindy Kirsh who died two years ago at age 52.

"I am so proud of what we are accomplishing," says event co-chair Taube Zeifman.

"Our goal is to ensure that Mindy's life will continue to make a difference. And thanks to all the participants and sponsors, we should raise double the proceeds from our inaugural year."

In addition to the event, organizers have also been selling ovarian cancer lapel pins.

"The pins have taken on a life of their own," adds Zeifman.

"People are snapping them up as quickly as we can order them. We have sold more then 1,500 in just over a month."

Statistics from the Canadian Cancer Society state that an estimated 2,270 Canadian women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year, while 1,450 will die from the disease.

For more information, contact Jennifer Glickman at 416-636-3493 or email theglickmans@rogers.com.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4 or email them to: cblackman@cjnews.com

Mazel Tov to...

Happy 100th birthday Grandma Clare Berman, from your family, the Carrs, Goulds, Soils, Turks and Youngs.

Happy 80th birthday Suzy Greenberg. Best wishes for a happy and healthy special day. You are an inspiration to us all. Love always, your family.

Harvey & Judi Nightingale, Fred & Lisa Cogan of Ottawa, announce the engagement of Lesley & Andrew. Proud grandmothers, Lilly Garden, Sonia Nightingale, Ethel Edwards.

David & Ayala Socol announce the birth of Samuel on March 15 in California. Grandparents, Verna Erez, Elaine & Harvey Socol; great-grandparents, Rose Fisher, Albert Socol.

Happy 50th anniversary Charles & Isabel Dye. Love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Congratulations to Kyra Dye on graduating from Grade 8. We are so proud of you. Love, Uncle Peter & Aunt Karen.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, May 9, is the deadline for the May 19th issue, Monday, May 16, is the deadline for May 26 and Thursday, May 19, is the deadline for June 2. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 5

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Temple Har Zion's Holocaust Memorial service takes place at 8 p.m. 7360 Bayview Ave. 905-889-2252.

Friday, May 6

NEWMARKET SHABBAT

Join Or Hadash Newmarket for a family Erev Shabbat service led by **Cantor Martin Steinhouse**. 7:30 p.m. For information, call 905-898-2220.

Saturday, May 7

THE ART OF THE TALLIT

Congregation Darchei Noam presents "The Art of the Tallit" with **Debbie Gilbert**. Includes a *Havdalah* service and desserts. 15 Hove St. 7:30 p.m. 416-638-4783 or www. darcheinoam.on.ca.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Join Temple Kol Ami for trivia night, an evening of schmoozing and friendly competition. 8 p.m. Tickets $10 in advance or $15 at the door. 36 Atkinson Ave. Contact 905-709-2620 or www.templekolami.ca

Sunday, May 8

HEALING SERVICE

Rabbi David Seed, Adath Israel Synagogue, and **Judy Shier Weisberg**, lead a healing service at the Lipa Green Building, room 420, 3-4 p.m. Free, wheelchair access. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

NOVAK ON MAIMONIDES

Shaarei Shomayim adult education committee commemorates Maimonides's 800th yahrzeit with a lecture by **David Novak**, University of Toronto, on "Maimonides the Halachist." 8 p.m. 416-789-3213.

Monday, May 9

MEDIA WORKSHOP

Join a workshop to learn to identify and combat media bias against Israel. Write effective letters and take action to promote fair and accurate media coverage of Israel with HonestReporting Canada. Free. Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. 7:30 p.m. 416-229-2600.

THE MUSIC SURVIVED

Beth Emeth Women's League observes Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut with the presentation of the film *The Music Survived*, an exploration of "degenerate music" that has been repressed and neglected for more than 50 years. 7:30 p.m. **Ben Steinberg** is the guest lecturer. 416-633-3838.

KOLEL'S BOOK CLUB

Kolel's Women's Book Club reviews: *Wanted: An Interesting Life* by **Beverly Katz-Rosenbaum**. Come discuss observations about the trials and triumphs of life and love in the dating world with the author. 7:30-9:30 p.m. $10 pre-registration required. 416-485-7007.

JWI STUDY IN HEBREW

Chana Sargin leads a class in Hebrew on "Megillat Ruth" at the Jewish Women International, Kinneret chapter, meeting. 8 p.m. 167 Rose Green Dr. $10. For information, call **Ziva**, 905-508-0718, or **Michelle**, 905-709-4665.

Tuesday, May 10

HERZL EXAMINED

Beth Tikvah Synagogue Lunch and Learn Tuesday event presents **Gerald Ziedenberg** speaking on Theodore Herzl in this his 100th yahrzeit. Lunch 12:15 p.m., learn 1 p.m. $8. To reserve, call 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

Continued on page 23

בזכות את העולם

Yom Ha'zikaron - May 10, 2005

יום הזיכרון - א' באייר, תשס"ה

The community is invited to attend our Yom Ha'Zikaron Assembly in memory of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

הציבור מוזמן להשתתף בטקס יום הזיכרון לחללי מערכות ישראל ונפגעי פעולות האיבה

Tuesday, May 10, 2005
7:00 pm
Beth David B'nei Israel Beth Am
55 Yeomans Road
Toronto

הטקס יתקיים ביום שלישי
א' באייר, תשס"ה
10 מאי, 2005 - בשעה 19:00
בבית הכנסת בית דוד
בני ישראל בית עם

Consulate General of Israel in Toronto

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Yom Ha'Atzmaut
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Music by The Sheraym Band
MIZRACHI
Sponsored by MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION OF CANADA, EMUNAH WOMEN, YAVNEH and BNEI AKIVA
Wednesday May 11 - 7:15 p.m.
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation | 470 Glencairn Avenue

Continue to demonstrate your support for Israel at the COMMUNITY CELEBRATION on MAY 12th
www.jewishtoronto.com

What's New

Continued from page 22

BOOK REVIEW

Michael Pye's *The Pieces From Berlin* is reviewed by **Heather Kassel** as part of the Jewish Public Library's series "Treasures in Jewish Literature." Refreshments 12:45 p.m. Lecture 1:30 p.m. $15. 416-635-2996.

SHARING THE CARING

Join "Sharing the Caring," a group that offers education and support to individuals caring for elderly people. Tonight, "Alzheimer's: Understanding and Managing Behaviours" with **Gail Clement**. 7-9 p.m., at the Harold and Grace Baker Centre, 1 Northwestern Ave. 416-654-2889.

BIRTHRIGHT PANEL

Beth David Sisterhood holds a Birthright panel presented by UJA Federation. If you are 18 to 26 or have children that age, come out and learn about this "Israel for Free" program. Non-members $5 at the door. 55 Yeomans Rd. 7:30 p.m.

INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

Pride of Israel Synagogue presents "Inter-dating: An Up-close and Personal Discussion" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, education director of Jews for Judaism, and **Jack Botwinik**, author of *Chicken Soup with Chopsticks*. Botwinik will share his journey through many faiths and traditions to a religious lifestyle with his Oriental-born wife. 8 p.m. 416-226-0111 or ravrhodes@thepride.org.

PIRKEI AVOT W/TURKIENICZ

"Ethics of the Fathers" continues with **Dr. Rachael Turkienicz**. Tonight, "Do Not Speak To A Woman: Context Is Everything." Continues on Tuesday nights through May 24. 7:30 p.m. Members $5, non-members $10 per session. 416-781-3514, ext. 34. Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Wednesday, May 11

EYE SEMINAR

The Baycrest Centre presents **Dr. Lawrence Weisbrod** discussing "Macular Degeneration and Cataracts," followed by a panel discussion. 7-9 p.m. in the first-floor recreation room. RSVP **Emily** at 416-785-2500, ext. 2425.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT GALA

Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut at Beth Tzedec Congregation's gala celebration. Includes Israeli dinner, music and dancing. 6 p.m. Adults $8, children $4. Reservations required. Call **Netta**, 416-781-3514, ext. 48, by May 8.

JWI UNIONVILLE

Jewish Women International, Unionville chapter, holds their monthly meeting. Call 905-294-9706.

Other news

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Temple Kol Ami Adult Education Series, "Talmud for Beginners," begins Thursday, May 12, continuing through June 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at 8777 Dufferin St. 905-709-2620.

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning registration for spring classes has begun. Classes range from "Conversations about Conversion" to "The Mystical Aleph Bet" and "He Said/She Said." To register, visit www.kolel.org or call 416-485-7007, ext. 0.

WINDSOR NEGEV DINNER

Jewish National Fund of Windsor honours **Rochelle** and **Bill Tepperman** at its annual dinner, Thursday, May 12. Call 519-969-8733 to reserve.

JUDY AND DAVID CONCERT

Judy and David perform at Beth Shalom Synagogue's Yom Ha'atzmaut concert, Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m. Tickets start at $12. 416-783-6103.

CHABAD WESTERN DINNER

Chabad House at Western honours **Allen** and **Judy Berg** and pays tribute to **Yitzchak** and **Laya Block** at its dinner Sunday, May 15, at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. **Alan Dershowitz** speaks on "How Will Peace With the Palestinians Affect International Anti-Semitism?" To reserve, call 416-789-4514.

STUDY WITH BYRNA LEVY

Spend a morning studying with **Bryna Levy**, dean of master's program in Tanach at MaTaN. Her topic is "Painting from Heaven: Understanding Torah Through Art." Monday, May 16, 10-noon at Ulpanat Orot High School, 45 Canyon Ave. $18. For information, call Mekorot, 416-877-2050.

BOYS TOWN EVENT

Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem's cocktail reception takes place Monday, May 16. **Dr. Jack Mintz** speaks on "Implications of a New World Economic Order for Middle East Politics." Cocktails 7:30 p.m. $75. 416-789-7241.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for summer-session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of May 17. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

LIBRARIANS' WORKSHOP

The Association of Jewish Libraries, Ontario, presents a workshop for librarians and teachers. It includes a demonstration of cataloguing in Hebrew characters and a discussion of a range of databases. Non-members $3. Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at CHAT, 200 Wilmington Ave. For information, call **Steve** 416-635-2996.

VENDORS WANTED

Walk with Israel is looking for vendors for its Israeli Shuk at Ontario Place on Sunday, May 29. Tables are $150 each. Call **Michelle Golfman** at 416-631-5854.

Ve'ahavta Chaverim, Vaughan chapter: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee needs new and almost-new items, including clothing, toys, jewelry, china, household, books and baked goods, for its bazaar on June 5. To donate, call 416-964-7698, ext 19.

Gan Yeladim Daycare is looking for vendors for its 25th reunion Sunday, June 12, 11-2 p.m. For information, call **Susan** at 416-633-2830. Please note: an incorrect telephone was previously printed.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 215.

The Challenge of Anger For Women: A six-session group for women in which they will learn how to express their anger in an assertive, non-aggressive way. Begins Thursday, May 5, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St.

Successful Step-Parenting: A six-session group for couples living in blended families who want to discuss building a solid couple relationship and helping kids to adjust to step-family life. Begins Wednesday, May 11, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Choices: A six-week group for young women, 16 to 18 years old, who would like to explore and understand how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Begins Tuesday, May 17, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim Program hosts the Holy Blossom Lunch and Learn, Monday, May 9, 1:30 p.m. for a performance by the York Jazz Ensemble. $2. 416-781-3511.

Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, May 25; Dixie Outlet Mall flea market, May 15. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 5, movie; May 15, Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, Wednesday, May 11. Memorial Day ceremony 6 p.m; dinner and dancing 7 p.m. Members $18, non-members $20. To reserve, call ext. 110 or **Devora** at 905-763-2728.

Foot Health Day, Thursday, May 12, 1-3 p.m.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m on May 11, Yom Hazikaron service and Yom Ha'atzmaut party.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The Yom Hashoah service takes place in the assembly room Thursday, May 5, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Lunch 'n' Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, May 6, 12-1 p.m. Coffee and tea are free.

Learning Experience with **Anne Balaban**: "So Many Choices, What's Really Best?" Tuesday, May 10, 1-2:30 p.m. Call ext. 259.

Joker's Club: tell a joke or be part of the audience. Call **Milt Cohen** to find out more. 416-495-1999.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

"Portraits of Bravery" exhibit by photographer **Yuri Dojc**, May 5-26. Reception May 11, 6-7:30 p.m.

Club Schmooze celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut with a patio party, May 12, at Club Menage 333 King St. W., 9:30 p.m. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. 416-913-2424 or 416-398-6931, ext. 252.

The Israeli dance community celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut in dance May 12, 13 and 14 with **Howie Goldman** and **Mikey Levine**. Friday night includes Shabbat dinner. Dancing 8 p.m. 905-761-0004 or visit www.Israelidancetoronto.com.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jean Glazer	Apr 18/05	1210 Don Mills Road,
Dr. Alfred Levin	Apr 17/05	71 Charles St. East,
Hilda Kovensky	Apr 18/05	100 Antibes Drive,
Dr. Robert Volpe	Apr 19/05	400 Walmer Rd. West,
Shelly Teichberg	Apr 20/05	4001 Bayview Avenue,
Bea Swartz	Apr 21/05	257 Old Forest Hill Road
Doris Sarah Bakst	Apr 20/05	2 Neptune Drive,
Willie Chernin	Apr 21/05	2545 Erin Center Blvd.,
David Epstein	Apr 21/05	382 Smith Avenue
Helen Langer	Apr 22/05	66 Viewmount Avenue
Doris Abbott	Apr 22/05	15 Barberry Place,
Morris Laskin	Apr 23/05	333 Clark Ave. West,
Earl Balaban	Apr 25/05	7825 Bayview Avenue,
Edward Stransman	Apr 24/05	115 Elm Ridge Drive
Ted Zubata	Apr 27/05	1 Chedington Place,
Mary Mintz	Apr 26/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Mary Freedman	Apr 26/05	59 Fontainbleau Drive

Those Who Die Young

Those who die young
Are frozen in time
Never to age
Never to change
Framed in our memories
In the sweetness of youth.

S. Kramer

LONNIE CLEMENS ז"ל
(1966 - 1995)

A wonderful son, brother, uncle, grandson, and friend.

In loving memory of dear Lonnie, who died ten years ago, on 10 Iyar 5755, we remember and cherish his spirit, enthusiasm and love of life.

You are sadly missed every day.

Dad, Mom, Joseph, Sherri, Yaffa
Robyn, Lindsie, Mitchell, Simara, Nanny

KLEIN, Ignatz (Irving) Passed away erev Passover. Loving father of Miriam and Robin Benmergui. Beloved Zaidy of Tiffany and David Kaplan, Mosey and Avery Benmergui and Great-grandfather of Yoni, Noah, Shya and Haviva. Will be greatly missed. Donations to the Ben-Yakir Youth Aliyah Village through Hadassah would be appreciated 416-630-8373.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOSEPH REDLICK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles
The Stopnitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOZEF STUCKLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th, 12:00 noon
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
5822 Bathurst Street
Section #8, Plot 317, Lot #1
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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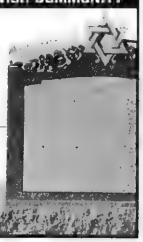
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Watch this space each week for monument dealers & shiva caterers

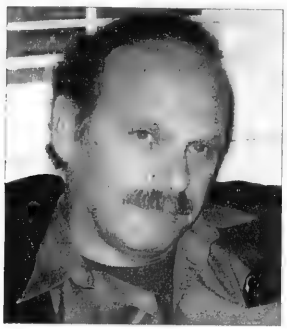
On Campus

U.S. scholar wins $1.4M grant to teach at York U

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

York University has snagged one of the world's leading scholars of modern Asian studies.

Joshua Fogel, whose work focuses on the importance of Japan in China's modern development, will arrive in Toronto in July after winning a $1.4 million grant from the Canadian government.



Joshua Fogel

Fogel, an American from the University of California in Santa Barbara, will teach and conduct research at York.

He has signed a seven-year renewable contract with the university.

The grant enables York to create a new chair in Asian studies Fogel will fill.

"The creation of this chair builds on York's research strength in international studies and our specific regional strength in Asia Pacific," said Stan Shapson, the university's vice-president of research and innovation.

Born in Brooklyn in 1950, the son of a criminologist and pre-school teacher, Fogel has been at the University of California since 1989.

He has also taught at Harvard and Columbia University.

Fogel, who knows Hebrew and Yiddish, is the author of several books and innumerable monographs on China and Japan.

In an interview, he said, "My interest first spiked in 1970 when I was in college. I took a course or two on contemporary China, which then meant the years of the Cultural Revolution. I was smitten. As I learned more about the Cultural Revolution and China's policies, I became ever more interested in Chinese history."

Japan is very important in China's development, he explained.

"In the early years of the 20th century, Japan was the primary place for Chinese students to acquire a 'modern education.' The principal architects of the 1911 revolution that toppled China's last monarchy were trained there.

"Japan provided China with a model for an East Asian society wanting to shed its traditional trappings and rapidly try to reach parity with the encroaching west."

Today, Japan is one of China's largest trading partners, and Japanese companies have invested heavily in the Chinese economy, Fogel added.

Currently, he is working on two closely related books.

"One is on the first modern mission from Japan to China in 1862. The other is on the first modern expatriate community of Japanese in Shanghai, from 1862 to 1895."

Fogel said he learned Hebrew as a child and returned to it while teaching at Harvard. He picked up Yiddish at Columbia after finishing his Ph.D in history in 1980.

He is glad to be coming to Canada.

"One of the attractive things to me and my family about moving to Toronto is having a full-fledged Jewish community, something (my wife) and I both have missed. We look forward very much to that."

בס"ד

HOLD THE DATE

Eitz Chaim Schools
Alumni Dinner
"Strengthen our Branches, Nurture our Roots"

Sunday
7 Elul 5765
September 11, 2005

Copper Creek Golf Club

For further information contact
Sara Gabriel
Event Coordinator
416-489-5448 / sgabriel@rogers.com

Na'amat Canada, Club Dayan and the Cole Family

invite you to our annual

Sharon Cole Memorial Lecture

featuring renowned author & cultural journalist

Kate Taylor
author of
"Madame Proust and the Kosher Kitchen"

Tuesday, May 24, 8 p.m.

Temple Sinai
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"Madame Proust and the Kosher Kitchen", inspired in part by her love of Marcel Proust and her own childhood in Paris, is Taylor's first novel. Hailed by critics for its poignancy and its craft, *Madame Proust* weaves together three tales of love, literature and loss set across the 20th century in Paris, Montreal and Toronto. In 2004, it won the Commonwealth Writers Prize for best first book in Canada and the Caribbean region, the Toronto Book Award and the Canadian Jewish Book Award.

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High school, university students learn at Bnei Akiva

By ALIZA LIBMAN
Special to The CJN

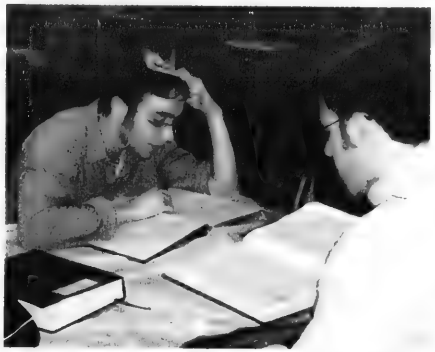
When a small group of high school students decided they wanted to try something different six years ago, Bnei Akiva, the international religious Zionist youth group, was known for being a fun place for Zionist kids to socialize. A group of Grade 12 students tried to kick-start a weekly Torah study program that year, but could only get five or six students to show up every week, Arye Sokol remembers.

"Two years ago, we struggled to get a minyan [of 10]," the University of Toronto student says, surveying the packed room with pride. "This year we get 70 people a week."

The program's premise is simple: high school students get paired up with university students and learn in pairs and small groups. They come for an hour of group study, a brief speaker, the evening prayer Ma'ariv and refreshments. Not where you'd expect to find a student when prime time TV is on. But this year, the popular program has swelled far beyond expectations.

The high school students who come every week often finish their classes as late as 5 or 6 p.m. The university students come during midterms and even during exams. Most can't imagine doing otherwise.

Sara Yeres, an Ulpanat Orot student in Grade 12, says that when she walks into the room full of high school students learning together, "it's uplifting and it makes it fun. It's nice to come to a place where learning is not for marks and it's a positive atmosphere." She, along with Sokol and two other students, co-ordinate the weekly program, which is called Beit Midrash, or "house of study." Together with U of T student Sara Greenwood and Or Chaim student Ezra Javasky, they are responsible for creating the atmosphere of a house of study, something they attribute to the students who have begun to come in large numbers this year.



Or Chaim student Ezra Javasky, left, and University of Toronto student Arye Sokol learn together at Bnei Akiva's Beit Midrash program. [Aliza Libman photo]

The program's vibrancy depends on older students drawing in younger ones, which is how Ulpana Grade 9 student Chaya Solomon was recruited this year.

"My older brother and older sister came [weekly in previous years]," she says, "so I decided to come, too." Solomon, who says that she appreciates the opportunity to study Torah without being tested on the material, is like Yeres and Javasky in that respect – they too began attending because their older siblings did.

The record numbers of students have posed a challenge for the organizers, who hold the program weekly at the centrally located Congregation B'nai Torah. For each new student who comes, the organizers have to find a regular study partner or group. Duos have become trios and groups of three now have five or six studying everything from Bible to Talmud to Jewish philosophy.

In addition to pairing up people with study partners, the organizers line up a weekly speaker, and over the years have hosted scores of interesting people, such as Rabbi Charles Grysman from Netivot Hatorah Day School and Zichron Yisroel Congregation in Thornhill, Rabbi Glenn Black from National Conference of Synagogue Youth and Martin Lockshin, director of York University's Centre for Jewish Studies.

Some weeks, the students themselves do the speaking, Javasky says, while other times, it's the Bnei Akiva shlichot Ayala Shalev and Avital Goddard who share brief words of Torah. Javasky, a Grade 11 student, says that his favourite speaker was York student Noam Lockshin, who spoke about the lesson to be learned from aggadic passages in the Talmud.

And the studying isn't confined to the weekend. Due to popular demand, the four organizers, collectively known as the "Beit Midrash crew," have begun Torah study weekly e-mails, journals for the holidays of Chanukah and Pesach, and they are planning, along with a lot of alumni, to complete the entire Torah, Mishnah and Nezikin, the section of the Talmud that deals with damages, in time for their all-night Torah study program on Shavuot.

After a year of such tremendous growth, Bnei Akiva has its work cut out for next year, but the students say they are excited to just be doing what they're already doing.

"It makes me proud to be a part of this," Yeres says.

Aliza Libman is a fourth-year religious studies and education student at York University. She has been studying Talmud at the Bnei Akiva Beit Midrash for three years.

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If not now, when?

By SHELLEY MILLMAN HERMAN

As we take our leave from the acute sense of freedom that we experience during the eight days of Pesach that commemorate our liberation from slavery in Egypt, we step forward into our current reality, feeling a sense of joy and hope that energizes us. The time of Passover – appropriately – coincides with the season of hope, the beautiful spring season that fills everyone with a sense of anticipation, with the budding trees symbolizing growth and renewal. After a period of winter barrenness, there is a stirring of life that ushers in a new beginning that we are all eager to embrace.

Why is it then that we also leave the eight-day cycle of freedom with a sense of sadness? Our hopeful joy is tainted by our longing and deep angst for something more. Is it that we are fearful of something – perhaps of ourselves, and the vice-like grip of our personal faults and diehard habits that we are enslaved to?

We have now entered the 49 days of sefirah that lead us up to the holiday of Shavuot – the time when we are to become most elevated in order to merit receiving the Torah.

Now is the time to reflect on what it is that entraps us. Is it our own self-defeatist attitude that allows our negative inclination to continue to tie us to the many things we wish we could overcome? When will we finally make legitimate strides towards personal change? When we are 40, 50 or 60 years old – is that when we will finally "grow up"? Or perhaps we should wait until we are 70, when we can comfortably state that we are already too old and set in our ways to ever be able to change.

At this time of year, as we move closer to the receiving of the Torah, our souls cry out for us to become better people, better Jews, better individuals. Waiting for some intangible set of circumstances to happen before we improve who we are is a sad waste of valuable time that we never get back. We have to change the way we do things, and only we know exactly what those things are that we must change. Is it loving our children more, or loving ourselves more, or loving God more, or loving life more? Now is the time to contemplate how we want to grow, and we must move from contemplation to action. Do we talk too much, waste time too much, eat too much, yell too much, worry too much, take things for granted too much?

In preparation for Shavuot, let's change one thing, just one thing, but really do it. Let's focus on it for a whole year, until next erev Shavuot, when we will be ready to move onto the next item to change in our "to do" list for life. Our life. Now is the time to grab hold and climb higher.

Shelley Millman Herman provides both personal and corporate lifeskills and wellness coaching. She can be reached at shelley.millman@sympatico.ca.

New book showcases art of children with HIV/AIDS

About 100 grade 7 and 8 students from Leo Baeck Hebrew Day School will attend the launch of *Hopes, Wishes and Dreams,* a book published by the Teresa Group, an organization that provides front-line services for children living with HIV/AIDS.

The book, the Teresa Group's second, was funded in part by a $22,000 grant the group received from Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) in October 2004.

The book showcases the art, poetry and writing of HIV/AIDS-affected children and youth.

The organization's first book, *Bye Bye Secrets*, was written two years ago by children to discuss the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS on their lives.

Special guest June Callwood will attend the launch to celebrate the publication of the book, the RMHC grant and the support of Leo Baeck students.

The launch will take place May 4, at 10:30 a.m. at Leo Baeck's Thornhill branch, 36 Atkinson Ave.

For more information, call Jennifer Acheson, 416-642-7974.

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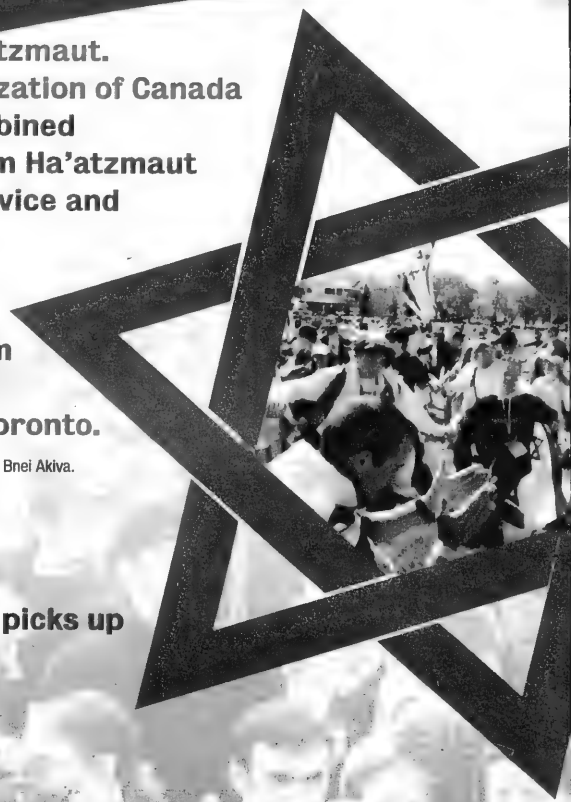

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Coast to Coast

Media underplay anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

Daniel Okrent, the *New York Times*' "public editor" or ombudsman, devoted his April 24 column to the subject of the paper's coverage of Israel and the Palestinians ("The Hottest Button: How the *Times* Covers Israel and Palestine").

Okrent dealt with the heated reactions of the *Times*' pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian readerships, both of whom are convinced that the paper betrays a bias in its news treatment.

Okrent explained some of the standards the *Times* applies to deal fairly with news coverage. For example, the *Times* "eschews passion" in an effort to achieve "detachment." However, his account of this detachment concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is peculiar: "The paper's seeming reluctance, for instance, to report evidence of incitement to racial or religious hatred derives in part from a subconscious effort to stick to the non-inflammatory middle and to keep things civil, even when civility leaked out of the conflict long ago."

This is peculiar because it would seem that the function of the news media is first and foremost to describe what is happening as accurately and fully as possible, not to filter out disturbing and pervasive images in an artificial attempt "to keep things civil" when, admittedly, they are anything but.

The *Times* is not unique in this practice. Most other western media outlets have either ignored or grossly underplayed the extent of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement in Palestinian, Arab and Muslim media, and its effects.

An exception was a CBC documentary, *One Is Too Many*, about the frightening growth of anti-Semitism in France. It was shown in its full 75-minute length on *CBC News: Sunday Morning* on April 17.

In one segment, host Carol Off shows a ghastly scene from an anti-Semitic series originally produced in Syria and broadcast in France and elsewhere around the world by Al-Manar, the Hezbollah satellite TV channel. An orthodox Jew appears, saying, "Listen, we want the blood of a Christian child before Passover, for the matzahs." As he cries "Mama, Mama," a young boy is laid on a mat, his throat slit, and a pool of blood appears.

The sickening, graphic detail is hard to watch. Yet CBC viewers see only a few seconds of what one can imagine is a far greater tapestry of blood libel imagery. Off called this "a source of poison in the Muslim community [in France]."

Such images must have a lingering, deeply damaging impact, especially on the minds of young people in the Muslim world.

Off interviewed the French-Tunisian intellectual Abdelwahab Meddeb, who reflected on the impact of such programs: "Images have great power and they create a favourable foundation for ideologues and agitators. From that point of view, there is a huge problem in countries like France and England, where religious ideologues take advantage of the situation to stir the pot.

"I'm very wary of television because I know that it has the power to push people towards perverse ideologies."

And toward terrorism, Meddeb might have added, though this is not discussed in the CBC documentary.

Returning to Okrent's caution against the sort of thing viewers were shocked at in the CBC piece, one might say that shining a light on evil is the best way to help ensure that civility prevails in the long run.

Talking of civility of a totally different sort: Anna Morgan's article, "Reigning on the parade," in the *Toronto Star* on April 22, provides a rich and nuanced description of the tensions and challenges that prevail in Israel as it prepares to host World Pride, a gathering of gay and lesbian organizations from around the world, scheduled for August in Jerusalem. As a country founded as both Jewish and democratic, "gay rights, like nothing else," Morgan writes, "tests the ability of religion to live within a democracy."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Hamilton police chief faces complaints over Israel trip

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Hamilton's Police Services Board has sent two complaints filed over the city's police chief's recent visit to Israel to the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services.

"Both complaints have been referred to the OCCPS," Hamilton police spokesperson Gary Ostofi told *The CJN* last week, adding that it's "common" for the board to refer complaints to the Toronto-based civilian oversight body.

The complaints over the participation of Hamilton police chief Brian Mullan in the Israel trip were filed by two small local community groups, Community Action Against Racism (CCAR) and Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights.

"It was unwise of [Mullan] even to consider becoming embroiled in this debate at all, much less take a stand favouring one side (the State of Israel) so much," the CCAR complaint states.

OCCPS spokesperson Cathy Boxer told *The CJN* that complaints to the commission can be dismissed, held pending more information or examined further. If there is sufficient evidence supporting misconduct, the matter is sent to a hearing.

A third complaint over the March 1-8 trip by two dozen Ontario police chiefs and deputy chiefs to study Israeli security has been filed in Ottawa.

In an April 6 letter to the chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board, Linda Belanger, writing on behalf of the local branch of the Canada-Palestine Support Network (Canpalnet), called the participation in the Israel trip by Ottawa's Assistant Chief Larry Hill "a slap in the face to the Arab community" in the city.

Citing a long list of alleged violations by Israel of United Nations resolutions and international law affecting Palestinians, Belanger said Hill's participation in the trip was "ill-advised" and "insensitive."

It was "completely inappropriate," she added, for the junket to be subsidized by Jewish groups, El Al Airlines, and Israel's tourism ministry. Israeli police "should be coming to Canada to learn from our police forces."

The historic trip by the police chiefs was a joint project of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Canadian Jewish Congress and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. It included former Toronto police chief Julian Fantino, Ontario's community safety minister, Monte Kwinter, and law enforcement representatives from 15 Ontario cities, towns and regions, including the Ontario Provincial Police.

In Israel, they met with high-level politicians and other officials to learn about the latest in security and anti-terrorism measures.

Meanwhile, a *Hamilton Spectator* columnist who wrote about the complaints in the city is angry that the Police Services Board dealt with the matter in a closed-door meeting, held on April 18.

"It's disgraceful," Bill Dunphy told *The CJN*. "[The board] is not a place to go to see democracy in action."

He said, however, that the board routinely handles complaints in camera.

The allegations that Mullan was exploited for Israeli propaganda purposes were bolstered by Dunphy in a highly charged column last month that was strongly critical of Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

> ***Filed by two small local community groups***

Dunphy acknowledged in the column that Mullan's trip had been pre-approved and funded with about $2,000 of local tax money. He also quoted the chief as saying there was no political agenda at work, only a desire to better protect the citizens of Hamilton.

Jewish community leaders in Hamilton called the column "particularly offensive."

In a follow-up column three days later, Dunphy related the harsh feedback he received from readers, including allegations of anti-Semitism.

He also apologized for not including "Jewish voices" in the first column, but he didn't back away from his original argument.

Dunphy told *The CJN* the controversy has been "useful" because "it's made an awful lot of people examine the issues."

Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber, who organized the police trip, called the complaints "a fraud by marginal groups whose sole aim is to discredit Israel. The police chiefs understand what these groups are doing."

In a letter to the editor of the *Spectator*, Farber noted that Dunphy's columns did not mention the fact the police chiefs also met with a senior leader of the Palestinian national security force and the legal adviser to the Palestinian Authority.

Farber also asked: "One wonders where Dunphy's outrage was when Mississauga MP Carolyn Parrish and eight other MPs visited the Palestinian Authority and Israel in May 2002, with Palestine House picking up the tab. Are MPs less important or less easily manipulated [than police officers]?"

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CJC repeats call to beef up B.C. hate crime team

By PETER CAULFIELD
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — British Columbia's Hate Crime Team needs more money to confront and combat bias and hate-motivated crimes in the province, says Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific region (CJC).

That was one of the recommendations that came out of the organization's recently released report titled *Public Affairs Action Agenda*.

Mark Weintraub, chair of CJC's Pacific region, said that while the Hate Crime Team still exists, its operations have been cut back under Premier Gordon Campbell's Liberal government.

"We're worried that its early gains have been undermined during the last four years," he says.

CJC has noted in the past that as a result of provincial cuts, the unit has not been able to do outreach and education or fill vacant positions, including hiring a data analyst and seconding a Vancouver police officer to join the unit's full-time RCMP officer.

The Hate Crime Team was set up by the previous provincial government. It's made up of specially trained police officers and Crown attorneys with expertise in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

The team deals with a broad range of hate-related crimes, including graffiti, assaults and murder, and looks into attacks against minority groups such as Jews, gays, aboriginals and Muslims.

Operations cut back under Liberal government

Its recent work includes investigations into an anti-Semitic column in a Lower Mainland Muslim newspaper, and a call by a local Muslim cleric for jihad.

Weintraub said the team should be training all B.C. law enforcement officials to identify crimes where the intent goes beyond an attack on an individual and becomes a threat to society.

"It needs enough money so, for example, provincial law enforcement personnel have sufficient computer power to monitor, record and analyze data related to hate crimes," he said.

The 64-page Public Affairs Action Agenda is a summary of CJC priorities and will guide the organization's ongoing human rights work for the next three years.

The document identifies six areas of concern: hate and bias crime, hate propaganda, Holocaust education, human rights protection, multiculturalism, and affordable housing.

In addition to a call for more funding for the Hate Crime Team, its recommendations include greater intergovernmental co-operation on monitoring and combating hate propaganda; ensuring that Holocaust education remains part of B.C.'s required education curriculum; establishing an information and advisory office within the provincial human rights apparatus; improved links between multicultural stakeholder groups; and increased funding for affordable housing.

"Implementing these recommendations are key to ensuring the Jewish community lives and thrives in Canadian society, free of anti-Semitism," Weintraub said.

Canada's approach to fighting hate crime has proven to be successful, he added. "Canada today has a lower incidence of hate crime compared to either the U.S. or Europe."

Congress said the report has been sent to Campbell and to NDP leader Carole James.

Calls to Campbell and James, who are in the middle of a provincial election campaign, were not returned.

To read the CJC report online, visit http://www.cjc.ca/docs/RD/177_PAAA 2005.pdf.

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Incident in Islamic school was isolated: minister

Continued from page 3

Indeed, there was an air of apprehension in Kingston's small Jewish community in the wake of the affair after the *Whig-Standard* published the story on its front page. Both Rabbi Daniel Elkin of Beth Israel Congregation and synagogue president Elaine Viner stressed to *The CJN* that Jews have good relations with area Muslims and Christians and take part in local interfaith initiatives.

Meanwhile, Kennedy announced that a ministry inspection at Ottawa's Abraar school concluded that a student's anti-Israel essay, which resulted in the suspension of two teachers, was isolated.

"This incident was deeply disturbing. However, a ministry inspection has concluded that it was not part of a systemic problem," Kennedy said in a statement.

He commended the school's administration for co-operating throughout the probe, as well as for its "firm commitment to ensure that nothing of this nature happens again."

The two unnamed teachers were suspended following reports of their involvement in the student's project.

One teacher reportedly helped with the illustration that accompanied the student's eight-page story on killing and martyrdom. The cover page showed a burning Star of David beside a machine-gun and Palestinian flag atop Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock.

The handwritten Arabic text in the sketch read, "With the call of 'God is the Greatest,' the flag of Zionism will fall and will be destroyed."

"Without thinking, Ahmed took his M-16 machine-gun and threw the bombs, and he showered the Jews; this resulted in the killing of the soldiers," the boy wrote in one passage.

"God bless you, your efforts are good," the other teacher wrote on the title page.

No action was taken against the student.

Kennedy noted that the school's board of directors will review his report and inform the ministry and public of any actions they are taking.

The ministry's inspection involved interviews with the principal, reviewing school documents in English and Arabic, including the school's code of conduct, teaching resources, curriculum documents and samples of students' work.

Established in 2000, the Abraar School, with 254 students, "is working to prevent another incident from happening by introducing activities and training for students and staff promoting tolerance," an education ministry statement said, adding that late last month, representatives of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic communities toured the school and visited students in a display of interfaith support.

The ministry noted that there are 576 uninspected private schools in Ontario, and that it does not monitor private elementary schools beyond receiving annual registration and statistical information.

Kennedy said he is committed to review ministry policies concerning private schools.

Canadian Jewish Congress commended Kennedy and said it was encouraged by the quick action of both the ministry and the principal at the Abraar School.

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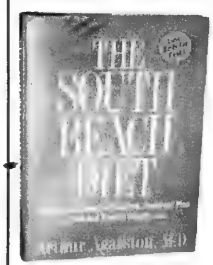

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Quebec overseeing management of JEC until care improves

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The executive director of the Jewish Eldercare Centre (JEC) acknowledges that the care of its 320 residents should be improved, but places much of the blame for a highly critical government report on employees who are reluctant to change their routines and attitudes, as well as a perennial shortage of staff, especially registered nurses.

Michel Amar said he recognized the JEC was lacking a "home-like environment" when he assumed his post in June 2001, and said steps to change this had been taken long before the investigation. These included a complete change in the top administrators and a determined effort to eradicate an "entrenched mindset" among staff and have them put residents' wishes ahead of what may be convenient for them.

Over 70 per cent of residents, whose average age is 86, have dementia. The investigation was conducted as a result of complaints from the users' committee, which is currently composed mainly of relatives of residents.

"We still have a lot of work to do… But for us, the quality of life of residents is of the utmost importance and we are committed to making all necessary changes," Amar said.

He added that what was done already was accomplished despite the JEC's having a $1.5-million operating deficit when he came on board. For the past three years, the budget has been balanced, he said.

However, nurse's aide and union leader Ricardo McKenzie said the work schedules are decided by management to "make up for" staff shortages and provide no advantage to the staff. He contends the real problem is a lack of resources, which is common to all public long-term care institutions.

Amar also said the situation is partly due to the difficulties associated with the merger of the Jewish Nursing Home and Jewish Hospital of Hope to create the JEC. This occurred "on paper" in 1995, but in fact only after he was hired.

For six months, the JEC will have an observer, Leonard Vincent, appointed by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, sitting on its board of directors to see that the changes recommended in the report are implemented. He is to report monthly to the minister, Philippe Couillard, on the progress.

In addition, a three-member team, with expertise in management, also from the ministry, are on-site full time for three months.

This was the second investigation of the JEC by the Health and Social Services ombudsman in two years, following complaints from the users' committee about the quality of life and services, and the lack of response from the management and board. The latest report says no concrete improvement has been found since 2003.

This investigation was carried out by three persons who spent a total of 78 hours at the JEC from October to December, spread over all shifts, on weekdays and weekends.

The report cites numerous "major, chronic weaknesses," both administratively and clinically, and emphasizes the lack of "respect and dignity" in handling residents. It describes in detail an "impersonal and infantilizing" care routine, that gives little consideration to what the residents want or to maintaining what capacities they still have.

These include such practices as waking and dressing patients at 5 a.m. and putting them to bed at 5:20 p.m., overuse of restraints, leaving them for hours in a "noisy and depressing" common room in front of a television and a failure to stimulate them or even take them for walks. The report also finds the architecture and physical setting inappropriate. (The JEC's two pavilions were opened in 1993.)

The report said professionals do not intervene enough, caregivers lack adequate training in gerontology, and staff do not work in an interdisciplinary fashion. Another shortcoming noted was that families are not consulted or informed enough.

Users' committee member Laura Blutstein said the report is "right on. For years we've been telling the administration and board that these problems exist, but they were unresponsive and negated them. The report now validates our experiences."

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V-E Day

War's 'tough days' ended in victory for Canadian soldiers

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

May 8, 1945, V-E Day, is one of those monumental events in world history, the day World War II came to an end in Europe.

Newsreels captured the rapturous joy experienced by millions on the home front. Throngs of civilians and soldiers crowded the streets, strangers kissed, dancers performed impromptu jigs in the street.

But deep in the heart of Europe, where Canadian soldiers fought their way into Holland and northern Germany, the announcement of the German surrender did not necessarily generate those once-in-a-lifetime memories. Many soldiers, fighting on the Canadian army's front lines, knew a few days in advance that their enemy's surrender was imminent. When the news did come, it was, for them, somewhat underwhelming.

By late April, the Red Army had surrounded Berlin, and it was clear that Adof Hitler had decided to take as many Russian and German soldiers and civilians with him as possible. The bloody battle lasted for weeks and hundreds of thousands died. Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker on April 30 and control of the German Reich was turned over to Admiral Karl Doenitz, who would negotiate Germany's unconditional surrender.

In the last days leading up to V-E Day, German resistance had weakened and Canadian officers were told to curtail military action and hold their positions lest anyone become the last casualty of the war.

In interviews with several Canadian veterans, infantrymen, artillerymen and air crew alike, it is apparent that their memories of that otherwise monumental day are hazy. They shrug and shake their heads when asked where they were when they heard of the surrender. They're almost apologetic that their memories are not clearer, more specific than the fuzzy recollections they can bring to mind.

Today, they're not entirely sure what they did to celebrate Germany's surrender and their survival in the crucible of war. For the veterans contacted by *The CJN*, the end of the war spelled relief as well as a ticket home.

Deeper in Europe, where emaciated and bedraggled Jews were being liberated from concentration camps, May 8 did not necessarily mean immediate freedom. In one camp populated by women slave labourers, a survivor recalls that the women remained behind the camp's barbed wire lest rampaging Russian soldiers mistake them for German women and rape them. For them, V-E Day did not mean a street celebration, nor high spirits. It meant another danger to be averted.

* * *

Hy Shulman, now 83, was one of 200,000 Canadians who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). He enlisted in 1941, and by 1944, he was serving as a leading aircraftsman in an "air observation patrol."

His unit arrived in France a few days after D-Day, the June 6, 1944, Allied invasion of continental Europe, and his patrol craft was the Auster, an English version of the American Piper Cub.

Shulman was a mechanic, but he was assigned as an observer in the patrol craft.

"Our role was to spot targets for the artillery and we ended up in Holland," he said.

Taking off from grass fields, the patrol would head for enemy lines and attempt to seek out camouflaged German gun batteries, particularly machine gun nests. Remarkably, they rarely received enemy fire. "They didn't want to give away their positions," he explained.

To this day, he believes his unit did "nothing glamorous. We went where we were sent and did what we were told."

By May 1945, the unit, which consisted of the pilot officer, his batman (driver), a radio operator and an air frame mechanic, was in the town of Vaasen, outside Appeldorn in Holland. A soccer field served as their landing strip and their aerodrome was a truck.

At the time, "we knew the Germans were on the run. We knew it was going to be over, but nobody consulted us."

By the last week of the war, action against the Germans had been curtailed. "We knew something was going to happen," he said.

His recollection of V-E Day is somewhat vague. He's not sure how he learned of it, but he thinks "the brass told us." He does recall that the Dutch civilians "went crazy."

For the Canadian airmen, it was a different story.

"We didn't feel anything," Shulman said. "I mean, we were kids. I was 19 going in [to the RCAF] and 24 coming out. We had a teenage life, we had no responsibility. We were told when to get up and when to go to sleep."

He recalls that after the celebrations, the Dutch exacted revenge on Nazi collaborators. "They grabbed women who had collaborated with the Germans and shaved their heads and paraded them through the city," he said.

The Dutch attitude to the Canadians, however, was the polar opposite. "They appreciated the Canadians because we made a difference in their lives. The Germans were making a hell of their lives, and we chased them out… It was a new lease on life."

* * *

In 1945, Ben Kanter was a technical sergeant, gunnery, and a surveying assistant to a gun position officer in the 28th Field Battery of the 5th Field Regiment in the Royal Canadian Artillery. The gun crew were assigned 25-pounders, a field piece known to artillerymen as a "gunhowitzer," a weapon that combined the high-angle fire of a howitzer and the flat trajectory of a field gun.

He arrived in France on D+30, 30 days after the D-Day invasion. It was around that time that Canadian forces were engaged in the bloody battle for Caen, a key French town in Normandy, as well as for Carpiquet, a suburb of Caen that was the site of an airport.

The battle for Carpiquet was a fierce one, Kanter recalled. "We got our baptism of fire, because Jerry [German forces] had the place zeroed in and shelled it constantly, and they still had airpower at the time.

"Those were tough days."

Part of his unit's task was to assign a forward observation officer (FOO) to accompany the infantry in the front line. The FOO would call in artillery support and report back if the shells fell short or long until they found the target. The FOO would also call in Typhoon dive bombers after the artillery had put down smoke on the target, Kanter said.

His unit later saw action in the fighting to close the Falaise Gap, an opening in an Allied encirclement through which German forces escaped that summer.

As Canadian troops fought their way north, the 5th Field Regiment helped liberate Antwerp in September, and beginning in October, it provided artillery support to infantry and other units that fought the Germans in the Scheldt Estuary, a wetlands area west of Antwerp that controlled access to the vital Belgian port.

By that time, Allied supply lines from Normandy were stretched thin and control of Antwerp and its access points promised to alleviate the problem. It took almost two months for Canadian, British and Polish units to clear the Scheldt of German resistance.

The Scheldt "was a dirty battle," Kanter recalled.

According to the website, www.historylearningsite.co.uk, "the campaign to free up Antwerp cost the Allies dear. They had lost 703 officers and 12,170 other ranks killed, wounded or lost in action, presumed dead. Over half of these casualties were Canadian men. However, the capture of Antwerp and the ability to use its port facilities was vital for the Allies as they drove on to Germany."

On Nov. 9, 1944, the 2nd Canadian Corps occupied the Nijmegen bridgehead in Holland and turned it into a winter base. Kanter was stationed in Mook, outside Nijmegen. On Feb. 8, 1945, following "a humongous barrage," Allied units began their winter assault. The Allies crossed the Rhine River into Germany at Emerich, Kanter recalled.

Canadian units fighting in the Hochwald Forest were faced with tremendous small arms fire that practically stripped the branches off trees. They could tell they were not on enemy territory, as buildings in German villages were plastered with signs that said, "Victory or Siberia," he said.

On May 5, his unit set up in its final gun position outside Oldenburg. By then, "we knew the war was over."

At the time, he was serving as a FOO with the infantry and the word going around was "to spare the men, as the war was over."

When the announcement came, "we were pretty well tired out. Getting into Oldenburg was hard work."

Looking back on his emotions that day, Kanter said "it was more relief than joy."

* * *

Saul Laskin, 86, was a platoon commander in the infantry with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, a unit in the 3rd Division.

Although a native of Fort William, today's Thunder Bay, Ont., Laskin found himself in the Maritime unit after he lost a coin toss with his best friend, a lad from Halifax. The two had met in "blood and guts training" in Vernon, B.C., and they resolved to stay together. The trouble was, they couldn't agree on a unit – Laskin wanted to join a Fort William regiment, his friend a Nova Scotia unit – hence the coin flip, which Laskin lost.

Saul Laskin

"I was a Jewish officer with the nickname Kelly," he jokes.

As a lieutenant, Laskin was armed with a Browning 9-mm handgun and his batman carried a Sten Gun. At full strength, the platoon consisted of 28 or 29 men, but often they made do with less.

Laskin joined the regiment at Nijmegen, though there were some who landed on D+6. "One kid went through the whole thing, through the whole war and was cleaning a German gun and shot himself," he recalled.

Laskin, whose brother was the late Chief Justice of Canada, Bora Laskin, said near the end of the war, his platoon crossed the Rhine into Germany on pontoons. "The Germans were retreating pretty fast. We were after them.

"There were even times you'd go into a house, and the Germans had just left. We found steaks and pork chops on the stove."

As the war wound down to V-E day, a superior officer told him Germany was about to surrender. Other than that, Laskin doesn't recall the actual surrender. He quickly got tied up in new duties as a quartermaster in a German hospital, as part of the Allied occupation.

"A German superintendent came into the office the first day. He knew I was Jewish and he was shaking like a leaf. In my Yiddish-German I convinced him we were here to bring democracy back to Germany," he said.

* * *

Joe Warren enlisted in the RCAF in 1943 and was assigned to Transport Command. A crewman on a DC-3 Dakota as part of 437 Squadron, his unit's task was to tow gliders, drop paratroopers and ferry supplies.

Warren, now 83, accumulated more than 1,000 flying hours during the war and in the months that followed the surrender.

From January to May 1945, his plane "mostly dropped five-gallon jerry cans of

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Sgt. Ben Kanter, Royal Canadian Artillery, today and circa 1944. [Vintage photo courtesy Ontario Jewish Archives]

V-E Day

V-E Day bittersweet for slave labour camp survivor

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the weeks before the German surrender of May 8, 1945, Gerda Frieberg noticed something unusual in the treatment meted out by the reliably cruel SS officer overseeing her labour crew.

An SS Unterscharfuhrer watched as Frieberg stirred a big cauldron of soup, making sure the good parts, the beets and potato peels, rose to the surface so the girls working in the rain would get their share.

Then he went into the kitchen and brought Frieberg other food and said, "Remember, I took care of you. I brought you food."

It was only days before the end of the war and already things had changed at the Etrich factory in Oberaltstadt. The factory, which spun flax into yarn used in making tents and uniforms, ran out of raw material, so the female slave labourers were forced to dig trenches on the outskirts of town.

Frieberg, along with her sister and mother, had spent about three years in a labour camp at the Etrich factory, located in the Sudetenland, the region of Czechoslovakia annexed by Germany prior to the war.

For years, they had survived on the hope of eventual freedom, though Frieberg's best friend, Peppi Schejewitz, 15 and an only child, committed suicide when she learned her parents had been killed in Auschwitz.

It was her promise to Peppi to tell the world what had been done to them that led Frieberg in later years to become an advocate for Holocaust awareness.

In the weeks prior to V-E Day, Allied planes constantly flew overhead, bombing Nazi targets and bringing the war close to home. Then on May 8, with the prisoners' hopes growing, an SS officer at the camp "called us for an assembly, because they loved to count us," Frieberg said.

"He walks to the girls and asks one how old she is. 'Seventeen.' 'Too bad,' he said, 'that's as old as you'll get because we've rigged the camp with dynamite and we'll blow it up before the Russians and Americans can come.'"

With that, he dismissed the girls.

"Imagine, for three years we lived with hope and now our hopes for freedom were dashed," Frieberg said.

Returning to the barracks, they lay down quietly, not sure if they'd live much longer.

The next day dawned quietly. There was no longer the sound of guard dogs barking, but the inmates were "afraid to get up and get blown up," Frieberg said.

Soon they heard the sound of boots marching. It was Allied PoWs, South Africans, who had been interned at a nearby camp. They knew about the work camp and had cut the barbed wire and told them they were now free. They also learned that Czech partisans had cut the detonation wires that the Nazis had rigged around the camp.

"The partisans told us the whole camp would have blown up," Frieberg said.

While much of the rest of the world was celebrating on May 8, they were living in fear of death.

With the knowledge that they were free also came the realization for most of the workers that they were utterly alone.

"I can't describe the mood. Everybody was walking around. Nobody was talking. We didn't know where to go. Most didn't have parents, siblings or a home," said Frieberg, who was 19 at the time.

The workers, most of them young girls like herself, had "grown up" in the camp. They had no education, no money and nowhere to go.

That night, they heard the rumbling of Russian tanks and the next day some of the girls found flowers to throw at the Russian soldiers. As they watched a Soviet unit enter the town, "one guy comes out of an armoured car and said, 'Ivrei? Do you speak Yiddish?'

"'Don't tell the soldiers where the camp is. I've lost control of the soldiers. They are raping all women, no matter who,'" he told them.

With that, the girls headed straight back to the camp and barricaded the doors.

"Now we were afraid of the Russians. That was our liberation," Frieberg said.

The girls saved themselves by posting warnings of typhoid fever on all the doors, not a bluff, since many in the camp did suffer from the disease.

Frieberg and her family managed to avoid the disease, though, like the others, they were plagued by lice and fleas.

As they grew hungrier, they pleaded with the local Czech civilians, who provided them with food.

Only a week or two after V-E Day, the girls decided to leave the camp in groups. Frieberg, her sister and her mother, travelled from Red Cross station to Red Cross station, leaving their names at each one, hoping to find relatives who'd survived the war.

Gerda Frieberg

They hitched rides on trains and on farmer's wagons, and made their way back to their home in the German/Polish border town of Bielszowice. They learned her father had been killed in March, only two months before the liberation, and that 172 members of their extended family had been murdered by the Nazis.

"Except for my mother and my sister, I had no one in the whole world – not a cousin, nobody," Frieberg said.

For Frieberg, May 8, 1945 was a bittersweet day.

"There was no ticker-tape parade, no soldiers returning home as war heroes. We returned home and there was nobody. We came back to a graveyard."

Nevertheless, she said, "it's an important day. It was our victory over the Nazis."

Canadians honoured in Holland as liberators

Continued from page 36

gasoline for fighters." In 1944 the unit was moved from its base in England to one outside Brussels. From there, they flew across Belgium, eventually as far as Oslo and Copenhagen.

On May 8, "we must have been around Brussels in our base," Warren speculates. Like the other veterans, V-E Day does not particularly resonate with him. "Naturally we were really happy, excited, but we just kept on going."

The squadron didn't celebrate. "We were very active. We had to fly the next day."

Immediately after hostilities ended, they were assigned to fly into Salzburg, Austria, and pick up captured British "Red Devil" paratroopers who had been in a PoW camp. They were so weak, Warren said, they weighed between 70 and 90 pounds and had to be helped into the plane.

During the war, while stationed in Britain, Warren and many of his Jewish friends from Toronto would get together during leaves. A lot of his buddies were in Bomber Command, which flew dangerous missions over the heart of Germany. "We had leave every six weeks and we'd go up to see them every time. [I'd hear] this guy's missing, this guy's missing."

Many of his friends never came back.

He's affected by those losses to this very day. "When things like 9/11 happened, it really bothered me. I break out and cry. Nobody understands the situation where one day you've got all your buddies and the next day they're gone."

* * *

Sam Romberg landed in France on D+4, assigned to the headquarters of a squadron of tanks of the 1st Hussars, part of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade.

He had enlisted in 1940 at the age of 17 and had lied to get in.

By the time he arrived in France, the action was heavy and so were the casualties.

"Our unit was the first to get to the targets. We lost quite a few men," he said.

"I got as far as a little town called Ifs," a community a few kilometres south of Caen. His unit was bivouacked there when an air raid took place. "They bombed the living daylights out of us and I was wounded," Romberg recalled.

Romberg was evacuated to a field hospital where shrapnel was removed from the back of his shoulder. After a period of convalescence in France he was reassigned to army general headquarters, by then in Belgium.

Sam Romberg

In May 1945, headquarters had advanced well into Germany, and around the time of the Nazi surrender, he was in the town of Bad-Salzuflen, south of Bremerhaven.

As to the events of May 8 itself, Romberg doesn't remember exactly where he was. "We weren't in the big cities where people went crazy," he said. "We were in our units. It's over, we're glad it's over and that's it," he said.

Romberg recalls his return voyage to Canada more clearly than V-E Day. He had been sent to England on a slow-moving cattle boat in 1941 and had been none the worse for wear. His return voyage to New York was on the Queen Elizabeth, a luxury liner, and he recalls being "sick as a dog for the five-day trip."

From New York, returning Canadian soldiers took a train to Toronto, and when they arrived at the Exhibition grounds, their families were out in force to greet them. That was a big celebration, he recalled.

Even more vivid for Romberg and his wife Aileen, were two visits to Holland in 1990 and 1995, to mark the 45th and 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

In 1995, Canadian vets were feted to the nth degree, Romberg said. During a parade, he was placed in the lead Canadian tank and they were given chocolates to throw to the Dutch kids, just as they had done during the war.

All through their stay, Canadian veterans were treated like kings. "Strangers picked up checks in restaurants and didn't let us pay," Romberg recalled. "People saluted us if they saw Canadian logos on our clothing."

During the festivities, the Jewish vets wore their berets, which featured a Magen David prominently displayed. A Dutch Jewish woman asked why were we wearing the Jewish star.

"I said, 'I'm Jewish.'

"'I never knew there were any Jews in the Canadian army,'" she said.

"That whole year, 1995, they looked after the Canadians like you wouldn't believe," said Aileen.

"They treated us like kings there," piped in Sam.

Romberg was particularly impressed that the younger generation of Dutch kids were well-informed about the role of Canadian forces in freeing their country from the Nazis. The Canadian liberation is taught in schools and each school is given a section of a Canadian military cemetery to tend. Every week, youngsters visit the cemeteries to make sure the graves are in good condition, he said.

"They know more about what Canada did than Canadians do," Romberg added.

During his 1990 visit to Holland, he and other Jewish vets visited the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery near the German border, home to one of two large military cemeteries in the country. During their stay, the vets said *Kaddish* over about 10 Jewish graves, he said.

According to the Jewish Canadian Military Archives, Jews served in the Canadian forces in greater percentage per capita than any other ethnic group. "During World War II, there were 170,000 Canadian men, women and children of the Jewish faith in Canada, of which 17,000 proudly served in the four branches of Canada's armed forces," the Archives organization states.

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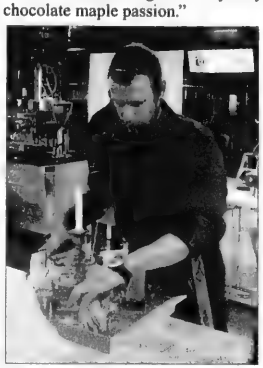
Barista turns making coffee into an art

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

There is something inherently tasty about a gourmet coffee called "triple chocolate maple passion."



Stuart Ross in February on the day of the Regional Barista Championship.

And after taking a few sips of the drink, which combines two potent shots of espresso, three types of chocolate, maple syrup infused with whipped cream and a smidge of crushed red chili peppers, everything that's enticing about the name is confirmed.

This unique beverage is the brainchild of Stuart Ross, who says he is Toronto's first and only Jewish barista.

"A barista is a coffee bartender," Ross says. "The word originates in Italy, but here I am, a Jewish barista."

Ross explains that baristas aren't coffee brewers, they're culinary artists. Every beverage they prepare is done so with precise detail.

Take a cappuccino sporting a heart-shaped milk design as an example.

Ross's method entails scooping 15 grams of Arabica coffee beans, pressing on them so they are level and then grinding.

Next, the beans are extracted through a brass, made-in-Italy espresso machine, where the science of 120 pounds of pressure and 205 degree water produces two "nectar of gold" espresso shots.

The milk is steamed, stretched and whirled, so that it has a shiny finish.

"Then I pour it into the espresso, delicately enough to get it down under the espresso," Ross relates. "This raises the cream."

The resulting milk forming a heart in the centre of the cup makes you want to simply gaze at the art without drinking. But after adding a web of chocolate swirls, Ross insists on sending the art down the hatch.

And when you do, you have no regrets.

"Some [people say] they've never seen anyone so passionate," Ross says. "It's because of that passion that I'm able to pull that perfect shot of espresso."

Ross's passion and skill have helped him earn bragging rights as central Canada's number 1 barista, following a top showing at the Canadian Barista Championships in February.

A front-page article in the *Toronto Star's* food section, a number 1 vote in a local magazine and coverage on Omni TV have propelled Ross into the spotlight as the only known latte artist in Toronto.

Long before coffee art became his craft, Ross, 39, was a student of economics, an unhappy stock broker, a salesman of sporting goods and finally, a dog walker.

It was on a leisurely dog walk in downtown Toronto that Ross serendipitously spotted an empty 500-square-foot unit with a windowed store front.

"I saw the 'For Lease' sign and I thought, 'Wow, I'm going to build an espresso bar here,'" Ross recalls enthusiastically.

He spent six weeks researching the recipe for a successful specialty coffee establishment, and travelled to Seattle for a coffee trade show to learn about the world of baristas.

"I learned this whole new style of making lattes and cappuccinos," says Ross, who trained at Café Vivace in Seattle under the tutelage of famed barista David Schomer.

"I took beginner barista techniques, latte art, and I learned some technical things about the machine. This turned me into the barista I am today."

It took Ross four months to perfect latte artistry and once the expertise was solidified, his espresso bar took off.

Today, he pours upwards of 100 gourmet coffees a day.

"Oh my gosh, that looks fabulous," says a fair-haired, 40-something patron, who orders a so-called London Fog, or Tea Latte.

After she polishes it off, her praise continues with profuse thank yous.

"I don't take any of this for granted," Ross says. "And believe me, the specialty coffee wave is coming to Toronto. Mark my words, in five years, you'll probably have 20 specialty shops to go to."

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Turkish PM asks Israel to be patient with Abbas

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived Sunday with a large delegation for his first visit to Israel.

The visit is a resumption of bilateral relations between the two countries, a year after Erdogan condemned Israel's assassination of Hamas leaders.

Erdogan first met with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, President Moshe Katsav, ministers Shimon Peres and Ehud Olmert and opposition leader Yosef Lapid.

He was also scheduled to meet this week with Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and to attend prayers on the Temple Mount before leaving for meetings with the Palestinian leadership in Ramallah.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

The visit was somewhat marred from a diplomatic point of view when Erdogan refused to cover his head while laying a wreath at Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, which is a consecrated site because the ashes of Holocaust victims are buried there. Erdogan does not cover his head in Turkey either, since that would be contrary to the country's secular nature.

In meetings with Katsav and Sharon, Erdogan termed anti-Semitism "a crime against humanity."

He said Turkey wants to play a role in the peace process, and proposed setting up a Turkish-Israeli-Palestinian working team to examine "how to combat terrorism, preserve the calm and make peace." He offered to invite Peres and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia to Turkey.

Erdogan asked that Israel be patient and give Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas time to fulfil his security commitments.

"You have to help him more, so that he can succeed in the elections and have the power to meet his commitments," he told Sharon. "You have to be optimistic about implementing the road map, so that terrorism doesn't triumph."

Erdogan said the problems that give rise to terrorism must be understood: "We invest in buying arms but not in preventing the reasons for terrorism."

When Katsav said his words implied sympathy for terrorist motives, Erdogan replied: "Turkey lost 40,000 people in terror attacks. There is not good and bad terrorism. We need to co-operate against it."

In conversation with Sharon, the Turkish leaders decided to strengthen the two countries' intelligence ties to fight terrorism and to establish a direct communication channel between their bureaus.

Sharon told Erdogan that Abbas must decide what he's going to do – follow the road map or negotiate with terror organizations.

"If he opts for talking to them, it won't be possible to move forward with him to implement the road map, and terrorism will resume and be enhanced. The steps he's taking worry me. Only if he acts against terrorism will we be able to assist him."

Sharon said that if an international conference is convened in the future, he would be happy to hold it in Turkey.

Sharansky resigns from government

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Minister of Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs Natan Sharansky announced his resignation from the government Monday to protest Israel's failure to make the disengagement plan conditional on democratic reforms in the Palestinian Authority.

"Waiving this condition will weaken the chances of building a free Palestinian society and support terror," Sharansky wrote his letter of resignation, which he submitted to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Monday morning.

Sharansky warned that the plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and part of the northern West Bank is a mistake that would make it more difficult to achieve a genuine peace.

"I always saw the disengagement plan as a tragic error, which demands a heavy price from us and also encourages terror," Sharansky said in remarks broadcast on Army Radio.

"The only justification for the existence of the government in its current composition is the implementation of the disengagement plan," said Sharansky. "I don't think I can be a part of the government."

Sharansky will remain a Likud member of Knesset, Army Radio reported.

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SE1

To Jewish Hungarian Victims of Nazi Persecution and their Heirs
A Class Action Settlement Could Affect You

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT A class action lawsuit, *Rosner, et al. v. United States of America,* involving personal property looted from Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida ("Court"). A settlement of the lawsuit could affect you if you or your relative might have had property on the Hungarian Gold Train. If the Settlement is approved and you qualify, you may be able to apply for assistance from Jewish social service agencies. Or, you can object to the Settlement by informing the Court of your objections. Or, if you so choose, you can exclude yourself from the Settlement altogether.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? The Hungarian Gold Train consisted of twenty-four freight cars containing personal property seized by the Hungarian government during World War II from Hungarian Jews, which was taken into U.S. custody in May 1945 in Austria. The U.S. has agreed to settle claims that it mishandled this personal property. The Settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing or an indication that any law was violated.

WHO'S INCLUDED? You are a Class Member if you are a Jewish Hungarian victim of Nazi persecution who might have had property on the Gold Train, or the heir of such a person.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE? The U.S. government has agreed to pay up to USD $25.5 million to fund the following three items: (i) approximately USD $21 million for social services that will benefit Jewish Hungarian Nazi victims who are in need (proposed plan will be available on website on June 10, 2005); (ii) USD $500,000 for the collection of documents and artifacts relating to the Gold Train and the looting of Hungarian Jews; and (iii) lawyers' fees and expenses, and incentive awards for Named Plaintiffs, in an amount not to exceed USD $4 million.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS? If you stay in the Settlement and are a Jewish Hungarian Nazi victim, you may be eligible for benefits. Even if you are not currently in need, you may stay in the Settlement to allow the funds to assist other Jewish Hungarian Nazi victims who are. You may file comments or objections to the Settlement which will be available for the Court's review prior to any final decision regarding the Settlement by the Court. Unless you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will be legally bound by it and not able to sue the United States. If you exclude yourself, you will not be eligible for benefits. Any communication related to the Settlement – comment, objection, exclusion request – must be in writing, postmarked no later than August 1, 2005, and conform to specific Court requirements. You may appear through counsel of your choosing at your own expense. An information package from the contacts provided below, describes the specific requirements for such communications.

WHEN WILL THE COURT ACT ON THE SETTLEMENT? The Court will hold a fairness hearing on this proposed Settlement on September 26, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., at which time it will consider whether to approve the Settlement and the lawyers' request for fees and costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This is only a summary of a Court-approved Settlement Agreement. The full terms of the Court-approved Settlement Agreement govern. Please check the website for periodic updates on this Settlement at www.HungarianGoldTrain.org. To contact Class Counsel, please email: brent@hbsslaw.com.

To see the full terms, or to request instructions for exclusion from, commenting on, or objecting to the Settlement please go to:
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PLEASE DO NOT WRITE OR CALL THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION.

Putin visits Israel, urges Sharon to support Abbas

By ALUF BENN
AND YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — During a historic meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last week in Jerusalem, Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Israel to support Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas rather than put pressure on him.

"There are two approaches," Putin said. "You can pressure Abbas or you can support him. I believe that you [Israel] prefer to press him. The Arab world tells me that Israel is not fulfilling its promises to assist Abbas. Pressure on him will damage Israel and the Palestinians. The extremists are gaining power and may even get into power."

Putin, who was making the first-ever visit to Israel by a Russian head of state, said that the late PA president Yasser Arafat "did not want to be a head of state, but rather the leader of a revolution. Abbas, however, wants to be the head of a state."

He also told Sharon, "You visited me four years ago and told me about Abbas, whom I did not even know of back then. All your predictions about Arafat and Abbas were accurate."

Putin added that he is "prepared and wants to help Abbas, but not at the cost of Jewish lives."

He said Israel is committed to the "road map" peace plan, but the Palestinians must combat the terror and dismantle terror groups.

Abbas, Putin said, is trying to reach agreements with the terror groups and absorb them into the political system, which is against the road map. "Without the Palestinians meeting all their commitments, there will never be diplomatic progress."

On Friday, Putin met with Abbas and other Palestinian leaders in Ramallah at the end of his three-day visit to the region, and he placed a wreath at Arafat's tomb.

Putin is determined to arm the Palestinians, despite Israel's objections, Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Nabil Sha'ath told the Saudi newspaper *Al Watan*.

Palestinian officials said Friday that Putin's plan to give the Palestinian Authority 50 armoured personnel carriers and two helicopters is subject to Israeli approval.

Meanwhile, a Russian official played down Putin's offer to host Middle East talks in Moscow after the suggestion was rejected by Israel and the United States.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the proposal had been misunderstood, saying the president was thinking only of a meeting of experts rather than a summit.

At their meeting, Sharon and Putin decided to significantly increase intelligence co-operation between Russia and Israel.

"We are strategic allies when it comes to anything to do with [the war on] terror," Putin told Sharon.

He also promised Sharon during their three-hour meeting that Russian weapons will not endanger Israel.

One major issue raised by Sharon during the meeting was Israeli fears that Russian weapons will be sold to Iran and other Arab countries, which could end up in the hands of terror groups.

Putin told Sharon that Israel needs to inform Russia if that were to happen and that he would do everything he could to prevent it.

He also told Sharon that his visit to Israel was meant to mark a new era in relations between Jerusalem and Moscow and to atone for any mistakes made in the past.

Putin also said that "a nuclear Iran worries us just as much as it does you," reiterating a comment he made earlier in the day.

Sharon said at the start of the meeting that he was glad Putin chose to visit Israel so close to the 60th anniversary of the Allies' victory over Nazi Germany.

"The Jewish people and the State of Israel will never forget how the Soviet Union liberated the concentration camps," Sharon said.

He said he hoped Putin's visit will improve relations between the two countries, and then he turned to Putin to say, in Russian, "You are among friends."

Putin arrived in Tel Aviv last Wednesday night for his landmark trip. President Moshe Katsav was the official host of the 40-hour visit.

Another major issue on the agenda for Putin's visit was the planned sale of Russian missiles to Syria, which has caused much concern in Israel.

Putin defended the sale and sought to allay Israeli fears the arms would end up in the hands of terror groups. He said that he vetoed the sale of longer-range missiles to Syria in order not to upset the military balance in the Middle East.

Former Israeli president helped found Israeli air force

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — He was the ultimate Israeli high flier, literally as well as metaphorically, shepherding and shaping the Jewish state through war and peace with a singular, sometimes mordant charm.

And though Ezer Weizman, who died April 24 at 80, ended his public career tainted by scandal, to many Israelis he typified a national ideal.

"Ezer was a symbol and the embodiment of the Israeli sabra," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said of the former air force chief, defence minister and president. "I have lost a commander and a friend."

Israel's political and military establishment showed up en masse at an April 26 memorial service to listen as Sharon, President Moshe Katsav, Israel Air Force head Eliezer Shkedi and Weizman's daughter, Michal Yaffe, eulogized him.

"Weizman will be remembered as a great patriot," Katsav said. Directing his words to his dead friend, he added, "A sense of hope and resilience is following you, not one of despair and grief."

As Sharon paid tribute to Weizman's strength, importance and wisdom, he added, "There was also another Ezer, of the colony, the bottle of drink, the laughter, which all created a special spirit in the Air Force."

Weizman was buried later that day. By his choice, his final resting place is not on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl, where many of Israel's national leaders are buried, but in Or Akiva, next to his son Shaul and his daughter-in-law Rachel, who both died in a 1992 road accident.

The scion of Zionist aristocracy – his uncle Chaim Weizmann was Israel's first president – Weizman was born in Tel Aviv in 1924 and served in the Haganah underground. After earning a flying licence as a teenager, he volunteered to fight alongside British pilots in the Royal Air Force during World War II.

The experience gave Weizman the knowledge needed to help found the Jewish state's air force.

Weizman grew up in a multilingual home – Yiddish, Russian, Arabic, English and Hebrew all could be heard there – and spent time studying in London, where his sister lived. Those experiences gave him command both of the Queen's English and European-style diplomacy, both of which proved useful in brokering Israel's landmark Camp David peace accord with Egypt in 1979.

"Just as he fought bravely for Israel's security, so too did he struggle spiritedly for peace," fellow elder statesman Shimon Peres said. "He never ceased charming the country, from its first founding."

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who brokered the Camp David agreement, called Weizman "one of the true heroes of Israel, in both times of war and peace."

But Weizman always remained the scrappy sabra, indifferent to – and sometimes clearly delighting in – the offence his wit could cause among feminists, gays and the religious.

Approached by a young woman who wanted to become one of Israel's first female fighter pilots, Weizman notoriously responded, "Maydele, have you ever seen a man darning socks?"

After the 1967 Six Day War, a victory in which the Israeli Air Force that Weizman had created played such a key role, the deputy chief of staff doffed his uniform and joined Golda Meir's coalition government. But Weizman resigned a year later to protest Jerusalem's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which called for Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands captured during the conflict.

That he was to become a key player in Camp David, when Israel agreed to return the Sinai to Egypt, heralded a rather contrarian style of politics on Weizman's part. Having helped engineer the election victory of Menachem Begin's Likud party in 1977, he later became a member of the Labor party.

Weizman quit parliamentary politics in 1992, shortly after his son and daughter-in-law were killed in a car crash. A year later, he accepted Labor's nomination to become Israel's president, a post confirmed by the Knesset.

Following the 1993 Oslo peace accords, Weizman harangued then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin for being too quick to negotiate with the Palestinians, and later criticized prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for being too slow.

Weizman relished the office of president, which allowed him not only to challenge Israeli leaders, but also to represent the country abroad. Yet Weizman's tenure ended under a cloud in 2000 when, dogged by revelations of financial impropriety while he served in the cabinet, he became the first president to resign.

His health declined soon thereafter, and he spent much of this year hospitalized. Weizman is survived by his widow Reuma and their daughter Michal.

Seen at the funeral were Weizman's widow Reuma, Weizman's daughter Michal and one of his grandchildren. Inset: the late Israeli president Ezer Weizman. [Isranet photo]

The Board of Directors & the Staff of the
Kashruth Council of Canada — COR
& the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth
deeply mourn the untimely and tragic loss of

Nesanel Levin ז"ל

beloved son of our esteemed Executive Director,
Rabbi Mordechai Levin and his dear wife.
Our condolences go out to the entire family.

May they be comforted together with all the
mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

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Employment Opportunity

CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Calgary Jewish Community Council (CJCC) is the umbrella organization that provides leadership to and represents the Calgary Jewish Community.

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Submit resume by email to: mlinder@cjcc.ca

We thank all applicants; however, only those candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.

Rockets hit Sderot

Two Palestinian rockets fired from Gaza landed in the southern Israeli town of Sderot last Tuesday, causing no damage. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Most Gaza terror groups, except for the breakaway Popular Resistance Committees, generally abide by a PA-brokered ceasefire. An early-warning system in Sderot detected the launches in time to warn residents.

Settlers protest in Gaza

Thousands of Jews flocked to Gaza to protest Israel's plan to evacuate settlements. Settler leaders estimated that as many as 100,000 people would take advantage of the Pesach holiday to attend Wednesday's rally in the Gush Katif bloc, but only about half that came. Israel put extra security at Gaza border crossings, but a Palestinian mortar came close to hitting the demonstrators. There were no casualties.

Seder-night traffic snarl

Thousands of Israelis spent hours in Passover traffic due to a terror alert. After an intelligence warning of an impending Palestinian attack on Erev Pesach, checkpoints were set up around central Israel, paralyzing major highways. Motorists experienced delays of up to five hours returning from seders. The alert was lifted after five Palestinians were detained, but they were illegal workers not terrorists.

GRAVE BUSINESS: Some 100 haredi protesters held up work last week on the northern section of the Trans-Israel Highway near Zichron Ya'acov after word some ancient Jewish graves had been disturbed along the construction route. At least 29 protesters were arrested. When the graves were discovered a few weeks ago, they were removed for suitable burial elsewhere. Three graves remain in the area, but the road will be re-routed around them. [Israel photo]

Terror suspects 'escape'

Two Palestinians suspected of involvement in a Feb. 25 Tel Aviv suicide bombing that killed five Israelis "escaped" from a Palestinian Authority jail. Islamic Jihad members Shafiq Abdel Ghani and Ahmed Zaki were arrested by PA police shortly after bombing. They were being held in a jail in Tulkarm, recently turned over to PA security control, awaiting trial. PA officials said Palestinian forces were looking for the two men. Israel has long accused the PA of a revolving door policy in its jails.

Hamas must disarm: Abbas

Mahmoud Abbas said Hamas will have to give up its weapons after it takes part in Palestinian legislative elections in July. "The moment a militia or organization becomes a political party, there is no need for it to be armed. There will be only one authority, one law and one legitimate arsenal," the Palestinian Authority president told reporters last week. Leaders of the Islamic terror group vowed to keep their weapons as long as "Israeli occupation" lasts, but were expected to negotiate with Abbas on his demand.

Bunker busters on the way?

The United States plans to sell Israel bombs that can penetrate bunkers deep underground. The Pentagon notified Congress last week that it intends to meet an Israeli purchase request for 100 guided GBU-28 "bunker-buster" bombs, a sale that analysts say could equip Israel for a potential attack against Iran's nuclear reactors, many of which are fortified and buried. Israel said it has no plans for such a strike against its arch-enemy.

With files from JTA

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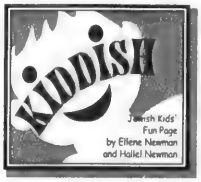

David and Goliath

Adapted from Samuel I Chapter 17

This story takes place in at the time of Saul, the first king of Israel, about 2,500 years ago. Israel was at war with the Philistines.

"David, your brothers have been at the battlefront for a while now, and they're probably running low on supplies. Do you think you could bring them some food tomorrow?"

"Of course, Abba! I just have to get someone to watch the sheep while I'm gone. It shouldn't be a problem."

*****

The sun was just peeking over the horizon as David reached the Israelite encampment. A valley separated the Jewish army from the Philistines. David approached one of the Jewish soldiers. "Good morning. My name is David. I'm trying to deliver something to my brothers..."

The soldier began trembling violently and his mouth fell open in horror. "Gaaahhck..." was all he managed to get out before he turned and ran, the other soldiers fleeing with him. The ground beneath David lurched and heaved. An enormous shadow blanketed the grass, and he looked up just in time to see the true source of the soldiers' dread.

A giant man loomed above him.He must have been about 12 feet tall! His enormous body was covered by thick armour, and a copper helmet covered his massive head. He slowly strode from the Philistine camp into the valley. Not even noticing David, he raised his spear, which must have been as thick as a tree.

"I am Goliath!" he roared. "And I challenge you filthy Israelites to a duel. Choose the best one among you and let him fight me. Kill me, and all the Philistines will be your slaves. Lose, and you will be slaves to us. Well? **Well?** Is your God too weak to save you?" He turned and went back to the Philistine camp, shaking with mocking laughter, and the ground below him shook as well.

David burned inside. He ran to the cowering Israelite soldiers and demanded, "Who is this man who dares to say things like that about God and His people?"

"He's the Philistines' best warrior. Every morning and night he goes into the valley and broadcasts his challenge. Everyone's scared stiff of the guy. King Saul doesn't know what to do. He's promised wealth and honour and even his daughter's hand in marriage to whoever can defeat Goliath, but no one's interested."

"Ha!" said David. "I'm not afraid of this guy. That speech he made has earned him an enemy he doesn't want to have: God."

*****

King Saul studied David intently. "Are you sure you want to do this? You're just a kid!"

"Your servant is a shepherd for his father," replied David, respectfully addressing the king. "Once a lion came and stole one of the sheep. I'm not sure this was a good idea, but I instinctively jumped at the lion and managed to fight it off. The same thing also happened with a bear. I think God purposely made these things happen to send me the message that I can fight this giant and that I should."

David went to the brook and selected five smooth stones, which he put in his pouch. Then he descended the slope into the valley to shepherd's stick. In the other, a slingshot.

Goliath saw his opponent from afar and lumbered toward him. Then he saw how young his opponent was, and that he was unarmed. "Are you playing games with me?" he bellowed. "You think I'm a dog, coming at me with a stick? I'll feed you to the birds! To the animals!"

Undaunted, David looked up at Goliath. "You come against me with your sword and spear, but I come against you with the help of the God of Israel Whom you have scorned. You will be the one eaten by the birds and animals, and the world will see that God is the one who grants victory!"

Enraged, Goliath charged. David quickly slipped one of the stones into the slingshot, drew it back, and fired. He had to hit his target on the first try. There wouldn't be time to try again.

The stone arched through the air and plunged through one of the bars of the giant's helmet. An anguished shriek rent the air, and Goliath fell.

David went on to succeed Saul as the king of Israel.

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3. brown
4. gray
5. orange
6. green
7. light blue
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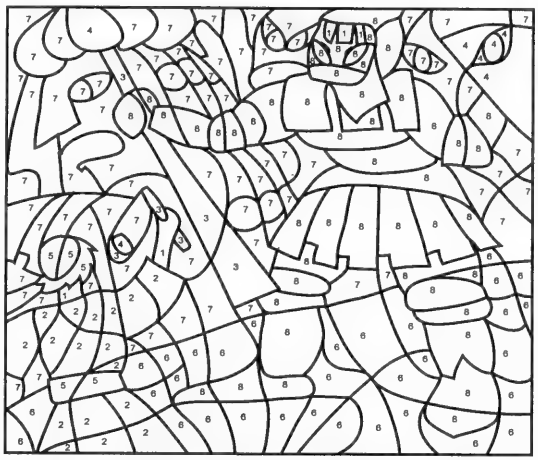

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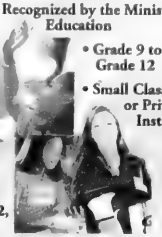

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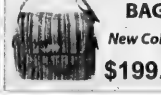

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Mystery story told through e-mails is a novel idea

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Michael Betcherman

Every day at around noon I check my personal e-mail account. A few days ago, the usual string of e-mails flooded my in-box – a few letters from friends, one from eBay and finally a correspondence from someone named Samantha Dempsey.

After quickly trying to figure out who Dempsey was, I remembered that this wasn't a friend, she wasn't a colleague, and, in fact, she wasn't a real person at all. It turns out I was caught in the middle of a good, old-fashioned mystery.

A few days before I had surfed onto emailmystery.com, a website that could one day revolutionize the way we use e-mail and read books. For $10, avid readers and Internet junkies can buy *The Daughters of Freya*, a "book" about a journalist, Samantha Dempsey, who is sent to write a story about a secret cult that believes sex is the path to peace.

The Daughters of Freya has all the conventions of a mystery novel – the countless twists and on-the-edge-of-your-seat suspense – but there's one significant difference. The story is told through e-mail, as if the reader was peering into Dempsey's in-box. Over the course of three weeks about 100 e-mails – written as if you were reading an e-mail from your friend – are sent to the reader with irrelevant personal information, such as what Dempsey's kids are up to, or more significant dialogues that further *Freya's* plot. Not only is this a unique way to read a mystery but it also satisfies the snoop in all of us.

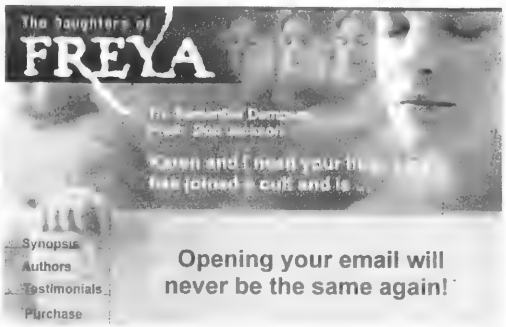
"There's a voyeuristic element to this story," says Michael Betcherman, a Toronto writer and *Freya's* co-creator. "You are not in control of this reading experience."

Before *Freya* turned into an eavesdropper's dream, Betcherman and co-author David Diamond planned to take a more conventional approach to writing their novel. The two friends had been in contact through the Internet – Diamond lives in L.A. – and decided to write a book made up of e-mails. It was another friend of Betcherman's who suggested to forgo the bound book and send the letters directly to readers' in-boxes instead.

Not only did Betcherman think this was an original idea, but he saw an opportunity to turn the daily routine of checking e-mail into a form of recreation.

"The way this story is told exploits e-mail," says Betcherman. "No one's really used this for entertainment, plus the availability allows people to experience things more or less in real time. The key element is the medium of delivery. The format mirrors the way people actually use the Internet."

According to his website's reader testimonials (where one reader says, "[I'm] going out of my head waiting for the next e-mail"), people are delighted to find a new way to experience their daily e-mail reading ritual. Many excited readers even write Betcherman to ask if they can get all the letters at once instead of waiting each day for their new batch.



Screenshot from the *Daughters of Freya* website.

"A lot of readers say they go through withdrawal symptoms," says Betcherman. "There's a lot of tension, you can't turn the page to see what's next."

To create a riveting story in a way, which Betcherman says, "has never been done before," the idea has to be believable. Diamond had just written a piece on cults for *Wired*, so his research provided the setting for *Freya*, while a journalist was the natural choice for the protagonist as most writers communicate through the web.

"You have to find a reason why people would be communicating through e-mail. The format dictated certain choices. It wouldn't work if it took place in a confined setting, so we needed a scenario that made sense."

The veteran *Street Legal* screenwriter also says that creating *The Daughters of Freya* was like writing for TV.

"It was similar to writing dialogue. It felt like I was writing a screenplay."

Naturally, there are some benefits to writing online that penning television shows or conventional novels don't provide.

David Diamond

"One advantage of writing this way is once you have your site up and running, it's inexpensive to keep it up," says the former Israeli pro-basketball player. "Besides paying Visa fees, we get to keep everything else. If a book is sold, you might get 15 cents for it."

Betcherman says he's spent "into the five figures" making this book, but *The Daughter's of Freya* has sold about 1,000 copies since its official launch last October. *Freya* received glowing reviews from the *Globe and Mail*, *The Boston Herald* and other publications.

Until then, Betcherman is focusing on marketing his "epistolary" project – which is equivalent to a 200-page book – but that doesn't mean he isn't coming up with new ways to expand his online idea. His most promising project is an e-mail book aimed at getting pre-teen boys to read, but other adaptations to his mystery formula, such as a love story, may soon be in the works.

The Daughters of Freya can be found at emailmystery.com.

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Rock tunes and Torah create new genre of music

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

While they may seem like cultural worlds apart, rock tunes and the messages of the Torah are harmoniously fusing to create an emerging genre of Jewish music.

Though the lyrics come from psalms and prayers, the sounds are edgy and electric, striking a chord with a growing cadre of listeners.

"Jewish music is never completely separated from society," says musician Daniel Greenwood, an observant 50-something Jew who has released two rock Jewish CD's.

"Standard Jewish music is [becoming] rock oriented."

Greenwood's latest CD, *Mayim Ad Nofesh*, features tehillah inspired songs, such as *Shma Kolleinu* and *Shir Hamalois* with heavy guitar riffs and synthesizer beats.

Lyrics come from psalms and prayers

The impetus for the rock album was to give Jewish ears a fresh, daring sound that strayed from the confines of conventions.

"A lot of teenagers were getting turned off by hearing the same stuff over and over again," says Greenwood.

"So my idea was to give them an alternative."

Teens, critics and fellow artists have given *Mayim Ad Nofesh* favourable reviews.

The Jerusalem Post described the album as "decidedly original" noting the "ideas laid out by Greenwood are inspiring and will hopefully open new doors for many up and coming Jewish rockers."

Famed Israeli guitarist Yossi Piamenta has also raved about Greenwood's tunes, saying he listens to them when he says tehillim.

Released by Israeli distributor GalPaz, the album hasn't quite reached the number of listeners Greenwood covets, prompting the musician to consider seeking out a different distributor for North America.

"Recently, I've started to do as much as I can to promote it here," he says.

Music gives Jewish ears a daring sound

"There's an Internet radio station that has played it on the air…and it looks like it's moving in the right direction."

Despite the non-traditional sound, Greenwood emphasizes tradition has not been left behind in his music.

"When a person hears Torah, regardless of whether it's a person speaking or singing, it's still Torah," he says.

"And the messages from the Torah…are good messages."

Greenwood says Jewish youths in particular are gravitating to alternative Jewish music because of its diversity and originality.

"There is a movement in making music more artistic, more expressive and the frum youth are buying into it and accepting it," he says.

"The other day, [a yeshiva] student told me he likes the rhythms of my songs because he's not use to these types of beats."

A fan of rock and the blues since childhood, Greenwood's musical training began at age 12, when he learned to play the guitar.

As a teenager, he played in various bands and later went on to perform professionally with several wedding bands.

Five years ago, Greenwood independently released his first album, *Tov Hashem Lakol*.

Today, in addition to producing his own music, Greenwood has his hands full, juggling the demands of playing bass in the alterative Jewish band, Men With Babies, working for a wholesale lighting company and producing music for other artists.

To hear Greenwood's music, visit www.jewishrock.zed.cbc.ca as well as www.da300.zed.cbc.ca.

Mayim Ad Nofesh should be available at the Negev Book & Gift Store and Israel's soon, Greenwood says.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

ISRAELI SINGING LEGEND SHULY NATHAN PERFORMS MAY 17 AT BETH TZEDEC

In the midst of a six-city American tour, Israeli singer **Shuly Nathan** makes a single Canadian stop on May 17, to perform her Jerusalem of Gold concert at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto in commemoration of Israel's Independence Day.

Although she performs often in Europe and the United States, Nathan has not performed in Toronto in about 20 years. The solo singer-guitarist plays a rich medley of English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino songs reflecting various styles and eras.

Shuly Nathan

Nathan is best known for introducing the now-classic folk song *Jerusalem of Gold* to Israelis in May 1967. The folksinger , then 19, had been handpicked to sing the new composition by its composer, **Naomi Shemer**, the Israeli songwriter who died last year.

Two weeks after Nathan introduced the song, the Six Day War broke out and the city was united under Jewish control for the first time in more than 2,000 years. Vastly popular, the song became enshrined as a permanent part of the universal Jewish repertoire and as a sort of second national anthem in Israel.

Afterward Shemer and Nathan were famous, each in her own right, and remained close friends. Nathan's repertoire includes songs by Shemer, **Shlomo Carlebach** and other composers as well as Jewish spirituals and Biblical verses put to music.

The opening act for the evening is the **Mickey Lewin Quartet,** which plays a variety of Jewish, swing, jazz and pop music; Lewin is a Toronto-based musician originally from Israel. Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St. Tickets $36, available at Israel's Judaica. Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 416-523-2305.

* * *

Joint Film Development Deal: The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) and the New Israeli Foundation for Cinema and Television have embarked on a joint pilot project to develop five feature-length social-issue documentaries.

The NFB announced last week it will set aside $60,000 for the documentaries, which must have the support of both a Canadian and Israeli producer. The federally funded institution has made similar deals with producers in Britain and France.

"International agreements like this are vital to today's National Film Board, where we're forging bonds with socially responsible public film organizations around the world to explore issues that impact the lives of people everywhere," said NFB chair **Jacques Bensimon.**

Canadian inquiries should be addressed to Tom Perlmutter, 514-283-9501, or d.mascio tra@nfb.ca. Deadline for entries is September 15.

* * *

Two Plays by Yehuda Amichai: Live dramatic readings in English of two radio plays by **Yehuda Amichai**, Israel's pre-eminent modern poet, mark the Canadian debut of One Little Goat, a four-year-old theatre-production company that moved to Toronto recently from New York.

The plays, both of which are set in Jerusalem, are being co-presented by the Miles Nadal JCC and introduced by Toronto author **Barry Callaghan**. The director is Vancouver-born poet-playwright **Adam Seelig**, One Little Goat's artistic director.

To Love in Jerusalem portrays two lovers accused of profaning religious sites with their lovemaking, while *The Day They Buried Martin Buber* traces the estrangement of two lovers as they reflect on their relationship. The theatre company first staged the works at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan.

Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre, Bloor and Spadina. $15. Thursday, May 19, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Celestial Nights: This exhibition of photographs by the remarkable Israel-based photographer **Neil Folberg** opened May 1 in Toronto's Distillery District. Folberg, an American, uses time exposures, clock drives and various astronomically synchronized devices to get the heavens to reveal themselves for his camera. The starry-night images are beguiling.

At Pikto, Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 59-103. Until June 15. Opening reception May 4, 6 to 9 p.m. Artist talk, May 30, 7 to 9 p.m. 416-203-3443.

* * *

Holocaust Dream: Artist **Daniel Ehrenworth** uses a combination of photography and digital imaging to create a surreal vision of Auschwitz in *Holocaust Dream*, a book of photographs launched last week at the Rivoli on Queen St. "This project is far less about a death camp but rather about the light that must exist in order to have cast a shadow as dark and vast as Auschwitz," Ehrenworth said. The book was published in conjunction with an exhibition that continues until May 28 at the MacLaren Art Centre, 37 Mulcaster St., Barrie. Artist talk, May 5, 7 p.m.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Fusing the old country with the new, **Klez-Factor** plays klezmer music with a contemporary rock 'n' roll twist. The band returns to the Renaissance Cafe, 1938 Danforth Ave., Toronto, May 7, 9 p.m. Cover $5.

• The second annual Dorshei Emet Judaica Arts Festival seeks submissions for its juried exhibition and sale of high quality fine and applied art. Deadline is May 31. The Montreal festival is slated for November. 514-369-6339.

The Canadian Jewish news

invites the public to a

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Thursday, May 26, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

Coming-of-age film is funny and satisfying

Bill Gladstone reviews two movies showing at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival from May 7 to May 15. For information, call 416-324-9121, e-mail boxoffice@tjff.ca or visit the website at www.tjff.com

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi

Shot in 2002 and released last year, *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* is a charming coming-of-age comedy by Israeli director Shemi Zarhin, who wrote the script in "five unusual days" in 2001.

Sixteen-year-old Shlomi Bardayan (Osri Cohen) is an unappreciated pillar of strength whose family leans on him so fully that, except for a wise old grandpa, they fail to notice his special qualities. He's a handsome male version of Cinderella – ignored, ill-treated, and awaiting the magical wand of fate.

Shlomi cooks delectable stews, roasts, cakes and pies to comfort the self-absorbed and emotionally dyspeptic souls in his turbulent household. By contrast, his self-absorbed older brother Doron, a soldier and rock guitarist, seems to live for physical pleasures. With two brothers so reminiscent of Jacob and Esau, can a blessing and inheritance be far away?

As the story opens, Shlomi's parents have separated after an instance of paternal infidelity, but when Dad comes begging at the door for forgiveness, Mom won't let him back across the threshold.

Doron brags of his sexual prowess at the dinner table and coaches Shlomi on how to lose his virginity. Meanwhile their sister Ziva returns home with her twin infant sons after discovering that her husband stays up late surfing X-rated websites.

It's up to Shlomi to repair these familial rifts and project a more wholesome ethos into the world. However, he receives little credit or notice for anything until his teacher and principal recognize his astounding math skills. Simultaneously Rona, the beautiful girl next door, notices him just as he falls in love with her.

Despite a stumbling block laid by his brother, Shlomi's love-match takes and he learns to stand up for himself. After his grandfather dies and leave him an inheritance, he decides it's time to leave home and go live with Rona. Unlike Jacob of old, Shlomi doesn't seem to be fleeing a fratricidal brother, and there's no suggestion that a period of servitude to a Laban-like taskmaster awaits.

Besides its biblical affinities, *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* bears resemblance to a romantic fairy tale from which certain ugly realities of daily life have been excluded. Still, this heartwarming adolescent tale is genuinely funny, satisfying, even uplifting. Bloor Cinema, Tuesday, May 10, 5 p.m.

* * *

Sister Rose's Passion

It's easy to see why this 40-minute documentary was nominated for an Oscar last year. The story of Sister Rose Thering, an 84-year-old Dominican nun from rural Wisconsin who influenced the Vatican to retire its millennia-old bias against Jews, is powerful and compelling.

Even as a girl, Sister Rose couldn't understand how Catholics could disparage the Jews, the people from whom the Christian saviour emerged. "Jesus lived a Jew, died a Jew. How is it possible for us Catholics not to love his people?" she used to wonder.

In 1957 she devoted her doctoral thesis to an examination of the anti-Jewish doctrine in authorized Catholic teaching materials. "To my sorrow – not surprise, but sorrow – I saw some very ugly terms," she recounted. Some of the texts repeated blood libels, for example, and taught that the Jews were god-killers and "children of the devil."

Although some elders disparaged her for washing the church's dirty laundry in public, her thesis influenced the Second Vatican Council to forever alter the church's relationship to the Jews with the following declaration: "What happened in His passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today."

That 1965 statement meant that Catholics could no longer blame Jews for the death of Christ. "No more, no how, can anybody say it," said the feisty Rose. "And if you ever hear somebody say that, you can tell them, 'You better study your religion, because it doesn't teach that any more.'"

Sister Rose's passion is revealed in scenes where she protests Kurt Waldheim's appointment as president of Austria and disparages actor-filmmaker Mel Gibson for the deceptiveness and historical inaccuracies of his controversial film *The Passion of the Christ*, which she called "shocking."

A board member of a Christian college, she was appalled by the wave of anti-Semitic incidents that hit the college after Gibson's film opened. She expressed frustration that despite the Church's revised position, old anti-Semitic attitudes die hard.

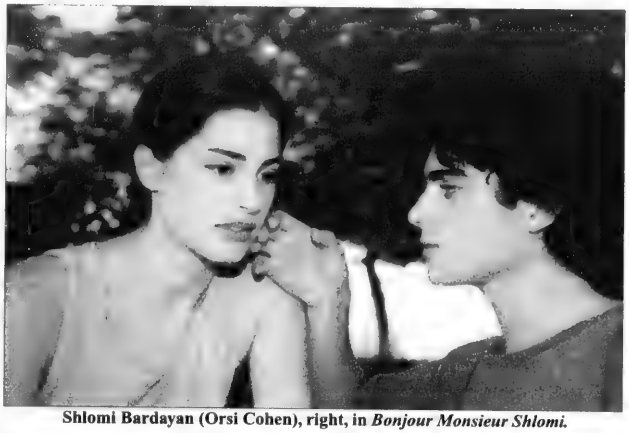
"On a popular level it persists – the feeling that the Jews were responsible for the killing of Christ and bear a special burden for it," she said. "They changed the textbooks but not what's in the teacher's mind."

Filmmaker Oren Jacoby also included scenes of the late pope John Paul II visiting Auschwitz and the Western Wall in Jerusalem. "This is the first pope who has knelt down and prayed for Abraham's children," Rose observed.

A former participant in a New Jersey commission on Holocaust education, she presently lives in a Jewish retirement home in New Jersey. "Sister Rose thoroughly identifies with Jewish history and Jewish feelings," said one commentator. "She responds to everything almost with a Jewish heart."

Appropriately, the documentary ends with Ruth's famous quote to Naomi from the Book of Ruth: "Your people will be my people; your God will be my God."

Sister Rose's Passion is being screened at the Bloor Cinema, Sunday, May 8, 5 p.m.



Shlomi Bardayan (Orsi Cohen), right, in *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi.*

Sister Rose Thering holds up a menorah in *Sister's Rose's Passion.*

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Books & Authors

World War II changed the lives of American Jewish soldiers

***GI Jews: How World War II Changed A Generation* by Deborah Dash Moore, Harvard University Press.**

***Given Up For Dead: American GI's in the Nazi Concentration Camp at Berga* by Flint Whitlock, HarperCollins.**

***Days of Victory: Canadians Remember, 1939-1945* by Ted Barris, Thomas Allen.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When the war in Europe ended with Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allies on May 8, 1945, more than 500,000 American Jews were in uniform. Their experiences, whether on the front or behind the lines, had a profound impact on their lives and their relationship with the United States.

This is the thesis of Deborah Dash Moore's bracing book, *GI Jews: How World War II Changed A Generation*.

Moore, a professor of religion at Vassar College, uses memoirs, oral histories and letters to recount the story of 15 young men from different walks of life and immigrant backgrounds who faced military service after the United States declared war on Japan and Germany in December 1941, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

Jews rallied to the cause, but unlike most Americans, they generally considered Germany rather than Japan as the arch foe. Japan, not Germany, had bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, and thus Japan was seen as the main adversary.

Although Jews were as patriotic and able-bodied as anyone else in the army, navy, marines or air force, they sometimes found themselves contending with anti-Semitic stereotypes.

As a result of age-old slanders, Jews were suspected of physical weakness, selfishness, cowardice and dishonourable behaviour and thought to be lacking in leadership skills.

And, of course, they were accused of being draft-dodgers. One Jewish professor at City College in New York joked bitterly, "The Battle Hymn of the Jews is 'Onward Christian Soldiers,' and we'll make the uniforms."

But it was no laughing matter. As late as 1918, a U.S. army manual stated: "The foreign born, and especially Jews, are more apt to malinger than the native born."

Not surprisingly, some Jewish recruits faced anti-Semitic slurs in the barracks. Moore adopts a somewhat charitable view of such unpleasant encounters. "They reflected a form of guys' talk," she claims. "Growing up in multi-ethnic cities, boys mastered ethnic slurs as part of maturation into manhood."

But three pages on, she concedes that prejudice in the ranks could gnaw at a man's "sense of self-esteem" and diminish his masculinity.

She takes a far more serious view of an incident that affected Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, a Reform chaplain who was due to deliver a sermon at the dedication of the Fifth Marine Division cemetery at Iwo Jima.

Two Protestant chaplains immediately protested, claiming that a rabbi should not preach over graves that were predominantly those of Christians. Protesting these comments, three outraged Protestant chaplains boycotted the ceremony in solidarity with Rabbi Gittelsohn.

Despite such unpleasantries, the majority of Jewish soldiers had no problems fitting in, though Dash adds that small-town Jews had an easier time of it. As she puts it, "They had grown up as a minority and were used to living among Christians."

Still, the armed forces could be daunting, particularly to Jews unaccustomed to non-kosher food. "If reveille awoke young American men to the reality of military service," she observes, "army food alerted many Jews to the fact of their difference."

Nevertheless, Jews did their best to integrate, knowing their life might depend on it on the battlefield.

Although a large proportion of soldiers – Jews and non-Jews – never saw combat, they invariably faced dangers. In the Pacific theatre, for example, harsh jungle terrain and tropical diseases threatened everyone. And on occasion, enemy bombs and artillery shells landed far behind the lines.

Almost all Jews opted for an "H" (Hebrew) on their dog tags, though officers were less likely to identify themselves as Jews.

On balance, Moore says, the "H" dog tags united Jews in a collective identity, joining religious and secular Jews in a single category. "Ironically, under army auspices, Jews achieved a group cohesion they never found as civilians," she says.

Yet these dog tags could prove incriminating under German captivity. Soldiers captured at the 1944 Battle of the Bulge who acknowledged their Jewish faith were sent to Berga – a slave labour camp – after being interned in the Stalag 9B prisoner-of-war camp.

Nothing prepared Jewish GIs for Berga. A soldier who served in the 12th Infantry Division later told his daughter: "You never really get the smell of burning flesh out of your nose entirely."

Many GIs, such as radio operator David Cohen of the 4th Armored Division, were sick to their stomachs, and never forgot the horrific sights.

Maurice Paper, a combat engineer who helped liberate Dachau, was so moved that he became a strong Zionist. His rationale was that Jews should have a right to defend themselves in a Jewish homeland.

Few Jewish soldiers after the war were prepared for manifestations of anti-Semitism. Larry Geller, an infantryman visiting Paris, was shocked to see demonstrators carrying placards that read, "Down with the Jews." The protesters were reacting to efforts by returning French Jews to reclaim their property.

The Paris demonstration had a two-fold effect on Geller. It led him to the conclusion that anti-Semitism was here to stay. But having responded to the call of arms by his country, Geller was determined to fight prejudice.

For other Jewish soldiers, the war imbued them with a resolve to combat fascism and Axis values.

According to Moore, mass Jewish participation in the war legitimized Jews and Judaism – one of "the fighting faiths of democracy" in the military – in the eyes of many Americans.

"The war would make Jews visible, not as objects of scorn and hatred, but as subjects participating in American culture, politics and survival."

Back home, demobilized Jewish soldiers turned to the unfinished business of rectifying injustices through fair employment practices and civil rights legislation. This process also occurred in Canada.

During the postwar era, Jews who had risked their lives as soldiers challenged restrictive housing covenants, discriminatory classified ads and university quotas.

As historian Leonard Dinnerstein has noted, "Many Americans resolved to do something about bigotry in America."

In the final analysis, the successful battle for equality was probably the most enduring legacy Jewish American GIs left behind.

***

GI Jews should be read in conjunction with Flint Whitlock's *Given Up For Dead: American GI's in the Nazi Concentration Camp at Berga* and Ted Barris' *Days of Victory: Canadians Remember, 1939-1945*.

In clear, strong prose, Whitlock, a military historian, tells the little-known tale of American Jewish and non-Jewish soldiers, such as William Shapiro and Anthony Acevedo, who endured incredible hardships in Stalag 9B and Berga. It is well illustrated and contains maps for easy reference.

The revised and updated edition of *Days of Victory* is a volume of reminiscences in which Canadian soldiers and civilians recall the war. These voices ring clearly, even after 60 years.

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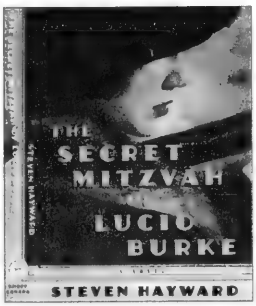
CJN Profile

History, fiction and humour

An interview with the author of *The Secret Mitzvah of Lucio Burke*

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Steven Hayward's book *The Secret Mitzvah of Lucio Burke* (Knopf Canada) was released this spring and has been well received across Canada. *The CJN* interviewed the author to determine how a nice Canadian Irish Italian boy came to write a book that captures the character and humour of the Jewish immigrant community of Toronto in the 1930s.



The book is a historical novel about two teenage boys named Dubie and Lucio, their love for a beautiful Communist named Ruthie, baseball and the infamous riot at the Christie Pits that pitted members of the Swastika Club against the diverse immigrant community of that period.

Hayward, 35, has a doctorate in English literature from York University and now lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where he teaches at John Carrol University. He was in Toronto recently for a book reading.

CJN: *Steven, you're not Jewish and your wife isn't Jewish. How is it that you know so much about the Jewish community?*
Hayward: You can't hold the chupah at your best friend's wedding or go to your best friend's child's bris or go to your great old friend's father's funeral and not participate in all of those things.
CJN: *Was your family involved with the Jewish community?*
Hayward: The point of intersection between the Italian and Jewish community in the 1930s was the needlework industry.

My grandparents lived on Beverley Street in close proximity to a number of Jewish families. They always told stories about their Jewish neighbours, about hanging around and laughing with them.

This is a book about the alliances that develop between different immigrant groups. About the way that ethnic groups intersect, intermingle, influence, change and benefit from each other. That was a part of my family's history.

There is a lot of talk today about Toronto being a multicultural city. I think it's been that way for a long time. In fact, my grandfather used Yiddish and Italian words all the time.

You know, I was pretty old before I realized that *meshugene* wasn't an Italian word.
CJN: *Do you identify with anyone in the book?*
Hayward: Like Lucio Burke, I'm Italian Irish. I also lost my father when I was quite young and grew up feeling like a bit of an outsider.

Lucio's experience with his Jewish friends and neighbours is also very much my experience. I share with him a love and admiration of the beauty of the Jewish tradition.
CJN: *Where did you grow up?*
Hayward: Although people think I grew up around Christie Pits or in downtown Toronto, I actually grew up in Richmond Hill. But my grandparents always talked about where they lived when they came to Toronto and I became convinced that where they grew up was much more glamorous, much more real than where I was growing up.
CJN: *You use humour, animal imagery and mythology to describe the dreams of Toronto's immigrant community. Where do all the legends come from?*
Hayward: My family always told stories to explain everything. For example, I remember my grandmother explaining that baldness ran in our family ever since my grandfather picked a trout out of the Don River that had real human eyes. Baldness began the day after my family ate the fish.

Now, I'm sure the story is fictional. But these are the stories that are given to you. And what they're really telling you is how many miles had to be crossed to tell you this story. Or who you are. Or the way to look at the world. Or what you believe.

I needed the freedom of the imagery to tell the human story and not just a historical treatise of the time. So while the characters in *The Secret Mitzvah* are involved in their lives, there is a bird, which, like anti-Semitism in the 1930s, hovers over the city like a malignancy.

Steven Hayward

CJN: *The book begins with "It's a true story," yet the narrator later says, "But I don't believe a word of this story myself."*

The Secret Mitzvah *combines fiction about life in Toronto in the '30s with historical narrative and newspaper accounts of the European rise in Nazism and threats of violence in Canada.* (Since this interview, some critics have complained about the fictionalization of events at Christie Pits.)
Writing historical fiction is always a challenge. What did you intend by intermingling history with fiction so closely?
Hayward: If the book has an authenticity in its inauthenticity, it is more than I could have hoped for... The story is about memory. I wanted to write a novel that would be like something you would hear from your grandparents. A story full of exaggerations, half-truths and magical moments. That you know is true and not true at the same time.

Clearly, anti-Semitism in Canada in the 1930s was pervasive. But I wanted to get across the human element of it. So I had to have characters who were engaged with each other and involved in their own lives yet involved in the history of the time.

What unites these characters is the way they are all involved in history. History doesn't collapse on them. It doesn't ambush them. They seek to involve themselves in it. And they do, but never with circumstances that they choose.
CJN: *Why is there no focus on the Depression?*
Hayward: People sometimes ask me why the book isn't more depressing. It's a fair question. We're told that the Depression was a time of enormous emotional, physical and economic deprivation. And that's true. Yet, while that deprivation produced a lot of extremes, like Nazism and fascism, it also produced people like Ruthie the Commie – gorgeous, fierce, passionate, committed and hopeful.

One of the things that later got destroyed was the hope of someone like Ruthie that the world could be a different and better place.
CJN: *So, what is the secret mitzvah of Lucio Burke?*
Hayward: The concept of mitzvah is something that resonates within the acoustic of the time and the book. In many ways, history is about cleaning up a mess you didn't make. In that respect, the characters are all involved in a mitzvah.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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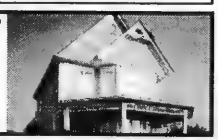

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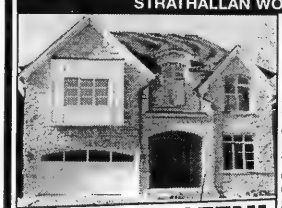

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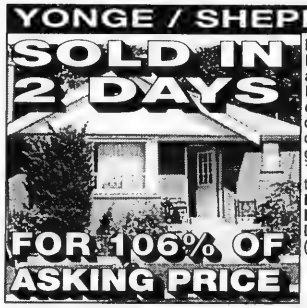

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SPECTACULAR LOWER VILLAGE RENO - NEW PRICE!
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Don't comprise space! Superb 2 bedroom + den. Compare Value. $919,000. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

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Large 4 bdrm, upgraded home in Wilshire/Westmount. 9 ft ceilings, stainless appliances, built-ins, shows great! **Mark Waxman

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Large 2 bdrm with split layout, marble foyer, reno'd ensuite bathroom, locker on same floor, 2 year new appliances, 2 year new window coverings. Shows beautifully! $319,900. *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-DREWRY - END UNIT
3+1 bedroom townhouse, newer windows & doors, partly renovated kitchen, central air, large lot! $285,500. *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-STEELES "THE COURTLAND"
About 1,400 sq. ft., large 2 bedroom, solarium, ensuite storage, appliances, newer broadloom, 3 car parking, shows well! $199,900! *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-DREWRY-ANTIBES
2 bdrms + solarium, 2 washrooms, eat-in kit, newer broadloom, ceramics, north exposure. Shows well! $197,000. *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-STEELES ONLY $188,777!
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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Bathurst & Lawrence, 1 bdrm. $145,000. (PRIVATE!) Please call 416-557-5045.

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ROYAL LEPAGE/J&D

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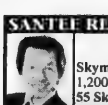

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55 Skymark Zenith: Exquisite renovated corner 2 bedroom + family, approx. 1,711 sq. ft. + more:

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CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Bathurst/Steeles - Primrose, lrg lux penthouse, fully reno'd, very bright, eat-it kitch, 2 bdrm, 2 full bthrooms, 2 prkng, avail. July 1. Call 416-665-4121.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst & Steeles, Courtlands, lrg. 2 bdrms., 2 baths, eat-in kit., solar., sep. liv./din. rm, lndry. rm., 5 new appls., util./cable incl., 2 gar. spaces + locker, 1st flr., $1525. Call 905-731-1840.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Hwy. #7, TH w/1 other prof. F. seeking F., bright spacious room, incl. priv. 3-pc bath, cable, I-net pkng., laundry, furnished avail., $525 + share utilities. 416-728-7913.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Finch/Wilmington, bright 1 bdrm. bsmt. apt., sep. entr, all util. inc., close to TTC, no pets/-smkng, $750. 416-272-6177.

Dufferin/Finch area. Unfurn. 1 bdrm. apt. Parking, rent negotiable. Call 416-485-1636.

Bathurst/Sheppard, country feel in the city, spacious, bright, clean boutique apts., quiet ravine setting off main sts., newly reno, TTC, 2 & 3 bdrm. avail. imm. 905-474-3600, 416-633-1464.

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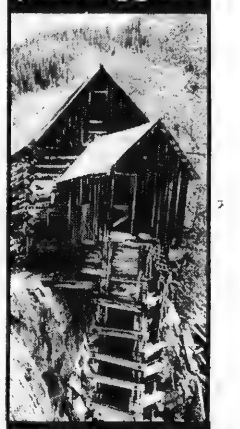

Check out the Service Directory! Call 416-391-1836

The Canadian Jewish news

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Luxury Apartments for Rent

The Eldorado
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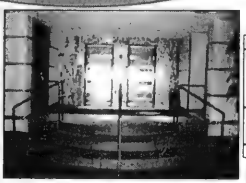
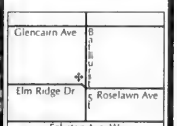
Few Remaining Call Today!





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81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

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105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Balfour Beach, Lake Simcoe, modern, 1 1/2 baths, day camp, beach, marina, 45 minutes. from Toronto. 416-488-9555 or 416-590-0565.

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3 bedrooms cottage, quiet waterfront. Excellent for children. North of Orillia. Available July and August. $850/week. Call 416-449-6350.

Belle Ewart/Lake Simcoe, lakefront, 3 bdrms. July-Aug., near shul. Call 416-494-1642.

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120 COTTAGE WANTED

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Arts & Travel

Love drama infused with comedy

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

You wouldn't expect to see comedy in a play about love and anger, but *The Anger in Ernest & Ernestine* is surprisingly funny.

In the remounted production, co-written and directed by Leah Cherniak, squabbling newlyweds learn that through anger, intimacy blossoms. "When you love someone, anger can often emerge. We are vulnerable, we have expectations, we want everything to be perfect. There is the danger and fear of losing love, and all of this can precipitate anger," Cherniak says.

This play explores the naivete of two people embarking on a relationship as if they've never been in love before. What they unearth is not only dramatic, and tinged with conflict, but also touchingly humorous.

Physical comedy spices several scenes, and the audience feels comfortable watching this ordeal. The actors, Rick Roberts and Jenny Young, break the "fourth wall" by looking at the audience and bridging that gap.

Cherniak's Theatre Columbus, now in its 20th season, is known to infuse a spirit of improvisation and physical comedy into shows.

The themes in *The Anger in Ernest & Ernestine* are so universal, the play has already spanned the globe since it debuted in 1986. Spain, France, Australia, Cuba and Nanaimo have all staged productions of the two-hander, and it won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Production in 1987. Why has it attracted so much attention?

"Some people identify with Ernest and Ernestine, because perhaps they recognize their own fallibility," Cherniak says.

Cherniak describes Ernest as an organized man with a sense of order. Ernestine is loaded with pizzazz and energy, and while Ernest's rhythm is slow, hers is fast. The couple resembles a newlywed version of *The Odd Couple*, but they learn about each other under the gauze of angry love.

In order to inject the play with emotional strength, Cherniak tapped her own life for inspiration. "I have a readiness to express or conversely express anger. I'm the kind of person who has anger, and it's interesting to investigate which situations I tend to express it."

And for those cynical about Cherniak's love-anger connection, she makes one simple statement that sums up how those two emotions are linked: "It's an energy of wanting more."

The Anger in Ernest & Ernestine opens May 11 and runs to June 5 at Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson Avenue. Tickets range from $23 to $30. For tickets, call 504-7529.

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Maccabiah seeking Israeli families to host athletes

By DAPHNA BERMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Organizers of this summer's international Maccabiah have launched a public appeal urging Israelis to host Jewish athletes from around the world in an attempt to forge relationships between the visitors and the Israeli public.

As part of the "Your Friend in Israel" program, organizers have turned specifically to Israel's anglophone community in the hope that English speakers will be able to communicate effectively with their visitors even before their expected July arrival date.

"The idea is not to have a single athlete leave Israel without having made an Israeli friend," Aviel Abromovich, head of the Maccabiah's volunteer wing, explained.

As part of the program, Israeli hosts are expected to meet the athletes at their hotels, invite them for a home-cooked meal and show them the non-tourist side of Israel.

"It's a platform for connection with the Jewish people," Abromovich said. "It's important for a Jewish athlete from Bolivia to meet a Jewish athlete from Norway, but they're meeting here in Israel, in the centre of the Jewish world, and it is important that they meet Israelis too."

In the past, only athletes who requested home hospitality for the weekends – a relatively small number – came in contact with "everyday Israelis."

As part of the new program, every athlete will have at least one Israeli friend to be in touch with via e-mail before the summer.

The Maccabiah, which is scheduled to run from July 11 to 21, is expected to draw some 6,000 Jewish athletes to Israel.

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Two for Bridge

By ERIC KOKISH and BEVERLY KRAFT

Beverly: When online bridge made its debut more than a decade ago, the graphics and software were not very user-friendly. Still, the idea was intriguing as it created opportunities to play bridge, perhaps extensively, from the comfort of home, without having to round up three other live bodies to do so.

The ground-breaking work of OKbridge revolutionized the medium and attracted a huge following. For years, it was the only game in town, so to speak. Today there are many sites including e-Bridge, which introduced the concept of online Vugraph coverage for some of the world's major events. The medium has grown and improved dramatically.

Eric: And then, there's Bridge Base Online (BBO), a company originally developed by Toronto's own Fred Gitelman (who wrote this column before us) and Sheri Winestock, to create and sell educational bridge software. With their partner Uday Ivatury and plenty of support from the world bridge community, they have taken BBO from the new kid on the block to the most popular online site in the world. Not only is the site free to its members, its "play" department is bolstered by an extensive "learning bridge" section, and the biggest hook – live (and archived) online Vugraph coverage of virtually every significant bridge competition in the world. The viewer is provided not only with the deals as they are played, but also with expert commentary provided by interested stars who offer their time and services gratis to help promote the game. BBO also offers organized tournaments, an increasingly sophisticated section for bidding practice, and a teaching platform.

Beverly: One of the features that the best online sites provide is a "recording" facility that allows participants to review their sessions in depth, through either a complete text-file record, an online review process known as a "bridge movie" in which deals can be replayed card by card visually, or both. From personal experience, there is no better medium for improving your bridge. Today there are professionals in a complete spectrum of skill and price ranges who offer live supervision and review services for individuals and partnerships, and who will be pleased to play with students online for an hourly fee.

Eric: Today's deal was played in a recent online practice match. Its hero is Mark Molson, for many years one of Canada's leading players in partnership with Montreal's inimitable Boris Baran. Several years ago, Mark became an American resident and he's played most of his bridge in the United States, where he's a highly successful professional.

Dlr: South, Vul: Both

North
♠96
♥K8
♦K8643
♣KQJ2

West
♠QJ874
♥Q542
♦Q7
♣106

East
♠K105
♥AJ73
♦J1052
♣53

South
♠A32
♥1096
♦A9
♣A9874

West	North	East	South
Allegaert	Gordon	Shivdasani	Molson
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Although Mark Gordon might have explored the possibility of 5♣, his balanced hand suggested that 3NT would often be better, and an uninformative auction might help in the play. Win Allegaert led the ♠7. Declarer ducked Jaggy Shivdasani's king, and the continuation of the ♠10, West overtaking to lead the eight to clear the suit as dummy parted with a diamond. The early play strongly suggested to Molson that the spades were five-three, and that leading towards the ♥K for his ninth trick could not work: if West held the ♥A, he'd use it to cash two more spades, and if East had it, there would be no heart winner for declarer.

In such cases it's invariably right to cash the long suit, hoping that the defenders would not be able to discard to their advantage. On the run of the clubs, West threw two hearts and then a spade, East two hearts and a diamond, dummy another diamond. This was the end position:

North
♠---
♥K8
♦K86
♣---

West
♠4
♥Q5
♦Q7
♣---

East
♠---
♥AJ
♦J105
♣---

South
♠---
♥1096
♦A9
♣---

Note that East had to keep three diamonds to cover dummy's remaining third diamond. Declarer was confident that he could read the ending and led a heart, putting in dummy's eight when West followed low. East won and switched to the ♦5, but Molson won the trick in dummy and called for the ♥K. When East won the trick and exited in diamonds, declarer took the last two tricks with the ♦A and the established ♥10 for a spectacular +600.

Beverly: It would not have helped West to keep three hearts and throw his spade winner or a diamond, because declarer would have countered by playing three rounds of diamonds to collect dummy's ♥K at the end. Indeed, he could have played that way in the actual position.

West did miss a chance, but it was not an easy one; after overtaking the ♠10 he had to switch to a heart. If the defenders are that good, the game is simply too tough!

Looking for a nice Jewish boy

There are some real problems that go with being young, Jewish and single in this city and, yes, it has everything to do with meeting people of the opposite sex.

In fact, this has led to some drastic measures being taken by some very un-drastic people I know.

20 something

By SANDIE BENITAH

It used to be that a group of Jewish youngsters could go out on the town and come back with a few new numbers to add to their list of cute Jewish boys and girls in the area. Now, it seems that wherever we go, we run into the same people we've met the week before and the week before that, the same people we went to camp with, went to school with and, tragically, already went on a date with.

It's quite clear to me that not only are we no longer youngsters but we've also all become nothing more than scenesters – reliable fixtures in a local hot spot whom you can always count on seeing on a night out.

So what's a girl to do to meet a cute, new face these days?

J-date is not an option. I don't care how many success stories I hear, I'm not going to get noticed while I'm sitting at home in my raggedy pajamas typing away. I want to be out there, having fun, feeling good, looking good and meeting people face to face, people who are not afraid to put themselves out there without hiding behind some ludicrous screen name.

Besides in this city, logging on to J-date is more like a cybercast high school reunion, where you spend most of the time pointing out all the people you know and clicking on their profiles to see what they're up to.

My good friend, let's call her Samantha, decided enough was enough. Sick of the same old "Jew-dos" – parties at which you'll see every Jew you've ever met – she decided it was time to take charge of the situation. She joined a baseball team.

"It's a co-ed baseball team, but I think most of the players are guys," she said excitedly, the night before her first big game. Dressed in the cutest uniform she could find, she stepped up to the plate and kept her eye on the ballplayers. Unfortunately, she didn't even have to swing once to know that she had struck out. None of them were Jewish and so, she was back to square one.

Never a quitter, she decided to try out a different type of sport – speed-dating.

This time, she took another one of our friends with her, and together they spent a night sitting at a table, as guy after guy sat down in front of them for a couple of minutes. Unfortunately, she still didn't find a nice Jewish boy she wanted to slow down with and so, she kept on in her quest.

She decided to change out of her running shoes and into a pair of black pumps, paying a steep price for a pair of tickets to a charity ball.

"I always wanted a guy who's sensitive and unselfish," said Sam. "What better place to find such a man?"

She met a few cuties and was encouraged by her progress, so much so that she registered for a doctors' convention – a four-hour seminar on the benefits of technology to medicine.

Although she said she spotted a few George Clooney *ER*-type look-alikes, she also showed me the bruise on her arm, where she had kept pinching herself to stay awake.

But oddly enough, dating is never painful for Samantha, who always manages to find a way to make the whole process a fun time.

Sure, in Toronto, the city of neighbourhoods, it's hard to find one neighbourhood of Jewish people you don't have ties to, and in many ways, we should be proud to have such a close-knit community. But when you're dating and you're sick of being stuck in the same old scene, it's good to have friends like Samantha to remind you that life and dating is really about making your own opportunities.

Spinach Salad with Nectarine, Blueberries & Lime Balsamic Vinaigrette

4 cups baby spinach (4 oz.)
1/4 cup mint leaves
juice of 1/2 lime
2 tsps. balsamic vinegar
1 tsp. chopped shallot
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tblsp. extra-virgin olive oil
freshly ground black pepper
1 nectarine, thinly sliced
1/2 cup fresh blueberries or 1/4 cup dried

Place spinach in large mixing bowl. Stack mint leaves and cut them crosswise into thin strips. Toss the mint with the spinach. Sprinkle berries & nectarine on top.

For the dressing, combine lime juice, vinegar, shallot & salt in small bowl. Whisk in oil. Season dressing to taste with pepper. Serves 4.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I am raising a very difficult, manipulative teenage girl. She is bright and pretty and knows how to use both these traits to her advantage. It doesn't help that she is "daddy's little girl." He adores her and he can't say no to her.

When there is disciplining to do, I'm the one who does it. If she is unhappy with my decisions she runs to her dad and turns on the waterworks. He melts when he sees her crying and gives in to whatever she wants.

This is taking its toll on my marriage, and my daughter is learning she can get away with a lot if she goes about it the right way. How can I get through to my husband and show him she is playing him for a fool? He thinks this is my problem because I'm too hard on her.

Teenage Horror

Dear Teenage Horror,

Raising a teenage girl can be very trying, but it is important to keep things in perspective. Remember, throughout her growing years she went through many phases, and as you worried your way though each of them, they eventually ended and she went on to the next phase.

First and foremost, it is important as parents that you and your husband are on the same page where her safety is concerned. Anything beyond that is a matter of opinion. If you know your husband will overturn your decisions, then make it a rule in your home that these decisions must wait until dad is home and you can discuss them together.

It's important to pick and choose your battles. If everything is a fight, your daughter will become desensitized to your rules.

One thing you should feel comfortable about, however, is the special bond between your daughter and husband. Even though it sounds as if she has the ability to turn things upside down in your home, it also sounds as if there is enough love to get you through this tough phase your family is experiencing.

Thank you to the women of the Shoshana chapter of Hadassah-WIZO for helping with this solution.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Just another white man

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

To some First Nations Canadians, a Jew is just another white man.

To them, we are "white men" because we are non-native Canadians and thus members of a group who entered their homes and savagely stole their children from their embrace, sending them to residential schools – an action tantamount to a war crime. We are part of a group that acted with counterfeit gentleness while kidnapping the conception of their love, their offspring – an evil act, cloaked in deception, for which there was little subsequent accountability.

URBAN WRITER

To many of our aboriginal people who have learned about the white man setting their villages ablaze, humiliating their elders and torturing their medicine men, we are also responsible, as responsible as any other Canadian, for the direct or indirect participation in the killing of up to 90 million, according to some estimates, of native peoples in the Americas, and for introducing deadening and desensitizing whisky to the demoralized native.

Once Canada was a shared land, a borrowed home lent to the Métis and First Nations by the Creator. Now they are strangers on their own soil.

They are strangers because the white man polluted waters where they once bathed, and he over-fished lakes where salmon and trout were once bountiful for all to trawl. The white man created unreachable and grimy refugee camps – reserves – making it illegal for native people to leave (until 1961), and allowed evangelists to prop up the cross in places where the honoured eagle feather once lay.

We white people, we Canadians, we Jews have been careless. We have acted negligently, not unlike the Australians have with their Aboriginals – dismantling lives, rich cultures and belief systems thousands of years old, which are no less significant than ours. And through our tenacity in manipulating and mastering our New World – a place not at all new for native peoples – we decimated families whose progenies are plagued by devastating family abuse, alcoholism and a suicide rate among reserve youth seven times higher than in the rest of Canada.

The resolution of native land claims and, in some cases, resulting financial restitution, simply give back what was taken from the original owner. The Canadian government's decision, following often-abrasive negotiations, to create Canada's newest territory – Nunavut – was not unlike the German government's decision to pay our survivors. It was simply paying long overdue rent and begrudgingly gluing together broken treaties.

At no time throughout the history of this glorious and free country have we prostrated ourselves in front of our First Nations Canadians, begging for forgiveness, as we would expect those who perpetrated atrocities against us to do. Instead we constructed a protective mythology around ourselves that included smug castigation of the "drunken India[illegible] judgment against the many children on the reserve whose remedy for fierce boredom and self-loathing is sniffing glue and gas fumes.

If our native Canadians, the first Canadians, have a chance of avoiding extinction, Canadians everywhere must all courageously and humbly launch an arduous process of introspection, determining means of recompense, full recognition and honouring of their place in our society, and ways of extending true love, respect and kindness – core Canadian values as well as core values of Judaism.

A heightened consciousness is painful and terrifying to pursue, as it requires acceptance of some of the ugliness that lies within the molecules of humanity and the soul that drives it. Until then, until we decide to achieve greater awareness of our horrific and dehumanizing treatment of our country's once strong and free people, followed by hard-hitting and authentic deeds of retribution, a Jew, together with all other Canadians, will be just another white man to our weary and battered native brothers and sisters.

Avrum@veahavta.org. Four hundred thousand [illegible]

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This Week

National

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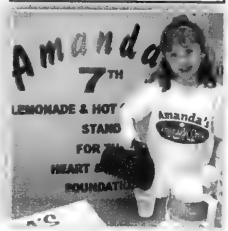

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Peering into the inexplicable past

Canadians look at the ruins of barracks in the former Nazi death camp of Birkenau (Auschwitz II) during the March of the Living in Oswiecim, Poland, last Thursday. About 18,000 people from more than 50 nations took part in the commemoration this year. Israeli Prime Minster Ariel Sharon and Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany joined in the three-kilometre March of the Living between the two World War II death camps Auschwitz and Birkenau. *Please see related story on page 30.* **[*RNS/Reuters photo*]**

Israel looks to Canada for help in drafting a constitution

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Nine members of Israel's Knesset left Canada last week with a better understanding of this country's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which stands to serve as a model for a future constitution in the Jewish state.

For more than a decade, Israel has looked to Canada in the development of a draft constitution because of both nations' multiethnic and multicultural makeup. The Charter of Rights, enacted in 1982, has been regarded by Israel and many countries as a kind of gold standard for its protection of equality rights based on language, religion, culture and other variables.

Israel's interest has led to a number of exchanges with Canada, mainly in the judicial and academic fields initiated, for the most part, by Irwin Cotler, the world-renowned human rights crusader who is now Canada's justice minister. Law professors and judges from both countries have visited. Canada's chief justice, Beverley McLachlin, has lectured in Israel, and Aharon Barak, her counterpart in Israel, has come to Canada a few times.

But the visit by the nine MKs was "the first time a serious endeavour has been made by politicians, not scholars or judges, to work on a draft of an Israeli constitution," said Ronen Gil-

Continued on page 26

Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, left, stands with MK Yoel Edelstein, head of the Israel-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group. [Peter Waiser photo]

Emor
Candlelighting: 8:15
Havdallah: 9:20

Greater Toronto Area

Germany turns an important corner in its history — see page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Israeli to Co-operate

TORONTO — The co-founder of three-year-old Toronto-based hedge fund Portus Alternative Asset Management said from Israel that he will co-operate with accounting firm KPMG as it investigates the company for fraud, Bloomberg News reported. Boaz Manor reportedly slipped out of Canada and renewed his Israeli citizenship just days before the start of an Ontario Securities Commission probe into the collapse of the fund and the loss of $750 million. Last month, the OSC seized its assets and sued it for questionable transactions. Portus is accused of spending $88 million – some 12 per cent of the fund's value – on various fees without telling investors.

Chief Meets With Jews

WINNIPEG — Dennis White Bird, grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, met Jewish leaders in Winnipeg for a Pesach lunch late last month to mend fences after another native leader made controversial comments about Jews. White Bird met with officials of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg after Chief Terrance Nelson, head of Roseau River First Nation near Winnipeg, wrote to a newspaper saying natives would become more violent against police and hate Jews if David Ahenakew, a Saskatchewan native leader on trial for making anti-Semitic comments, is convicted. "We want to do all we can do together to make sure racism of all sorts is fought against," federation president Neil Duboff told Canadian Press.

NEW TRADITION: Some 35 members of the Okanagan Jewish Community Centre in Kelowna, B.C., took part in the centre's first annual walkathon. The five-kilometre walk, held May 1 at a resort area near Kelowna, raised about $5,000 for programs and activities.

WORLD

Israel a Threat: Iran

NEW YORK — Israel's nuclear arsenal "has endangered regional and global peace and security," Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told a UN conference on the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty last week. Iran, which signed the NPT, has faced U.S. censure for pursuing technology that can be used to make nuclear weapons. Israel, which has not confirmed it has such weapons, wasn't at the meeting because it hasn't signed the treaty.

'Gold Train' Claim

NEW YORK — The Claims Conference has released information for Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors seeking to join a claim in the "Gold Train" settlement. The U.S. government's $25.5 million (US) settlement will include $21 million for needy Hungarian Jewish survivors. The settlement in the case of a trainload of Hungarian Jewish-owned goods, looted by the Nazis and then confiscated by U.S. troops, will fund social service programs for survivors. Correspondence must be submitted by Aug. 1, and a U.S. judge will approve the final deal by Sept. 26. Details at www.hungariangoldtrain.org.

Neo-Nazi Jailed

MUNICH — A neo-Nazi has been sentenced to seven years in jail for a foiled plot to bomb a Jewish centre in Munich. A court sentenced Martin Weise, leader of the far-right group Southern Comrades, for plans to bomb the centre during a foundation-laying ceremony on Nov. 9, 2003, the 65th anniversary of Kristallnacht. At a separate trial last month, five other group members received suspended prison sentences.

Dachau Remembered

MUNICH — European politicians and Shoah survivors from around the world marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau. Some 2,500 people attended the May 1 ceremony at the camp's site just outside Munich. Dachau was the first concentration camp, built soon after Hitler came to power in 1933. It housed political, criminal and disabled prisoners, as well as Jews.

Visit Protested

NOUACKCHOTT, Mauritania — Violent protests greeted Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom when he arrived in Mauritania last week for a one-day visit. At Nouackchott University, rock-throwing students marked Shalom's arrival in the capital of the west African nation, one of only three Arab League countries to have full diplomatic relations with Israel.

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Toronto applicants left off Birthright Israel trip

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

An apparently large number of would-be Birthright Israel participants were puzzled and disappointed to learn shortly before Passover that they would not be going on the free 10-day Israel trip that they thought they'd been accepted for.

Kelly Levy, 22, received a notice Apr. 21 from trip provider Oranim Educational Initiatives, stating that the Israel-based educational tour company had been "unable to ticket" her for her requested departure date.

The recent Humber College graduate, now working as a commercial photographer, had received an e-mail March 8 – more than six weeks earlier – congratulating her on her acceptance to the program.

The letter, addressed "Dear Friends," stated that acceptance was contingent on sending in a refundable deposit and several enrolment forms.

Receipt of Levy's deposit was confirmed on Mar. 25, and she said she was left with the impression at the end of her phone interview that she had been accepted, although Oranim could not guarantee the exact date of the trip.

An April 22 e-mail by Kelly's father, Ralph, to the company requesting an explanation, had not been answered as of last week. He told *The CJN* that his 18-year-old son had a similar experience to Kelly's, as did about half a dozen of his friends and a couple of Kelly's friends.

Tour operator told them they were accepted

"They should have advised them earlier," Ralph said. "Intuitively, it didn't make sense [to let them know] three weeks before the trip, when they've already interviewed them. The kids centred their whole summer around this. My son didn't get a job until later in the summer."

He said it was "very disappointing" to know that their friends who applied to the program through Canada Israel Experience (CIE) – Birthright's other major trip provider to Canadians – had all been accepted, he said, speculating on whether "something disastrous" had happened.

Rumours of last-minute budget cuts are not true, said Ted Sokolsky, president of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. But he said the federation, which is a funder of Birthright Israel, is "concerned that the company in question was not judicious and measured in its recruitment methods and subsequent communications.

"We've expressed these concerns with Birthright's office in Israel in hopes that the situation will be greatly improved in the next rounds," Sokolsky said.

To participate in Birthright, which is open to young adults from the ages of 18 to 26, applicants must go to the Birthright Israel website and choose a trip provider.

Canadians may choose between CIE (the largest), Oranim and Kesher Israel Connection, the college department of the Union for Reform Judaism, which accepted two Canadians this summer of 160 North Americans.

Each trip organizer is given a certain number of spots, based on how many participants they have taken in the past, according to Liz Sokolsky, Toronto-based vice-president of education and operations for Birthright Israel.

She noted that CIE has hundreds of people on its waiting list, although it may have been able to fit in some of the Oranim applicants if they fit an empty spot on an individual bus for a particular demographic.

For this summer's Birthright trips, there were 4,000 Canadian applicants for about 1,150 spots. Of those, CIE was allotted 900 spots, and Oranim about 250. In North America overall, more than 16,000 people applied for approximately 8,000 spots.

Gidi Mark, national director of marketing for Taglit Birthright Israel, told *The CJN* in a phone interview from

Continued on page 14

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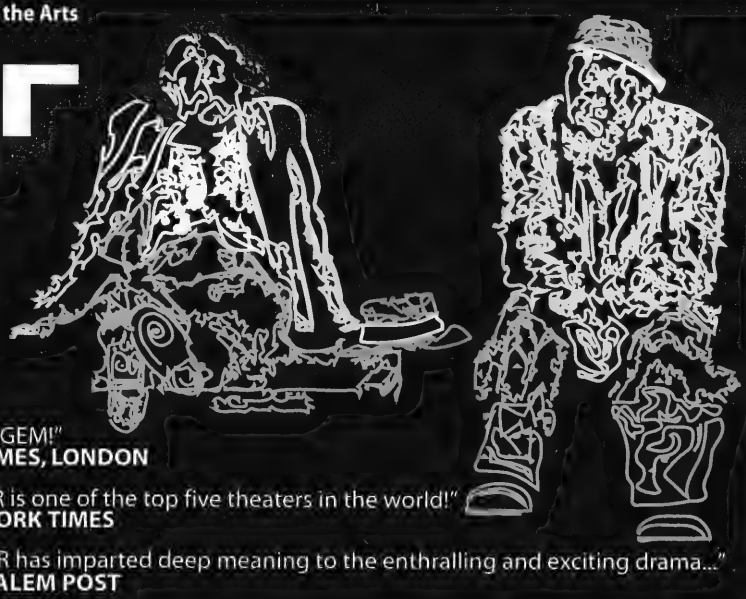
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'Remember who you are'

From the editor's desk

The exigencies of our weekly production schedule are such that we are always working in future tense. Thus, even though this is nominally our Yom Ha'atzmaut issue, this issue of *The CJN* will have gone to press fully two days before the holiday. This column was written nearly one week before, on the day following Yom Hashoah. Our news and photo coverage of Yom Ha'atzmaut will appear next week.

The exigencies of our weekly size are such that we seldom have the space in our pages to accommodate all the important stories of the previous week.

Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon took part in the March of the Living in Birkenau. His speech was significant because of the occasion, the content and especially, the audience.

He knew he was speaking to an audience far wider than the thousands who stood before him and the governmental and non-governmental dignitaries who were at his side. He was speaking to nations around the world, imparting his and Israel's credo to them.

So as not to miss publishing his address, following is his speech in its entirety:

"We are gathered here today, 20,000 people, members of different religions and nations, leaders and citizens, at the March of the Living, an impressive and inspiring demonstration of solidarity and remembrance.

"I arrived here today from Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Israel – the only place in the world where Jews have the right and capability to defend themselves by themselves.

"With me, from Israel, are Holocaust survivors: men and women who survived persecution, torture, mental and physical degradation, true heroes who experienced the death marches, the deportations and searches, who survived ghettos, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, valleys of death, and concentration and death camps whose monstrous names are carved in blood in the history of our people, men and women – who found the strength to immigrate to Israel, fight for its revival, establish their homes there and educate children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren there.

"I asked them to include with them in the delegation their grandchildren who are serving in the Israel Defence Forces. And so Holocaust survivors stand here among us today – again, on this cursed land, surrounded by people in uniform. But this time, these are not German SS soldiers lusting to murder, but the grandchildren of the survivors – soldiers in the Israel Defence Forces – the army of the free and sovereign Jewish state.

"I turn today to these grandchildren – and their friends – Jewish youngsters from Israel and the Diaspora.

"You are standing here with your heads bowed, but standing in pride, many of you probably with eyes filled with tears. Do not stop those tears. Let them flow and remember them. Remember the pain and rage which prompted them. Take this with you, to your homes, and tell it to your friends, neighbours, acquaintances and strangers.

"You had the privilege of being born into a reality in which the Jewish people have a state. It will be incumbent on you to tell of the Holocaust when there is no longer anyone to provide first-hand testimony. You – the link between the generation of the Holocaust and revival and future generations – have the duty to bequeath the lesson, memories and stories, to underscore the importance of the existence of the Jewish state.

"Always remember the victims – and never forget the murderers. Do not forget how millions of Jews were marched to their deaths while the world stood silent; how thousands of Jews floundered in stormy waters searching in vain for sanctuary while the world stood silent; how the borders were closed and how the Jews were herded again behind barbed-wire fences – into detention camps in Cyprus; how so many perished because they could not reach their homeland, and fell victim to the policy of the White Paper, a policy of capitulation to Arab pressure of that time.

"I am certain that all my colleagues – world leaders – remember how the world stood by in silence. Do not let them forget. Remember the silence of the world.

"And remember one more thing – remember who you are: free Jewish youngsters, members of a nation which is spread throughout all continents. And I hope a day will come when we will all be living in the Jewish state, in Israel.

"Indeed, today our people are scattered throughout all continents and in countless countries, but their hearts are in one place: the country which is its own – the State of Israel, the Jewish state.

"The flag of this state – the blue and white flag which you now hold in your hands, fluttering strongly and proudly in the breeze – this is the flag which was so poignantly missing 60 years ago.

"Remember this.

"Do not ever forget this."

* * *

Correction

An astute reader of *The CJN*, visiting from Israel, called last week to point out an error in the caption to the photo on page one of the issue of April 28. It was not a soldier patrolling along the concrete portion of the security fence, but rather a young man carrying a heavy back pack. Soldiers, the caller told *The CJN*, patrol that portion of the barrier in jeeps.

—MBD

SeeJN

SHOWING THE COLOURS

Jewish war veterans solemnly parade the colours at the Yom Hashoah commemoration last week on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

[Peter Waiser photo]

Students expelled for anti-Semitic Web posting

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Royal St. George's College, a downtown Toronto prep school, has expelled three students – including a Jewish boy – who posted vicious and threatening anti-Semitic material on an Internet chat board.

Three other students were suspended for not doing enough to prevent the incident.

The private boys' school acted quickly once information about the chat room was brought to its attention by the principal of Branksome Hall, a private girls' school in Rosedale, whose students were subjected to a barrage of anti-Semitic epithets and threats.

Hal Hannaford, headmaster of Royal St. George's College (RSGC), confirmed that one of the expelled students is Jewish.

"We felt it was our moral and ethical obligation to get involved," Hannaford said. "We pride ourselves in teaching [about] racism and tolerance. We felt it was that important to get involved."

Calling the students' behaviour "inexcusable," he said the postings were "almost as vile as it could get."

In a letter to alumni and to parents of children enrolled at the school, located in the Bathurst and Bloor streets area of Toronto, Hannaford traced the genesis of the incident. Late last month, a grade 10 student started a chat room to discuss topics of interest to high school students. Other St. George's students posted anti-Semitic and racist images on the site. (The material included photos of Jews being tortured during the Holocaust.)

When four Branksome Hall students, who are Jewish, complained about the content, "the response they received from chat board participants was so offensive that they informed their parents and Branksome officials," Hannaford's letter stated.

One Branksome student was referred to as a "kike" and a "hook-nosed parasite" who "should be thrown into the oven with the rest of them."

Hannaford said RSGC parents, including the families of the expelled boys, were shocked and saddened by the incident.

He said that while it did not take place on school property or involve a school website, "as educators we felt morally and ethically bound to act."

Meanwhile, at Branksome Hall, principal Karen Murton addressed students from grades 7 to 12 at a specially convened assembly.

She applauded the four students for not remaining as "bystanders" in the face of racist chat board postings.

"At Branksome Hall we want girls to have a voice," she said. "We encourage you to take a stand and not be afraid to make a difference."

Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, participated in the Branksome Hall assembly. He said the students were clearly "devastated" when they heard the content of the message that prompted the expulsions.

"This is not something you can shrug off as a joke," he said. "The four girls should be seen as heroes."

While Congress did not recommend RSGC take any particular course of action, he said "as a parent, I hate to see [expulsion] happen to any kid. As a community professional, this is a hard thing for the students at RSGC to endure, but it also allows them to learn from their errors."

Rudner suggested that expulsion may have "saved them from going down a dark road."

Hannaford said that at RSGC, "we hold people responsible."

"The most encouraging thing to me has been the response of our community, and that includes our students," he said. "Students felt the action of a few had tarnished them. The majority is truly offended that someone could do this."

He said that two of the expelled boys are "exemplary students. When we found out, our jaws dropped."

Hannaford rejected suggestions the incident could be attributed to an attitude that "boys will be boys" or that the language used was typical of the "MSN culture" found on the chat board.

The boys are responsible for their actions and when it came to drawing the line to determine if the offence warranted expulsion, "we didn't see it as close to the line," he said.

Asked to comment on the involvement of a Jewish student in posting anti-Semitic material, Hannaford speculated the boy may not have realized he was responding to a girl, he may not have understood the import of what he was doing and he may have been caught in a case of "one-upmanship" with his peers.

Nevertheless, Hannaford said in his letter to parents and alumni, "we have zero tolerance for this type of activity. We will work with the expelled students as will their parents, to help them understand the gravity of their actions."

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Interfaith dialogue essential to build ties, say profs

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Bridges of understanding can be built between Muslims and Jews through dialogue, say two eminent professors who brought their message to life at a recent interfaith forum.

Speaking before a packed audience at Temple Har Zion last week, Prof. Judea Pearl, father of slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, and Akbar Ahmed, an award winning international relations professor based in Washington, engaged in frank discourse about the frayed relations between Muslims and Jews and ways in which it can be improved.

"What emerged from Danny's tragedy was a unique call for us to…lift our common humanity above differences that set us apart," said Pearl, in reference to his son who was murdered by Muslim extremists in Pakistan in 2002.

"It is the greatest victory for Danny that (we are)… carving a path…leading to understanding and collaboration (and) an acknowledgement of familiarity with each other."

The discussion, entitled The Daniel Pearl Dialogue for Muslim Jewish Understanding, was jointly presented by the Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada, the Canadian International Peace Project, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and the synagogue.

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae moderated the dialogue and various dignitaries addressed the audience, including the consul generals of Israel and Pakistan.

In their friendly though serious banter, Pearl, professor emeritus at University of California, Los Angeles, and Ahmed, touched on such contentious issues as the proliferation of Islamic extremism, and Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Pearl asked Ahmed to comment on the influence of radical Muslim clerics who use the Koran to support violence against non-Muslims.

He cited the renowned Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi who issued a fatwa stating suicide bombings against innocent Israelis were permitted.

Ahmed said the Sheikh's views are not the prevailing line of thinking in the Muslim world.

"In no way does he represent the mainstream thinking of Islam…The Koran says that the taking of one life is like the taking of all humanity," said Ahmed, adding that western media devote too much attention to extremist elements, rather than quoting Muslims who preach peaceful messages.

"You are giving [the Sheikh] importance he does not deserve."

Pakistan's Consul General Ghalib Iqbal reiterated this point.

"These extremists are a minority," he said.

"Muslims are not terrorists. We are peaceful people who want peace."

While accepting that terrorists are the minority amongst Muslims, Israel's Consul General Ya'acov Brosh spoke passionately against the scope of Islamic terrorism and the pervasiveness of anti-Semitism in Muslim countries.

"It is a fact terrorists are a minority, but the majority of terrorists in the world today are Muslims," said Brosh.

"The best selling book in the Arab world is the [anti-Semitic] *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*…and the [second] most popular name in the Islamic world in 2002 and 2003 was Osama."

Brosh continued, "regrettably, I have to say that you [Ahmed] are a minority in the Muslim world today."

In an unprecedented move, Brosh invited Iqbal for a face to face meeting, in spite of the fact Pakistan and Israel do not have diplomatic relations.

Pearl noted the refusal of Arabs and Muslims to recognize Israel has contributed to the growth and emboldening of hardline Jewish settlers in Gaza and the West Bank.

The computer science and statistics professor also questioned Ahmed about the origins and root causes of Muslim disdain for the West.

Ahmed opined that some Muslims became "defensive" towards the west beginning in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the Ottoman Empire started to decline and European colonialism gained supremacy.

"The Muslim world was going down while Europe was emerging simultaneously," he said.

But Ahmed said Muslim opinions towards the west are nuanced, pointing to a moderate movement in Pakistan that was based on western principles.

"The aim is to balance modernity and tradition," he said.

Ahmed encouraged members of both religious groups to focus more on their common Abrahamic origins and similar values.

"At the core of the Abrahamic faiths we have certain values: justice, compassion, knowledge and respect for family life," Ahmed said.

"In many ways, we overlap."

Rae wrapped up the dialogue on a hopeful note, urging others to follow in Pearl and Ahmed's footsteps.

"We all have an obligation to look each other deep in the eyes and recognize our common humanity," he said.

"As long as we have people like [Pearl and Ahmed] there is cause for hope and there is room for peace."

ART FAIR:
Bialik Hebrew Day School showcases the artistic talents of its senior division students at the annual Art Fair. Seen here displaying their works of art are, from left, Sarah Teich, Ezra Cohen, Emily Wilchesky, Ilana Walters, Leah Hamovitch and Sarah Sterlin Altman.

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Students join delegation to AIPAC conference

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Ten Canadian university students will rub shoulders with diplomats, politicians, lobbyists and opinion makers from around the world at AIPAC's annual policy conference in Washington, D.C., later this month.

The students will join 50 delegates from CIJA-PAC, the public affairs committee of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy, at the AIPAC meeting. AIPAC is the American Jewish community's advocacy voice on Israel and considered one of the more powerful lobby groups in the United States.

The CIJA-PAC visit to Washington will help Canadians network with others in the field and "motivate people and empower them," said Mark Waldman, chair of CIJA-PAC. "They will get access to some of the top [experts] in the world."

In addition, CIJA-PAC, which is still in its growth stage, will be able to "benchmark" itself against the example of its American neighbour, he said.

Among the dignitaries expected to address the AIPAC gathering are Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, New York Senator Hillary Clinton, Senate majority leader Bill Frist, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, Israeli Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni, Israeli Minister of the Interior Ofir Pines-Paz, Howard Dean, chair of the Democratic National Committee, and Ken Mehlman, chair of the Republican National Committee.

The three-day conference, which runs from May 22 to 24 at the Washington Convention Center, includes discussion on Iran's quest for nuclear weapons, analysis of the shaping of U.S. policy and "seminars for advanced activists."

Waldman said the 2005 conference will be the third attended by Canadian CIJA members. AIPAC plays an advisory and mentoring role for CIJA-PAC, and it has included a one-day event at the conference aimed at helping Canadian and European communities develop the kind of grassroots organizational strength that AIPAC has shown over the years.

From left, Isaac Apter, vice president of Toronto Hillel, Mat Abramsky, University of Western Ontario Israel Action Committee and Hillel executive, Brianna Ames, University of British Columbia Hillel president and Arieh Rosenblum, National Jewish Campus Life.

Witnessing the way American lobbyists have created a bipartisan political support for Israel and contrasting that with the Canadian situation can be "depressing," Waldman said.

Canadian Jews have not been as politically active as American Jews, who have put in years building relationships with policymakers and politicians, starting at the grassroots, he said.

Canadians seem more "complacent" but CIJA-PAC is attempting to reverse that and create a cadre of politically-connected activists who will make Israel's case regardless of which political party they favour, Waldman said

In the 17 months since it was created, CIJA-PAC has attracted 3,000 members across the country and the organization maintains offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

Rachel Chertkoff, program director for CIJA-PAC, said the 10 students who will be accompanying the Canadian contingent will join about 500 American students in a special program geared to addressing Israel advocacy at universities and colleges. The goal is to create a group of students who can "take a pro-active role on campus and work on Israeli advocacy on campus," she said.

While the program will focus on the American experience, the Canadian students will receive supplementary instruction before and after the meeting to help adapt the U.S. experience to the Canadian scene.

"We want this experience to complement the training they get on campuses," she said.

Attending the AIPAC conference, which is expected to attract as many as 5,000 pro-Israel advocates, is "an inspiring experience," she added.

The 10 students – eight men and two women – were selected from 50 applicants. All were already affiliated with either Hillel, National Jewish Campus Life or the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students. They are also CIJA-PAC members, Chertkoff stated.

Ricky Diamond from Toronto and Debby Newpol from Montreal are co-chairing the Canadian delegation to the AIPAC Conference.

CIJA describes itself as a non-partisan organization affiliated with United Israel Appeal Federations Canada that directs, co-ordinates and strengthens community advocacy efforts on behalf of the Canadian Jewish community.

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Greater Toronto Area

Shul's food bank may close doors

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The kosher food bank at the Pride of Israel Synagogue is facing imminent closure if it doesn't receive more donations soon.

"We have enough money for, probably, another two weeks at the most," food bank co-chair Alan Marks told *The CJN* last week.

Last spring, it closed for more than a month after a slowdown in donations of both food and money, Marks said.

The food bank, which is open one morning per week, is one of two kosher food banks in Toronto. The other is at Beth Sholom Synagogue.

Food donations to Pride of Israel's food bank, which must be kosher and non-perishable, help supplement the basic items

Have had to cut back amount of food in packages

that are purchased with donated money. Costs run about $1,300 every two weeks, Marks said.

The main donors include Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Beit Rayim Synagogue, which run twice-yearly food drives, as well as Grodzinski Bakery and Chai Kosher Poultry.

For Passover, volunteers handed out 140 packages in one day, a record number. On an average day, they see about 100 people, who must be on government assistance to qualify for the service.

On a typical day last summer, the food bank, which dates back to the mid-1990s, served 65 recipients, mostly seniors and many of them Russian-speaking because of the demographics of the area.

Following an article that appeared in *The CJN* last August, the food bank saw an increase in demand for its services, and an initial increase in donations, reported Marks.

Recently, however, volunteers have "had to cut back on the amount we're putting in the bags," said Marks.

Beth Sholom's food bank has also seen increased demand. Just before Passover, the number of recipients rose from between 25 and 40 a week to between 50 and 60, volunteer Kala Solway said.

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At 24, Dror Cohen, fighter pilot and pilot's academy instructor, was on top of the world. In June 1992, Dror's life changed forever, when the military transit in which he was traveling, overturned and left him a paraplegic. Dazed from painkillers, paralyzed from the waist down and with no sensation in his lower limbs, Dror spent 2 months lying with pins in his body. His spirit and body were completely shattered.

After months of arduous rehabilitation at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv, Dror decided to embrace his abilities, instead of succumbing to his disabilities.

"I opted for extreme sport in order to overcome the spiritual wounds that came with my injury." With the help of Beit Halochem, Dror has been able to challenge both body and mind by diving, rally car racing, water-skiing, snow skiing, parachuting, free jumping and sailing.

In Athens 2004 at the Paralympic Games, Dror Cohen won the gold medal in the mixed Sonar sailing event. At Beit Halochem, Dror has rebuilt himself both emotionally and physically and is ready for his next challenge. Rehabilitation through sport, at Beit Halochem, saved Dror Cohen.

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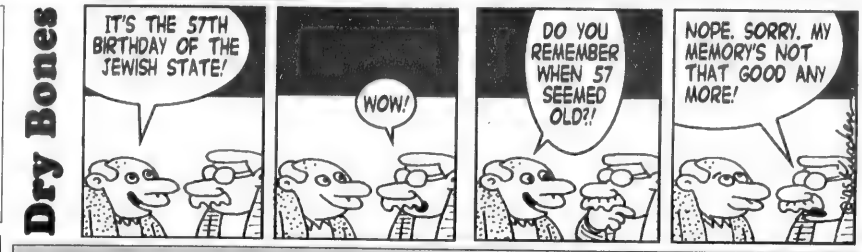
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Zikaron

The commemoration of Yom Hazikaron in Israel is unlike any of the commemorative ceremonies for Remembrance Day that we know in Canada. This is not because human life is valued more in Israel than it is in Canada. The two countries share, indeed both have founded their respective democracies upon, a reverence for and the sanctity of each and every human life.

The difference is rather because Israel is still at war. And the battlefront is never far from the streets and schoolyards of its people. In fact, for most of the past 4½ years, the country's streets, schoolyards, coffee shops and restaurants have been the battlefront. Canadians, thankfully, have been spared such streetside carnage. Not since the FLQ murdered Pierre Laporte in 1970 has a Canadian died in an act of political terror on the streets of Canada.

The Israel Defence Forces is a citizens' army. Each family participates in the defence of the country and has had to do so, alas, through six major wars and many campaigns of terror, since it was born 57 years ago. Not since the end of World War II has there been conscription in Canada.

And because Israel is such a small country, most families, at one time or another in the past 57 years, have grieved for the loss of a loved one, neighbour, friend or acquaintance. Some 20,000 men and women, including the nearly 1,000 victims of Arab terror in the past 4½ years, have lost their lives in defence of the right of the Jewish people to live free in a sovereign Jewish state. Canadian armed forces, known worldwide for their bravery and commitment to duty, thankfully, have suffered relatively few casualties since the Korean War.

Thus, Remembrance Day in Israel is more than a discreet ceremonial act at the 11th moment of the 11th hour of the 11th month of the year, attended by a diminishing number of veterans and a handful of grateful citizens. It is, rather, a solemn day of mourning and recollection, where Israelis travel the country visiting the crowded cemeteries where the fallen are buried. An entire nation remembers. And a stone or a flower, or sometimes even the stain of a fallen tear on the white dust of the grave will mark the visit and accent the memory.

Atzmaut

And then at nightfall, the solemnity transforms to celebration as Israelis mark Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day). The celebration continues through the night and into the following day with an intense happiness born of the humbling knowledge and overwhelming gratitude they carry in their hearts that their celebration, their national existence, their freedom are owed to the ones whose memories they honoured the day before.

Despite their striving these past 57 years, Israelis do not yet live at peace with their neighbours. Indeed, at times, they are hardly at peace with themselves – such is the social tension that constant warfare has wrought upon them. But nor have they lost the hope, nor will they ever lose the hope, that peace is possible, if not actually at hand.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

The Catholic Church and the Nazis

You correctly point out that Pope John Paul II made great strides in changing the Catholic Church's attitude toward Judaism and establishing diplomatic relations with Israel ("Hoping Benedict XVI will bring blessing," editorial, *CJN*, April 28). His one glaring failure vis-à-vis the Jewish people was in shutting down the historical review of the Vatican papers during the papacy of Pius XII from March 1939 to October 1958. The world is entitled to know whether or not the Catholic Church was complicit in co-operating with Hitler's Nazis or Italy's fascists and if, as a result, it aided and abetted the Holocaust. Pope Benedict XVI should reopen the inquiry into the Vatican papers so that the truth be known.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

The Catholic Church and the Jews

I felt relieved, reading Jack Chivo's article (John Paul II's legacy: 'One step forwards, two steps backwards,' *CJN*, April 28).

I thought that I was the only one who disagreed with the wave of accolades for Pope John Paul II coming from Jewish organizations such as the Canadian Jewish Congress, *The CJN* and even the State of Israel.

The overly joyful reaction of the Jewish community to John Paul's papacy must stem from the old Jewish attitude – we should be grateful when there is no pogrom on Easter or Christmas. Since John Paul did not openly cause an increase in anti-Semitism, he was good for us.

As Chivo has pointed out so eloquently, we got scraps from John Paul's table and felt loved. As enlightened he was, Karol Wojtyla was from Poland, and it was no accident that the worst extermination camps were on that soil. And there was a willingness on the part of the population to get rid of an undesired and despised minority.

In the same issue, you occupy yourself with the new pope ("Hoping Benedict XVI will bring blessing"). Why do we even bother looking at the Vatican? What is of interest there for a Jew? Are we looking for acceptance? Do we feel like a homeless street urchin who must try to see if he will be accepted in the kitchen and can get warm milk? Let's stop worrying about getting the acceptance of others. We have survived as a people because of what we are and represent, and despite others wanting to annihilate us.

Adam Gorny
Brampton, Ont.

* * *

'Road map' peace plan useless

What can be derived from Paul Michaels' column ("Remembering details that are often overlooked," *CJN*, April 28) is that the "road map" peace plan is really useless. The Palestinian Authority (PA) does not want to disarm militants and Israel does not want to stop building or enlarging settlements.

There should be another order for peacemaking. The PA and the Israeli government should sit down and hammer out a peace agreement. There should be referendums on both sides with sufficient majorities required to have the moral and physical authority to implement the agreement.There should be no implementation if there is violence. Peace for Israelis and a state for Palestinians are the only way to overcome rejectionists. A single state is not a solution for Israelis because they want a country with a sizable Jewish majority.

Sam Einhorn
Montreal

* * *

The security fence

Why does *The CJN* have to provide support to anti-Israel elements by showing a photograph of the four per cent of the security fence constructed of concrete passing through built-up areas (page 1, April 28)? Why not parts of the other 96 per cent of transparent wire fencing going through open countryside?

And since I am kvetching, I wonder how many readers of the paper need to be told what matzah is (in the caption under the "Monkey Business" photograph, April 28).

Walter Seaton
Toronto

* * *

McGuinty's Passover greetings

To Dalton McGuinty, premier of Ontario:

I find it offensive that you offer Passover greetings in *The CJN* at the same time that your government has taken the initiative to restore open discrimination against Jews and other non-Catholic religious minorities in education funding.

In case you were not aware, the Jewish community is steadily declining, and the one hope we have of continued existence is to educate our children so that they will be able to continue our traditions, the learning and practice of which cannot be done in secular public schools. I am only asking for my children to get what other Ontario taxpayers get free for their children in government-supported Catholic schools.

I would encourage you to reconsider your position on this issue and to take steps to eliminate this odious and harmful discrimination.

Until you do so, I would request that you not expend any more of my tax dollars to offer me and my community friendly greetings from you and the government while you are discriminating against us openly and in violation of Ontario's international law obligations and commitments.

Michael Orr
Toronto

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Ten tips for celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP

Israel Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, falls on May 12 this year. If this is a holiday you have never celebrated, consider adding it to your family traditions.

With Israel in the news every day, the Jewish state is unusually prominent in our minds now, but not always for positive reasons. Celebrating Israel Independence Day gives us a chance to remember why Israel is such an important part of our Jewish heritage.

Take some time this year to share with your family the excitement you felt about Israel when you were a kid. It will be a learning experience for all of you.

Here are my top 10 tips for celebrating Israel Independence Day with your family:

1. If the community has an Israel festival of any kind, don't miss it. Here's your chance to show your kids another way of being Jewish that does not involve hours of sitting still in synagogue.

At an Israel festival, you can dance in a Jewish way and "eat Jewish" and maybe even sit in a movie theatre watching an Israeli film. Kids today need some help connecting pride in being Jewish with pride in Israel.

If your community doesn't have an Israel festival, think about helping plan one at your synagogue or school. Start small, with a falafel lunch and a film.

2. Rent an Israeli film from your local library or video store. Have your own Israeli film festival at home or with some friends. The Israeli film industry is thriving. Every year, there are many new Israeli films that offer a great deal of interesting insight into how Israelis are feeling right now and what young people in that country are wearing and saying and doing.

Depending on the ages and interests of the viewers, you may want to check out a 1991 film called *Cup Final* that tells the story of an Israeli soldier captured by the PLO while the World Cup soccer finals are going on. The soldier and his captors reach an understanding through their mutual love of soccer. This may be a little too sweet an ending for a very complicated subject, but it will get you talking.

Then there are always the classics. *Exodus* is not an Israeli film, but it does tell the story of Israel's beginnings in an exciting way.

3. Eat Israeli food. Falafel and hummus are easy to make. You can even buy mixes in your grocery store's natural food aisle. And most grocers now offer pita bread. Just add water to the mixes and chop up some cucumbers and tomatoes and you'll have an Israeli feast.

Pita bread is also pretty easy (and fun) to make, especially if you have a clay pizza brick.

If you prefer more of a challenge, find some recipes in *The Foods of Israel Today* by Joan Nathan.

4. Play some Israeli music. Even your teens will like some of the exciting and fun pop music coming out of Israel today. Check out Ofra Haza, one of my favourites, who unfortunately died a few years ago.

And there's probably a section on Middle Eastern music in the music store your teenager frequents. Don't expect *Hava Nagila*, unless of course it's done with a world beat sound or as a rap song.

5. Send a letter or e-mail to a friend in Israel. If you don't have a personal friend there, search for a school website and select some pen pals for your children. Children in Israel are interested in polishing their English, so don't let your lack of modern Hebrew scare you away. E-mail is almost always in English.

This would be a great way for your children to learn more about what it's like to live in Israel today. A pen pal will beat a dry text book or homework-giving teacher nearly every time.

If you are unable to make this happen on your own, ask your rabbi or your child's religious school teacher for suggestions. Some Jewish federations have programs to facilitate these relationships through their sister cities.

6. Get together as a family and study the history of Israel. There are a lot of good books on this topic, but be wary of website information unless you are confident of the site's quality. Look at the website of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education http://www.caje.org/ for the newest thoughts on how to teach about Israel.

7. Review the history of the Middle East peace process – the high points and the low points. The Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) and the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), part of CIJA's umbrella organization in Canada, and the America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in the United States are excellent sources for timelines on all issues regarding Israel. They may not have materials intended specifically for children, but they explain the situation to busy adults all the time, and therefore need to make their materials easy to understand.

Check out the Near East Report on www.aipac.com. The CAJE Web site recommends reading the editorials on Israeli newspaper websites to gain more insight on the current situation.

8. After you've done some learning about the situation, have an open and honest debate about the issues. Help each other, especially the young people in your family, understand what is happening in Israel today. Talk about media bias and anti-Semitism, but don't get bogged down with simple excuses for what's happening. This is a very complex situation involving many important issues from water rights to refugees. For help in understanding the news media's treatment of Israel, you may consider visiting one of the following Web sites: www.honestreporting.com, or www.camera.org.

If you are a regular reader of a Jewish newspaper, you know this issue can't be tackled in a five-minute argument. Make sure that point is made in your discussion. Your goal should be to increase your understanding and develop interest in following the issues more carefully so that you will all be prepared to discuss this issue with others in an intelligent way.

9. Don't forget Yom Hazikaron, Israel Remembrance Day on May 11. This is the traditional day to remember Israeli soldiers killed in action, but it would also be a good time to talk about the civilians who have been killed in terrorist attacks over the past three years. Several websites offer photos of the Israelis who have died and stories about their lives.

For a more uplifting version of this same story, get a copy of the *60 Minutes* segment about Hadassah Hospital.

10. Plant a tree in Israel. Jewish National Fund is still planting trees in Israel and you don't have to go there to plant a tree. They even have a special deal. You can pay to plant two trees and JNF will plant the third for free. Trees cost $18 each, $36 for three trees, or $72 for five. They can be ordered online from JNF Canada at http://www.jnf-canada.org/.

Donna Gordon Blankinship is a freelance writer who lives in Seattle.

A young girl in Tel Aviv celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut from the lofty perch of her father's shoulders. [Israel Sun photo]

Passover, then Yom Ha'atzmaut

Pesach is over. Really over. Hooray! I love the holiday. It truly is my favorite. But it's also the most hectic and intense. (Intense is 17 people living together in my house, and they all expect three meals a day.) Preparation and duration all invoke significance and overload.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

It is too much, an abundance of form and content. Yet, while each detail and ritual require so much attention, each element brings forth wondrous understanding and meaning.

Every year, when the family leaves and the matzah crumbs remain, as the house reverts to its empty state, I ponder these options: highly concentrated doses of family and ritual alternating with empty spaces, personal and professional accomplishments, and sad grandparents. At this time, looking back and ahead, I try to gather my thoughts and savour the experiences of this liberation holiday that is so much work. I want to locate the power that emanates from this ritual celebration in order to invigorate next year's sequence.

Inasmuch as this holiday wipes me out, how can I contemplate more? I look forward to more because I want to drink from the waters of Miriam's well in order to nurture my commitment and reinforce my strength. But I wonder whether I will be up to it one more time. "From whence will come my strength?"

As crazy as it sounds, it may come from the very next sequence of celebrations. Exhaustion can be cause for total cessation, or justification for renewed activity. The Haggadah leads us to consider our next commitments within the context of recalling past events. We count the Omer to link Passover's physical liberation to the spiritual redemption of the Torah on Shavuot. We also sing "Next year in Jerusalem."

So there we are – provided with a sense of both spiritual and physical renewal at the very moment of fullness and vacancy. We look toward Sinai after we experience Egypt's hardships. We sing of Jerusalem after we acknowledge slavery.

With the forthcoming celebration of Israel's independence, we, too, should look back and forward. Back to the time of Egyptian slavery to remember our roots and oppression, forward to next year in Jerusalem, to Zion, the centre of our national religion. We look back to the darkest period of Jewish suffering and forward to our contemporary experiences of liberation, both physical and spiritual. For Israel has meant all that to us as a people, a diasporic nation spread all over the world. Israel remains our centre, a place of identity, safety and learning.

While no seder marks Yom Ha'atzmaut, it shares with Passover this sense of redemption, of liberation, of God's great hand, of human leadership and responsibility. It gives us another distinctive opportunity to focus, celebrate and overload.

Free Bountiful's men and women

I think I will become the leader of a new faith, based on the conviction that in order to be saved, I marry at least three husbands. I will build my compound in eastern Ontario. Children will attend school up to Grade 6 (for boys) and maybe a little more for the girls, who, masters of the faith, need only to acquire at least three husbands to qualify for eternal bliss.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

I will expel excess girls to the small town nearby, and since they will have minimal life skills, and lack the regulation three or more husbands, they will begin turning tricks to survive.

No non-believing outsiders will be allowed in. To leave is to damn one's eternal soul.

When I need a new young stud – er, husband – I will order one from across the border where other groups with similar philosophies live. My only regret is that, unlike British Columbia, Ontario will not pay for the children's schooling (in British Columbia the Independent Schools Act entitles private schools to public funding). Or one day I could just move to B.C., where polygamy and strict adherence to the teachings of the leaders, flourishes.

Whoa, you say. What's all this?

Bountiful, near Creston B.C., harbours a cult. One faction is led by Winston Blackmore, a second by Warren Jeffs, both self-styled prophets of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. (This sect is in no way connected to the mainstream Mormon church, which banned polygamy in 1890.) The men marry as many wives as possible, and produce dozens of children with all those wives. They reportedly marry girls well under legal age and bring in wives from the U.S. branch of the same church. They receive money for their paltry schooling from our provincial government.

The women of Bountiful are prisoners, bound to a cult masquerading as a legal religious option in a multicultural society. The polygamists claim they are a distinct society in which polygamy is the only route to salvation.

Hooey. This is a cult that is breaking Canada's laws against polygamy and maybe underage sex. Period.

Strange, is it not, that guys get all the goodies and women get to share their husbands with multiple so-called sister-wives – way more than the required three – and children grow up without a father?

Horrifying that boys – like male animals exiled from the pride because they threaten the alpha male – are dumped on city streets and left to fend for themselves. They usually end up living on the streets.

Some women have broken away from the group, and we have their courageous public testimonies about what is going on in Bountiful. A few men, born there and exiled to keep the challenges to the powerful leaders in check, also have spoken out.

Now what has this all got to do with freedom and independence, the underlying themes of Passover and Yom Ha'atzmaut? Well, for modern-day bondage, just go to Bountiful.

We may not be able, as Canadians and Jews, to immediately and directly affect the outcome of wars and famine on the African continent or in Asia. But we can start at home. And at home, the men of Bountiful are cocking a snoot at our laws.

B.C.'s (soon to be retired) attorney general has refused to even investigate the allegations of child trafficking and the admitted practice of polygamy.

Our federal justice minister, Irwin Cotler, on April 14 on CBC radio, was very explicit in speaking about trafficking: Canada's policy is, and I quote, "Protection, prosecution, prevention."

So I call on him, and on our community, to ask for protection for the "lost boys" ousted from this cult. For prosecution of polygamists. And for prevention of this odious cult from continuing to share our country while flouting its laws. I call on the federal government to enforce the law, to go to Bountiful, to investigate, and to proceed to remove these people from our midst.

Maybe the cult can move to Ontario. At least they won't get money for their schools. And instead of hiding in a small rural corner of our country, they could live in the Golden Horseshoe, under the glare of full disclosure of their activities.

Until everyone is free, no one is free.

Disability and the Jewish community

The federal government and each province and territory maintain human rights commissions – bodies mandated to investigate and resolve allegations of discrimination based on various prohibited grounds. The prohibited grounds vary from province to province but most make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, age and disability. With the Vriend case, the Supreme Court of Canada included sexual orientation in that list as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

When that occurred, in 1998, many felt the various human rights commissions would then be faced with a barrage of discrimination complaints from members of the gay and lesbian community.

This, however, did not happen.

Rather, the most prevalent complaint made to virtually all of Canada's human rights commissions relates to allegations of discrimination based on disability. Despite the conventional thought that society is now more sensitive and responsive to issues of disability, clearly the message is that there is much to be done to ensure equal opportunity and equal access to those experiencing some form of disability.

As members of the Jewish community, we have a responsibility to respond to issues of disability. As part of a series of commandments instructing us to look after our neighbours – to look after one another – we are told in Leviticus 19:14: "You shall not insult the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind."

How does Canada's organized Jewish community measure with respect to providing accommodations for people with various disabilities?

Several years ago, the then law and social action committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress attempted to address the issue. The committee even convened a national conference in Ottawa to consider our community's responsiveness to what Congress regarded as a serious concern.

Unfortunately, however, priorities change and, at this time, issues relating to disability occupy a back burner in the current CJC agenda.

Now, many years later, it is obvious that our synagogues and other Jewish community facilities have much to do yet in providing accommodations for people with disabilities.

In terms of physical facilities, newer synagogues have been designed with a main-floor sanctuaries and ramps. But others were not designed to encourage access and full participation for people who have problems with mobility. Some older synagogues have now installed elevators to make the sanctuary accessible to all congregants. But the design of the sanctuary itself, with the raised bimah, does not necessarily allow for full participation.

Years ago, in my own congregation, a temporary ramp was built to make it possible for my mother, who needed the assistance of a wheelchair, to take part in my daughter's bat mitzvah service. It has been years since the ramp was removed and, unfortunately, there are some congregants who find the bimah's two steps to be a challenge to accepting an aliyah. Our current plans to install a railing will merely provide a partial remedy for the problem.

Other disabilities provide yet different challenges. There are large-print prayer books available, yet how many congregations provide them for congregants who are visually impaired? Are our national and local Jewish publications and synagogue bulletins available in audio format for the visually impaired?

Organized Judaism has responded in many positive ways in order to accommodate the disabled in our community. In Toronto, the Reena Foundation has worked for many years to assist persons with developmental disabilities. Some synagogues have designed entrance ways and washrooms that are wheelchair accessible, although few have washroom signs in braille. A few years ago, Congregation Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary provided sign language assistance for hearing-impaired families. Some Toronto synagogues provide sophisticated hearing devices for those who need them. And an organization called the Jewish Heritage for the Blind in Brooklyn, N.Y., provides large-print prayer books for the visually impaired.

While there are some synagogues and some community facilities that have made great strides in accommodating persons with disabilities, there must be a greater awareness of the need to be even more responsive. It has been said that most of us live as "temporarily abled" – that at some point in our lives, we will all be faced with the challenge of living with one disability or another.

We must continue to examine our institutions, facilities and priorities to ensure that accommodations are made that will guarantee full participation by the disabled in our community.

The Kirshner File

Letter from Bergen-Belsen

The pastoral, politically conservative region north of Hannover – the sedate capital of Lower Saxony – is captivating and deceptively lulling. On a fine spring morning in mid-April, when the sun is shining and the air is crystal clear, a Canadian visitor sitting in a bus watches pine forests and green fields bearing new crops whiz by. Neat, tidy villages such as Oldau, Winsen and Walle, with their modest, well-tended residential buildings, manicured lawns, perfectly-clipped bushes, daffodil beds and clean streets enhance the overall effect.

Sheldon Kirshner in Germany

Before World War II, this table-flat area in northern Germany was quite isolated, far from the bustle and bright lights of Berlin. Even today, it is relatively remote from the fast-flowing currents of a modern, highly developed country that once again is taking its place in international politics. In 1935, two years after Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor by the president, Paul Hindenburg, a doddering war hero with faulty judgment, the German government built a military base here, far from prying eyes.

By 1940, the base had been converted into Stalag 311, a prisoner-of-war camp for French and Belgian soldiers. Within about a year, following Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, the camp was bursting at the seams with 20,000 freshly captured Russian PoWs. In April 1943, the concentration camp, known as Bergen-Belsen, was given an additional role as a holding pen for Jews with foreign passports who, the Nazis hoped, would be exchanged for Germans interned abroad.

In 1944 and 1945, sick prisoners and female inmates from other concentration camps were transferred to Bergen-Belsen. Unbearable overcrowding, exacerbated by a dearth of rations and the wildfire spread of infectious diseases, caused the deaths of some 70,000 prisoners from 40 countries, including 30,000 Jews. "Where Auschwitz had been the epitome of bureaucratically organized mass murder, Bergen-Belsen was the epitome of mass death resulting from the toleration of total chaos," Paul Spiegel, the current president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, recently observed in a commentary.

When Bergen-Belsen was finally liberated by British and Canadian troops on April 15, 1945, the sight that greeted them was nothing short of horrific. What they saw were piles of unburied corpses giving off foul odours and dazed inmates who had been reduced to virtual skeletons by starvation and deprivation. These ghastly, unforgettable scenes of human misery, which earned Bergen-Belsen notoriety as probably Germany's worst concentration camp, were photographed by British and Canadian cameramen.

Last month, several hundred survivors from more than 10 countries, including Canada, Israel and Poland, returned to Bergen-Belsen on the 60th anniversary of its liberation. Among them were Manny Langer, a Polish Jew from Lodz who was interned in Bergen-Belsen in January 1945 and immigrated to Canada in 1955 by way of the United States, and Regina Eisenstein, an Auschwitz survivor from Poland whose daughter, Sharon Weisenfeld, was born in Bergen-Belsen in 1946 and went on to become a principal in the North York Board of Education.

Their trip was jointly sponsored by the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations and the regional government of Lower Saxony, Germany's second largest state. The survivors, with a few children and grandchildren in tow, were transported to Bergen-Belsen by bus from Hannover, a distance of some 50 kilometres.

[Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Manny Langer and Mania Hudy

As Langer and Eisenstein walked past the grey wall that leads straight into the former concentration camp, they were greeted by clusters of solemn teenagers of various nationalities from the International Youth Work Camp, which helps maintain Bergen-Belsen and participates in archeological digs designed to shed greater light on its history and workings.

The youths, some wearing Muslim head scarves, handed visitors coloured paper cut in the shape of doves. On them, in red ink in German, were inscribed messages extolling peace. Mine read: "We wish you and all mankind around the world eternal freedom."

I asked two of the volunteers, both 17-year-old Germans, what they felt on this special day. Karina Schultz expressed shame over Germany's role in the Holocaust. Moritz Kunze was at a loss to understand how an otherwise civilized nation like Germany could have conceived this unprecedented catastrophe.

Bergen-Belsen, which has been a memorial and documentation centre for many years now, has big expansion plans. A new visitors' centre, which is scheduled to be finished in April 2007, will make it all the more relevant.

The Canadian Holocaust survivors who were here in April were quick to notice that the barracks and huts where they clung to life six decades ago are gone, having been burned to the ground by the British in 1945 to ward off rampant disease. What remains in forest clearings are the crumbling ruins of barracks and the main kitchen. The reservoir, where bloated bodies once floated, is bone dry, the water having been drained years ago.

The mounds denoting mass graves are clearly visible. They contain the corpses of an estimated 14,000 Jewish prisoners who tragically died after being freed.

"It's the largest Jewish cemetery in western Europe," said Menachem Rosensaft – a 57-year-old New York lawyer – laconically. His late father, Yossel, a Polish Jewish survivor, administered Bergen-Belsen's Jewish displaced persons camp until its dissolution in 1950. The DP camp, the biggest of its kind in post-war Germany, was housed in barracks that the German army, the Wehrmacht, had used since the mid-1930s. A British army unit, attached to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), uses the space today.

The open fields of Bergen-Belsen, covered by a blanket of grass and heather and hemmed in by dense woods, are dotted with an assortment of monuments – ranging from a Jewish survivors memorial that was unveiled in April 1946 to an obelisk and memorial wall that the British constructed just a year later.

Bergen-Belsen's Jewish memorial

Moshe Kraus, an 84-year-old cantor from Ottawa who recited kaddish at the Jewish memorial almost six decades ago, performed the same task last month, thus coming full circle. A distinctive, diminutive, wizened figure clad in black and sporting a sailor's cap, he looked as if he had been plucked from a Van Gogh painting. Born in what was then Czechoslovakia, Kraus endured three labour camps, two in Germany and one in Yugoslavia, prior to being sent to Bergen-Belsen in the summer of 1944. When he was liberated, he weighed only 36 kilograms. Immigrating to Israel in 1948, he served as the Israeli army's first cantor. After stints as a cantor in Antwerp and Johannesburg, he immigrated to Canada in 1975.

One of his co-survivors, Mania Hudy of Toronto, was born in Warsaw in 1933, the daughter of Leon and Lola Rosman. A feisty woman with sparkling blue eyes and a direct manner, she was saved by a Polish woman who gave her and her mother and brother refuge after the fall of the Warsaw ghetto in 1943. Her father was deported to Theresienstadt and survived, while her younger sister was saved by nuns. Hudy reached Bergen-Belsen in the winter of 1945 and survived, in part, by scraping together potato peelings. After living in Israel and Argentina, she and her family settled in Canada in 1967.

Like almost all the survivors who came to Bergen-Belsen to pay homage to the dead, Manny Langer, 74, was not really at ease in Germany. Yet he harboured no bitterness toward Germans who came of age after the war.

"We're dealing with a new generation of Germans," he said, " but the old generation is a write-off."

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Greater Toronto Area

Democracy in Arab world just a slogan, says scholar

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The concept of democracy is ingrained in Israeli society, but in the Arab world it remains elusive and little more than a slogan, an Israeli political scientist says.

Democracy in Israel is a matter of habit, culture, custom and tradition, "like hummus and falafel," Gabriel Ben-Dor of Haifa University said last week in a Harry Posen Memorial Lecture at Holy Blossom Temple. "It's part and parcel of Israel's soul."

But in the Arab world, where not a single genuine democracy exists, the ruling elites have yet to commit themselves to democratic ideas, he said.

Arab leaders and intellectuals are not averse to democracy, but it's not a priority on their agenda, Ben-Dor said.

They would rather deal with such issues as economic development and the Arab-Israeli dispute before experimenting with democracy. For them, democracy is merely a slogan, not a way of life, he said.

"Democracy is considered a luxury, not part of the solution, but part of the problem."

He said it is debatable whether democracy can take root in Iraq, a country ruled by Saddam Hussein until U.S. forces toppled him in 2003.

Gabriel Ben-Dor

Democracy in Israel has flourished because Jews have historically associated it with freedom, Ben-Dor noted.

Yet its emergence in Israel may be surprising, he said, for at least two reasons: the eastern European leadership that first dominated the Zionist movement and the state of Israel came from places where democratic traditions were not strong, and many Israelis emigrated from Arab lands, where the absence of democracy is conspicuous.

Ben-Dor warned that anti-democratic theocratic trends, present in certain segments of the Orthodox community, cast a shadow on Israel.

Among Arabs, the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have a better chance of building democracy than do Arabs elsewhere, he said.

Palestinians have been profoundly impressed by Israel's openness and vitality, but violence, terrorism and incitement do not augur well for the growth of democracy in the Palestinian Authority, he observed.

Ben-Dor said that Lebanon, having rid itself of Syria's army, has a real chance of becoming a democracy.

He suggested that the implantation of democracy in the Middle East is important, because democratic nations do not resolve their disputes through war.

Birthright registration closed early

Continued from page 3

Jerusalem that his office has heard from more than a dozen disappointed would-be Oranim applicants, mostly from Canada.

"We are trying to do our best in order to not leave anybody behind, and we hope to find a solution... As soon as we have the overall solution, we shall announce it."

He noted that Birthright closed registration early for this summer's programs because of an increase in registration and the realization that organizers would not be able to accommodate all applicants. All trip providers knew before registration began how many spots they were allotted, he said.

"I really wanted to see the country," said a disappointed Kelly Levy, who has never been to Israel, but learned about the country as a youngster at United Talmud Torahs in Montreal. "It seemed like the perfect trip."

Finding out she would not be going on Birthright this summer was "a big shock." She said her interviewer left her with the impression she was "definitely in" and told her, "I'll see you in Israel."

"It was very upsetting. I would have gone with CIE [had I known this would happen]." Although she's on Oranim's waiting list for this summer, she said it "doesn't look too optimistic."

Alanna Ross, 19, chose to sign up for Birthright through Oranim on the recommendation of friends who had taken an Oranim trip. She said she could have gotten more shifts at her summer job had she known earlier what her plans would be.

After receiving the initial acceptance letter, she knew she might not get her first choice of dates, but she was "very surprised" not to be accepted at all. Like Levy, Ross said she was also told "I'll see you in Israel" by her interviewer.

Because she understood that applications would be processed in the order they were received, Ross was at her computer as registration began, and later that day paid almost $30 to send her forms and cheques overnight.

Oranim president Shlomo (Momo) Lifshitz declined to speak with *The CJN* about the situation without direction from Birthright Israel to do so.

The company, he said in an earlier interview, was established 19 years ago and has been organizing Birthright tours since Birthright's inception in 2000.

On Oranim's website, an April 27 letter from Lifshitz, which was also sent to a number of applicants, includes an apology. In it, Lifshitz said that he is sorry he "unable to provide more spaces and for any inconvenience or disappointment this has caused you."

Greater Toronto Area

Heschel co-founder honoured by Canadian Friends of Hebrew U

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Prof. Rachael Turkienicz, an educator, lecturer, writer and *CJN* columnist, has been chosen to receive Canadian Friends of Hebrew University's first-ever Person of Distinction award, at a ceremony to be held May 18 at Adath Israel Synagogue.

Funds raised from the evening will support a doctoral candidate in the field of gender and religion at Hebrew U's Lafer Center for Women and Gender Studies, the first research centre in Israel to be devoted to women's issues.

Prof. Rachael Turkienicz

Joan Stevens, executive director of Canadian Friends of Hebrew U, said Turkienicz was chosen because her innovative approach to Jewish learning has opened doors for children and adults across Toronto and beyond.

In addition to co-founding the Toronto Heschel School, an arts based Jewish day school, she is also on the faculty of education at York University and is the founder of The Learning Centre, an institute for adult Jewish studies in Toronto.

Turkienicz was the first woman to receive a master's degree, and then then the first to receive a doctorate, in Talmud and midrash from Brandeis University.

In an interview at The Learning Centre, Turkienicz said that because she has studied at Hebrew U, and because of her passion for gender studies, she is "doubly" honoured by the award.

When she was at Hebrew U about 20 years ago, toward the end of her undergraduate studies at York University, she attended a class in Talmud studies where there was only one other woman.

They were learning about the Dead Sea Scrolls, she said, and the professor told the class that in order to read two specific scrolls, a mirror was needed because the scrolls had fused together.

"He looked right at me and the other woman and asked if either of us had a mirror. Perhaps he thought it was fortunate that there were two women in the room.

"I don't think he really thought about what he said. I was not slighted."

The movie *Yentl*, about a girl who disguised herself as a boy in order to study Talmud, came out when she was studying in Israel, Turkienicz said, "and I knew how [the central character] felt. I realize the movie was an exaggeration, but I understood.

"Not only [should it be] permissible for women to study Talmud, [it should] be necessary. Without their participation, religious analysis would remain limited. Texts are enhanced by the insights of each individual, man or woman."

She had a passion for learning texts since she was 14, she said, and she questioned the teacher at her Hebrew day school about why she could not take a Talmud class. "I was eventually allowed to sit behind a divider, silently," she recalled.

"I have always wanted to step into texts with both feet and allow them to lead me. It is a bittersweet experience," she added.

"On the one hand I get excited when I understand a certain point the writer is trying to make. On the other hand, however, I cannot share my excitement with him. I don't have that connection."

Two of her five children are interested in ancient and medieval world battles, she said, "and now they're beginning to wonder how ancient Israel dealt with battles. They are bringing Judaism into a world that fascinates them. To me, that is what should happen."

Opening The Learning Centre five years ago was the culmination of a long-time dream, Turkienicz said. "I want people to learn that messages coming from the ancient world are still relevant today. Jewish learning can be captivating."

She has had different generations of the same family come to take classes, she said, "and each generation hears their perspective in the text. That allows them to see a different view.

"A bond develops when people study together. A conversation can take place without words. I cherish the moments when I see that happen."

JVS awarded seven federal grants

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After completing "unprecedented" work on a new funding application process, JVS Toronto has been awarded seven new federal grants totalling $3.1 million, says Karen Goldenberg, the agency's president and CEO.

Six of the grants are for program areas that include Women in Successful Employment (WISE); employment resource centres at Jane Street and Finch Avenue, and Victoria Park and Sheppard avenues; Youthinc, which helps young people find employment; Pathways to Employment, for immigrants; employment services for people with learning disabilities (in partnership with Alder Centre, which provides employment programs for youth and adults with learning disabilities); and career decision-making workshops.

Goldenberg said JVS is accessible to all residents of Toronto, but it has "a passion to ensure that the Jewish community is served. Our mandate is to serve the whole community, but we make sure that the Jewish community is aware of our services.

"We maintain our relationship with UJA Federation [of Greater Toronto] and keep a real and vibrant connectivity [with the Jewish community]."

The agency exists, she said, "to make sure the best of what we have gets to the Jewish community, but we do help other communities as well."

Goldenberg said the funding process meant JVS had to compete in a publicly advertised call for proposals to secure funds for programs it had been operating for several years.

Last summer and fall, she said, JVS submitted an average of two proposals a week to Human Resources Skills Development Canada, the federal funding arm for employment services.

"We were delighted and surprised to win a substantial number of new programs. Our operating budget in 2004 was $8.3 million. Now it's closer to $11.5 million."

Receiving the grants has enabled JVS to create 30 new jobs at the agency, Goldenberg said. "This was a real vote of confidence on behalf of the government."

On the other hand, however, the agency lost a self-employment program that trained people to run their own businesses, and a re-employment program that many clients of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) were referred to for assessment and recommended for training wherever possible.

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American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee provides extensive tsunami relief

North American Jewish federations raise $18 million for JDC disaster relief

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

In the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia in December, North America's Federation network has raised $18 million for The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's (JDC) Disaster Response Program.

Of the 60 North American federations that raised money for this cause, Toronto, which raised close to $900,000 in cash, as well as $600,000 in private gifts, ranks second, behind only New York.

Currently, JDC has staff in the four most severely affected countries, where millions have been allocated for emergency relief and assistance activities.

"We now have staff situated on the ground in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and India," says JDC spokesman Josh Berkman. "Our representatives are continually meeting with counterparts from NGOs (non-government organizations) in the region to ensure that the North American Jewish community's generosity will have a lasting impact. We have transitioned from addressing immediate relief needs to looking at the longer term challenges the communities in affected areas face. These include training psychologists and social workers, helping with civil infrastructure repair, implementing job training programs, and rebuilding schools, medical clinics and community centres."

In Sri Lanka, JDC is working with the local organization, Sarvodaya, which is addressing the needs of individuals in 20 villages. It has also provided school kits to 2,000 children there. The kits include school uniforms, shoes, socks, school bags, exercise books, pencils and a hygiene kit with soap, toothpaste and a toothbrush.

In the Sri Lankan district of Galle, 30 lower middle class families that are not receiving assistance from any other source are being provided with furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils, cutlery and linens so that they can return to their homes once repairs are completed. JDC is currently looking into the construction of 40 children's playgrounds in the area as well.

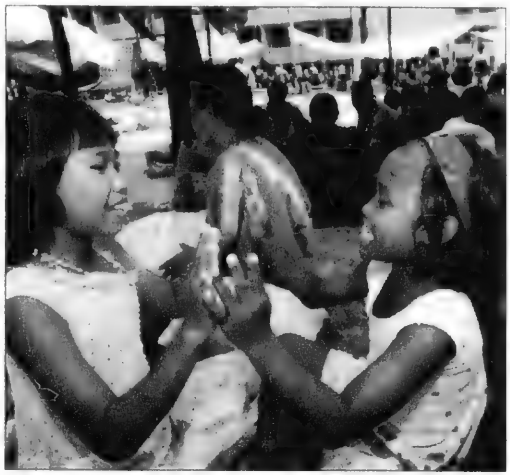
In Thailand, JDC is partnering with the local NGO, Population and Community Development Association (PDA) and the Israeli Embassy to provide ten "healing camp" sessions for 500 youth. JDC is also convening five-day trauma seminars to take place in June, which will include local psychologists, health professionals and social workers. JDC and PDA are also rehabilitating the fishing village of Ban Pat, where seafood fishing was the main source of income. School scholarships, meals, clothes, and supplies are now being provided, income-generating activities will be restored, and water, sanitation and waste management services will be reestablished.

In India, JDC and the local NGOs are focusing on providing shelter and reestablishing livelihoods, as well as distributing emergency items to the poor. Five hundred shelters have been constructed in five villages and grants are helping to revive the livelihoods of 1,200 families.

Pharmaceuticals valued at over $300,000 are being distributed to the needy through mobile clinics where 12 Israeli medical and health professionals are serving as volunteers.

Assistance priorities for Indonesia include food production, shelter construction, psychosocial support and the reestablishment of livelihoods.

"This work will continue for a very long time," says Berkman. "The response from our federation partners and thousands of individual donors has put JDC in a position to play an important role in this international effort for the duration."



Young girls play at a tsunami relief camp in southeastern India. North American federations have raised $18 million for the victims of the December tsunami. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

Adult March of the Living

More than 40 participants from the Greater Toronto Area left Pearson Airport last week on the UJA Federation's Adult March of the Living. In Poland, they joined 18,000 people – most of them teenagers – from around the world where they marched the three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau. In honour of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps, this year's Canadian March of the Living contingent - both adults and teenagers - is the largest in the history of the program.

The itinerary also takes participants to Israel for a huge celebration on Yom Ha'atzmaut, marking Israel's 57th Independence Day.

(above) Esther Rath and Yossi Lanton prepare to depart on the UJA Federation Adult March of the Living. (Inset) Other members of the group ready themselves for the nine hour flight to Poland.

Perspective

Touring two troubled communities

From Lithuania to Argentina - Part II by Harold Wolfe

In this, the second of his two-part series, Harold Wolfe compares the Jewish communities of Vilnius, Lithuania and Buenos Aires, Argentina, which he recently visited on trips facilitated by UJA Federation.

Both Buenos Aires and Vilnius are having difficulties, but for different reasons. Vilnius is a significantly smaller Jewish community, which appears to be aging and must face the possibility that it may not survive. In the case of Buenos Aires, many young and well educated people have thrown in the towel and left and both communities are experiencing leadership challenges.

In Vilnius, the division of the community between the "religious" and "secular" groups is becoming a difficult problem. For example, the government has been returning real estate which was previously removed from the Jewish community, to the "religious" elements. This has caused serious friction and demonstrated the leadership issues which exist there.

The Jewish leadership of Buenos Aires, which had existed until 1994, has ceased. A leadership vacuum has existed for some time, and is only now being filled. Twelve Jewish schools have closed because of Argentina's financial crisis, as has a school to train Jewish teachers. Israel's Bar Ilan University, which operated a branch in Buenos Aires, closed that branch in 2003.

So what is being done to help these communities? In both countries, we were pleased to meet representatives of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC, but often known as "the Joint") and the Jewish Agency - UJA Federation's overseas partners. We were impressed with their well thought out plans.

We visited the Jewish Community Centre in Vilnius, where we observed many elderly Jews receiving groceries supplied by the Joint. We were told that without this help, most of these people could not survive.

The aid being offered in Buenos Aires is extensive. In 2002 alone, the Joint provided $8.76 million of assistance covering financial relief for the elderly, reconstruction of communal infrastructure, small business development and fundraising techniques.

Enjoying a Shabbat dinner in Vilnius. - (Photo by Orah Buck.)

Educational help is being provided by the Jewish Agency, in addition to programs that encourage aliyah. The largest group of olim (immigrants to Israel) is young professionals (doctors, lawyers and engineers). Prior to their departure, jobs in Israel are sourced, so the transition will be as smooth as possible. In Israel, the Jewish Agency also funds, among other initiatives, job training and health insurance.

Both of these visits were very interesting and educational to me. As a result, I decided to see what I could do from Toronto that would help these and other Jewish communities in distress. Therefore, I sought out a representative of UJA Federation who referred me to its Israel and Overseas Committee, which I have now joined. I am looking forward to assisting the committee in its future endeavours.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Reaching out to the Israeli community

UJA Federation study discovers desire for special identity

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

On this Yom Ha'atzmaut 2005/5765, Jewish Toronto takes a close look at the city's large and growing Israeli community.

An estimated 30,000 Israelis live in the Greater Toronto Area, with the majority residing along the Bathurst corridor north of Wilson, south of Highway 7. As this expanding Israeli community evolves and adapts to the differences in climate, culture and language, the general Jewish community is also learning to engage and reach out to the Israelis who now call Toronto home.

In an effort to better understand Israeli community needs, UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) commissioned a study of Israeli perceptions and attitudes in September of 2004. The findings shed light on the concerns Israelis have about their integration into Canadian society.

"We established that Israelis want to find their rightful place in Toronto," explained Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's Senior Vice President for Jewish Education & Identity. "They want to do it in their way that is not alien to their culture. And we, in the general community, have an obligation to help them."

To that end, UJA developed programs that engage Israelis on their terms. G'sherim, a community association of Israelis in the GTA, has formed a strong relationship with UJA Federation and a deeper connection with the community.

"Federation was very generous to us and gave us funds which we have used for two activities," Orit Schwartz, G'sherim's founding member, explained. "With this money we were able to establish a Toronto branch of the *Tzofim*, the GTA Israeli Scouts - Shevet Hermon (presently running independently from G'sherim), which are so popular in Israel. We were also able to create programming surrounding Jewish holidays and introduce an adult book club as well as a children's choir."

"With *Tzofim* we have been able to do several things for the Israeli community living in Toronto," said Chairman Amir Freund. "We are able to offer an activity for children in Hebrew, one that is youth led and one that emphasizes Israeli culture and values."

In addition, BJE is also encouraging other types of integrated programming. Discussions are now under way with Schwartz to create a supplementary school geared toward Israeli children that highlights Israeli culture and Zionist activities. There's also the possibility of developing adult education programs tailored to the needs of this distinct community.

"Israelis have a legitimate place in this community," Epstein said. "And they need to see programs and organizations that reflect their values and concerns, but they will also have to work with the general Jewish community to accomplish this. There are tremendous plans for the future and many reasons to be very hopeful."

Israeli scouts performed in Toronto in 2004. The next year, Tzofim, *a Toronto chapter of Israeli scouts was established in the GTA. (Photo by Stephen Epstein, Big Dipper Communications)*

Banner year for aliyah

While thousands of Israelis have chosen Toronto as their home, it is a record year for Canadians who are traveling in the other direction.

According to statistics from the Jewish Agency Aliyah Centre in Toronto, 312 Canadians made aliyah in 2004. The numbers will grow this year when approximately 400 Canadians will uproot themselves to create new lives in Israel.

"I've wanted to make aliyah for a long time," explained 25-year-old Sarah Tobe. "I'm finally going to do it this summer with a few of my friends. I have always had a strong connection to Israel and I am very excited about the future."

This July, over 200 Canadian olim will fill one plane to Israel. The Aliyah Centre, in conjunction with Nefesh b'Nefesh, a private organization that helps North American Jews make aliyah, has worked hard to organize such a large contingent and they are thrilled with the outcome.

"This is an amazing experience," said Aliyah Centre director Dina Gidron. "On this plane we will have representatives from the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Absorption to help with all the red tape. They will aid all these new immigrants with the process and help them to move things forward."

Darrell Sherman and his wife have always harboured a desire to live in Israel and make it permanent. This summer they too will fulfill that dream and move to Israel with their four children to start a new life filled with varied opportunities.

"For 20 years now we've wanted to do this," Sherman explained. "But with the events in Israel and events worldwide, it increased our desire to be there. Now is the right time."

Ilan Meister from Toronto, along with his wife Toba and their two children, made aliyah two years ago and they are both satisfied with their decision.

"We have been here over two years and things are really going well for us," Meister said. "Starting new and being an immigrant in any country is never easy, but I have always felt that Israel was my home even when I was living in Toronto. All of us here have a mutual relationship with the land," he continued. "It needs us and we very much need it."

The Kruger family from Toronto made aliyah in December of 2004.

Making themselves at home in Toronto

All immigrants trying to establish themselves in new countries face the same issues of integration and adjustment. There are different customs and social norms, an alien culture to interpret and, for some, a completely new language to learn. Yet for many immigrants, as essential as it is to fit into their host countries, it is as important to retain their distinct culture, language and values. The multicultural fabric which makes up the city of Toronto allows Israelis to celebrate their culture while adding to the diverse landscape of the city.

Shoshi Olin emigrated to Canada 24 years ago with her husband Oded, whose parents were originally Canadian. Twenty-four years later, Olin's recollections of her first year in Toronto are difficult.

"It was very shocking for us," she explained. "We felt very secluded and were not involved with the community. We went to work and lived our lives. It was important to us to retain our identity as Israelis, to keep our culture, our food, and the way we celebrated holidays. Things are very different today. There is a real shift in the community. You can see an Israeli imprint everywhere, restaurants, music. It's much easier."

Galit and Yosi Kochav-Lev immigrated to Canada almost three years ago and their experience is representative of the change in Toronto presently taking place. Deciding to send their eldest daughter to the Toronto Heschel School, they immediately found a community they could embrace.

"We thought a Jewish day school would be easier for our children because of the Hebrew and it has been a great thing. We also belong to the Village Shul and we have made wonderful friends," Galit Kochav-Lev explained. "Our friends - and most are not Israeli - like us for who we are, and we influence them with our Israeli culture just as much as they influence us."

Over the past few years, the number of Israelis taking up residence in Toronto has grown considerably. The evidence is everywhere with Israeli restaurants, grocery stores, products and crafts filling various areas of the city from downtown to Vaughan.

Kiki Aharonovitch is now studying the multicultural makeup of Toronto in his PhD thesis at Ben-Gurion University. While living in Toronto almost six years ago, he was struck by the diversity of the landscape and the rich multiculturalism that coloured the nature of the city.

"I liked being able to choose my identity at any given time, "Aharonovitch remembered. "I could share my culture as an Israeli with my neighbours who were not Jewish and they loved it. The spirit of tolerance and openness that this city possesses is unique and enables immigrants to celebrate their ethnicities while learning more about others and what they have to offer."

"My daughter still considers herself Israeli," Galit Kochav Lev confided, "and I am glad. I don't want her to forget where she came from and who she is. But we live here now so we need to find a balance and I think we have. Toronto has given us that balance."

Israeli restaurants can be found across the GTA. (photo by Joel Verbin)

(inset) Kiki Aharonovitch.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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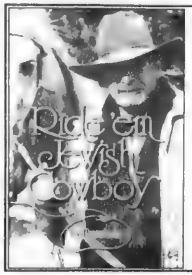

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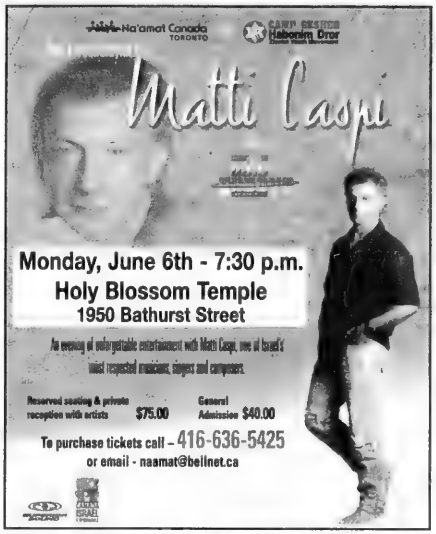

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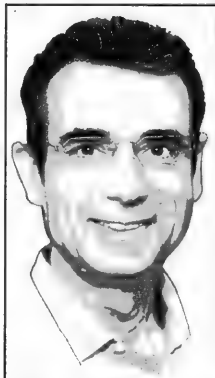

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Greater Toronto Area

Sisters honoured for community work

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

The State of Israel Bonds and Golda Meir Circle honoured two prominent Toronto sisters last week for their dedication to Jewish community work.

Wendy Eisen and Carole Zucker received the Golda Meir Leadership Award, the highest honour given by Israel Bonds and the Golda Meir Circle, a society of women who invest more than $5,000 in Israel Bonds each year.

Eisen and Zucker were raised in a family that valued philanthropy and community work. Both got their start in volunteering through Hadassah with their mother Allie Herman.

"Wendy and I were weaned on the State of Israel," said Zucker, describing their childhood.

Zucker was chair of the Mount Sinai Hospital auxiliary fund in the 1980s, and in 2003 she became co-president of the Israel Cancer Research Fund. She still serves on Mount Sinai's board of directors.

Meanwhile, in the 1970s and '80s, Eisen was involved in the movement to liberate Soviet Jewry. In 1995, she was co-chair of the UJA campaign. She has also led UIA study trips to various countries, including eastern Europe and Argentina. Eisen is currently co-chair of the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum.

Ninety-four-year-old Bernard Herman, father of Eisen and Zucker, was thrilled that his daughters were being honoured for their work. "I feel a sense of tremendous satisfaction and pride in their accomplishments," he said.

Meir was one of the founders of Israel Bonds in 1951. The award is named after her because of her strength of character and contribution to Israel, said Barbara Bregman, chair of the women's division of State of Israel Bonds.

Carole Zucker and Wendy Eisen

Meir served as Israel's foreign and labour minister before becoming prime minister in 1969.

Bregman praised Eisen and Zucker, saying that they "truly emulated the spirit of Golda Meir."

Nearly 250 people attended the lunch. Proceeds will be donated to the Israel Museum and the Israel Cancer Research Fund.

Realty show presents Israeli properties

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

For the first time ever in Canada, representatives from across Israel will converge under one roof to showcase a variety of Israeli real estate projects.

The show, sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News*, is taking place at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., May 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Gidon Katz, from International Media Placement in Israel, said he expects about 15 exhibitors to attend – realtors, mortgage brokers, bankers, builders, and people selling land in cities including Jerusalem, Tzefat, Netanya, Modiin Illit and Beit Shemesh.

As well, Katz said, representatives from the Jewish Agency for Israel are planning to be on hand to answer questions.

"If you're buying property in Israel, this is the place to be. Everything is under one roof. This will save prospective buyers from having to drag themselves from city to city in Israel looking for appropriate housing."

He said he has received an e-mail from a woman who wants to buy property in Israel and is travelling five hours to attend the show.

"She had heard about similar shows in New York and London, England, but because of a disability, had never been able to travel to one. This is what she has been waiting for."

At the London show, which took place in the fall, Katz said a lot of people attended, and a number of properties were sold at the show.

"People were not only coming to look, they actually wanted to buy. They cared about the bottom line."

For more information on the May 15 show, e-mail Lynda Adler, lynda@executiveevents.ca.

Can Hamas be housebroken?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

As the Palestinian Authority elections approach in July, there has been considerable media speculation that Hamas, the Islamic extremist organization that is dedicated to the destruction of Israel, might gain a plurality or even a majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the PA's parliament.

Some analysts have theorized that if Hamas gains membership in the PA's governing structure, it might lead to the reform of Hamas. Others are deeply skeptical.

A recent broadcast of TVO's *Diplomatic Immunity* (April 29), featured Dennis Ross, former U.S. Mideast peace envoy and now counsellor with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Ross adopted a position midway between these opposing views. He described a scenario in which Hamas splits into two factions.

"There is a core of Hamas that is never going to adjust to coexistence [with Israel] and is never going to give up violence," Ross said. "They will give up violence for temporary periods that suit their purposes. But they will not give it up over the long haul." Still, Ross argued, some members of Hamas may be prepared to become "normal parts of the political process and respect the rules."

However, after sketching this possibility, Ross went on to argue that Hamas may in fact be positioning itself to win the elections, "but then not assume any of the ministerial positions, so they can tie the hands of [PA President Mahmoud Abbas] but assume none of the responsibilities." In short, they would manoeuvre a takeover of the PA "without really changing who they are."

Panellist Janice Stein was doubtful that such a development would materialize. She maintained that bringing Hamas into the political "rule-bound" process would be "a very good outcome" and the "only way [Abbas] can move forward."

Patrick Martin, another panellist, predicted that Hamas would do well in the elections, though falling short of winning 50 per cent of the PLC seats. But Martin said that a strong showing by Hamas would, as Stein believes, "increase [Abbas'] bargaining power." He did not elaborate.

Ross nevertheless maintained that if Hamas crosses the 50 per cent "threshold" in the legislative council but rejects ministerial positions, it could very well undermine the PA.

Without a doubt, there will continue to be substantial conjecture about the impact of a strong Hamas election showing. One might bear in mind the words of another Middle East observer, Hisham Melhem, Washington bureau chief for the Lebanese newspaper *An-Nahar*. In an interview on PBS' *NewsHour* last month, he reflected on the forthcoming PLC elections and on Abbas' precarious position:

"My fear is that in the next parliamentary elections, Hamas and the Jihad and other Islamist extremist organizations are likely to win at the expense of Mahmoud Abbas. And then [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush will pay for it. The Palestinians will pay for it. The Israelis will pay for it."

* * *

At the close of the TVO program, host Steve Paikin referred to a quote from Ezer Weizman, the recently deceased former Israeli president, about the need to educate people for peace. He asked Ross about such efforts in the broader region.

Ross answered that while Abbas is "beginning" to make such an effort and should be encouraged, "Arab leaders should do it and don't do it at all."

Replied Paikin: "Nobody in the broader Arab world is doing it? Nobody?"

Ross: "Nobody."

He emphasized that the West must focus on the need for Arab leaders to embrace and promote Abbas' words and decry violence as a way to achieve political ends.

"You don't sacrifice the Palestinian cause, but you're not going to achieve it through the use of violence," Ross said.

"We need to hear this echoed by Arab leaders, and we're not."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Panel to discuss different aspects of eating disorders

An upcoming meeting sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section (NCJWC-TS) will focus on eating disorders.

The program, Opening our Eyes to Eating Disorders: a Symposium, will take place May 31, 7:30 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Cost is $10, and refreshments will be served.

The goal of the symposium, says a press release, is "to raise awareness in the community about eating disorders and encourage dialogue as we dispel fears and misconceptions." The organization believes that "through education, the stigma and myths surrounding this topic" can be eradicated.

A panel will consist of Dr. Allan Kaplan, director of the eating disorders program at Toronto General Hospital; Jennifer Mills, assistant professor of psychology at York University, whose research interests include the factors that influence women to continue dieting and the effect of media on body image; and Liza Finlay, a journalist who has recovered after a long bout with a food disorder. A question and answer period will follow.

The impetus for choosing this topic came both from the organization itself and from requests at previous symposia.

For more information, call Council House, 416-633-5100.

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Jewish education: before the Shoah and today

By PEGGY KLEINPLATZ

Guest Voice

Earlier in the year, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Mireille Silcoff wrote a powerful article in the *National Post* titled "Only the deaths, not the lives"(January 25).

She wrote of her visit to Poland: "I think of the money that had been poured into making Auschwitz a museum, and about the old synagogues I had seen in Krakow, built many hundreds of years ago, all falling to pieces for lack of funding and thinly visited by tourists." She adds later: "I should like to remember the victims of the Holocaust as human beings who had lives lived richly, often against all odds – for this is the truth."

The Ontario high school history curriculum calls for students to study Auschwitz as the example par excellence of genocide. But as Silcoff noted, the study of the lives of Jews of eastern Europe for centuries prior to the Shoah has been neglected.

> ***'Most of us know too little about our heritage'***

How is it then that Silcoff made a point to visit Krakow and picked up on, "All those doorways branded with a diagonal darkness where a mezuzah used to be"? Perhaps the answer is in an offhand comment in Silcoff's article: "I have been through the Jewish school system."

Silcoff's article moved me on several levels. My parents survived the Shoah, between them Auschwitz, Bergen- Belsen, Buchenwald and Theresienstadt. Most of their families did not. Talking about the death camps was not easy for them, though they rarely refused to answer my questions. More importantly, they taught me as much as they could about the world of their births and of my legacy.

My mother came from Pabianice, a suburb of Lodz, a metropolis considerably larger than Ottawa. She went to school in Krakow, in the very first Bais Yaakov seminary, in the assumption that nothing could be more important, for boys or girls, than solid grounding in the foundations of Jewish knowledge. My father came from a small town at the other end of Poland named Stopnic. The nearest major city was Kelc. He, too, would detail the long days of secular and Jewish study – all paid for by the Polish government and with the expectation that Jews would never attend school on Shabbat and Jewish holidays while Catholics were free from school on Sundays and other religious observances. (This in no way diminished the beatings my father withstood on the way home from school daily.)

Notwithstanding the difference in their backgrounds, they both described lives rich in Jewish art, music, dance, literature, architecture and scholarship. They would speak vividly of the 70 or so travelling Jewish/Yiddish theatre troupes throughout the country (contrasting sadly with the one permanent Canadian Yiddish theatre group, founded by Dora Wasserman, at the Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal).

They would describe the joy of having their homes filled every Shabbat with travelling klezmer musicians or scholars far from home. *Hachnasat Orchim* was the rule – not the exception. Dozens of Jewish/Yiddish newspapers were readily available. The vigorous debates about the future of Judaism did not seem to diminish from the nature of the commonalities among Jews – on the contrary, such debates have always been the essence of Jewish thinking.

> ***'If we are serious about Jewish continuity, we must teach our children'***

(Today, when people ask if I am an Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionist Jew, I like to respond that I am pre-denominational, paying homage to a world prior to our current distinctions and the divisiveness that often accompanies them.)

Silcoff is correct: most of us know too little about our heritage. As such, we are forced to reinvent Judaism.

For example, the problem of the agunot, women stuck in limbo between marriage and a husband who is either unable or unwilling to provide a *get*, (a Jewish divorce decree) is a rather serious and disconcerting one for Jewish women in North America today.

When I asked my parents how this problem was dealt with in their world, they responded that arranging for a *get* was no simple matter; it could not be resolved by an ordinary beit din comprising three members. On the contrary, it required a special assembly of 100 rabbis. However, as my mother pointed out, gathering 100 rabbis together in the vicinity of Lodz was hardly an insurmountable obstacle. It might not happen overnight and was never treated casually but typically could be arranged "in a few months."

Today, we continue to live a diaspora on many levels. We have been rootless for thousands of years and now, although we have a national home in Israel, much of our heritage has been destroyed. Those survivors who are still alive are treasures, and we must not waste a moment in learning whatever we can about their everyday and extraordinary lives prior to the Shoah.

But to go back to Silcoff, no, I do not think it coincidence that she attended to the crumbling, darkened doorways of Krakow rather than only the horrors of Auschwitz. Silcoff is the product of Jewish elementary and high school education in Montreal. So am I.

Of all the gifts my parents gave me, a Jewish education is among those I cherish most. I long deeply for all our children to have access to the kind of education that came formally and via osmosis in the world of my parents. That will never be. But the least we can do is provide as much high quality Jewish education as we can for every child in our community and in all our communities. If we are serious about Jewish continuity, we must teach our children of our rich legacy with intensity of purpose, with love and pride.

This June, my son will graduate from Hillel Academy and, God willing, will join his sister at Yitzhak Rabin High School here in Ottawa in September. Please consider that if we are to be worthy of our inheritance, we must transmit it to our children with its full vibrancy and meaning.

Peggy J. Kleinplatz lives in Ottawa.

Jewish Life

Novel explores aftermath of 9/11

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close
by Jonathan Safran Foer, Houghton Miffin Company.

Books
Bernard Baskin

This eagerly awaited second novel by 28-year-old, Jewish-American, Jonathan Safran Forer, following the dazzling success of *Everything Is Illuminated*, is everything his many admirers hoped it would be: innovative, ambitious, wistful, tragic and ingeniously imaginative.

Oscar Schell, the book's nine-year- old protagonist, is precocious beyond belief. His business card – yes, he has one – lists some of his interests: "Inventor, Jewelry Designer, Jewelry Fabricator, Amateur Entomologist, Francophile, Vegan, Origamist, Pacifist, Percussionist, Amateur Astronomer, Computer Consultant, Amateur Archeologist, Collector of rare coins, butterflies that died natural deaths, miniature cacti, Beatles memorabilia and semiprecious stones."

He also peppers the renowned physicist Stephen Hawking with numerous letters that are never answered and defiantly goes about shaking his ever-present tambourine.

Oscar, an only child, lost his father in the 2001 World Trade Center catastrophe. It left him with multiple fears, insomnia and a sense of being "in the middle of a huge black ocean."

One day, rummaging in his father's closet, he finds an envelope that bears the name "Black" and contains a key. The indomitable Oscar determines to visit the 216 different addresses listed in the phone book under the name "Black." Perhaps the key will unlock some mystery about his father's life and fate.

His odyssey leads him to a variety of eccentrics. They include a reclusive centenarian journalist, a nameless stranger who occupies a room in his grandmother's nearby apartment and a tour guide who never leaves the Empire State Building. His search for the elusive lock careens from Central Park to Coney Island to the Bronx.

Another narrative thread involves Oscar's grandparents who survived the allied bombing of Dresden in World War II. The terrifying raid is described in vivid and appalling detail.

A surprising feature of the book is the variety of interpolated illustrations that depict the objects of Oscar's concern. They include photographs of fingerprints, back of heads, turtles mating and African masks. A body falling from the Trade Center tower illustrates a series of pages. Surprisingly, the pages are presented in reverse order, so that the body appears to be rising rather then falling. This symbolism is open to a wide variety of interpretations.

In the end, Oscar discovers the secret of the key and is exhilarated by the long- awaited letter from Stephen Hawking.

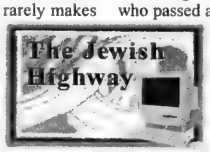
Foer's complex themes include sorrow, guilt, the pitfalls of human communication and the need for affection and community.

Some readers, undoubtedly, will find tedious the long stream-of-consciousness passages that contain a minimum of punctuation or paragraphs.

In a recent interview, the author indicated that he wrote 39 drafts of the book before he was satisfied. This novel is a tour de force that, in a manner challenging and wise, approaches both tragic historical events and matters of the human heart with humour, awe, tenderness and stunning virtuosity.

Eurovision: Hits of the Past

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ



Eurovision is:

(A) A new satellite TV station from Brussels

(B) Revolutionary laser eye surgery from Zurich

(C) A European song contest that Israel has won three times.

If you guessed (C), you are correct. Even though Eurovision rarely makes a blip in North America, if you're a fan of Israeli music, you'll certainly recognize some of the songs that got their start at this competition. Later this month, Israel will try for its fourth win but first let's look back at Israel's winning entries and some of the controversies that have dogged Israel as it has performed on the international stage.

Ilanit was the first singer to represent Israel at the 18th Eurovision Song Contest in 1973.

The competition took place in Luxembourg that year and to accommodate the heavy security, all leave was suspended for the country's police and soldiers. According to the official Eurovision website, Ilanit performed the song Ey Sham while wearing a bulletproof vest. She finished fourth. **[www.eurovision.tv/english/1272.htm]** The Israel Broadcasting Authority has put together a very good multimedia website that lets you watch all the Israeli Eurovision entries going back to 1973 as well as this year's international nominees. **[http://tinyurl.com/679t8]**

Israel won its first Eurovision at the 1978 competition in Paris with A-Ba-Ni-Bi. Sung by Izhar Cohen and Alpha-Beta, the lively tune tells how two young people express their love using their own "secret" form of Hebrew: **[www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Arena/2013/]**

'A-ba-ni-bi 'o-bo-e-bev

'A-ba-ni-bi 'o-bo-e-bev 'o-bo-ta-bakh

You can watch a performance of A-Ba-Ni-Bi online. [http://tinyurl.com/7clog] (The song was written by Ehud Manor who passed away recently at the age of 64. Manor was a prolific songwriter whose works include the popular Bashana Haba'a. **[http://tinyurl.com/8gxj5]**)

Although Israelis were thrilled with their Eurovision win, the same could not be said about some of their neighbours. When it became apparent that Israel was going to win, Jordan television switched off its live broadcast of the competition. **[www.eurovision.tv/english/history_1978_paris.htm]**

This was not the last time that politics has entered the competition. In 2000, the Israeli group Ping Pong caused a furor in Stockholm when they unfurled a Syrian flag as a sign of peace. (They finished 22nd.) Two years later, a boycott was launched to keep Israel out of Eurovision. **[http://tinyurl.com/b9qx2]** The boycott was unsuccessful but when Israel's Sarit Hadad performed the song Light a Candle **[http://tinyurl.com/bll5m]** at that year's competition, a Swedish presenter told his viewers that Israel was not getting his vote "because of what it is doing to the Palestinians." Following the uproar, Sweden's ambassador to Israel met with Hadad and apologized for the statement. **[http://tinyurl.com/8d3m2]**

Since Israel had won with the song A-Ba-Ni-Bi in 1978, the country was given the opportunity of the hosting the following year's competition, which it did from Jerusalem. [http://tinyurl.com/aj4hu] And Israel pulled off a coup by winning again this time before a hometown crowd with the very memorable "Hallelujah" performed by Gila Atari and the band Halav Udvash. **[http://tinyurl.com/8whvo]** Israel didn't host - or participate in - the competition the following year because it fell on Yom Hashoah.

After its 1979 success, Israel spent a few years out of the winner's circle until 1998. That's when a singer named Dana International scored big with her song Diva. **[http://tinyurl.com/7hm7r]** The win was controversial because until a sex-change operation five years earlier, Dana had been a man named Yaron Cohen. When Reuters asked Binyamin Netanyahu if he was having a hard time coping with the win by Ms. International, the prime minister responded: "Why? I listened and hummed like the rest of the public." **[http://tinyurl.com/a5l2a]** Jerusalem's Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, on the other hand, was outraged and pledged that the following year's competition would not take place in Jerusalem. **[http://tinyurl.com/925fh]** It did.

Although Israel has sent off delegations since its last win in 1998, it hasn't been able to nudge past fifth place. Next week, we'll look at Israel's chances at this month's competition in Kiev, explain why TWO countries are being represented by Israeli singers – and find out which other Eurovision country is using Hasidic-type dancers in its entry – black hats, payis and all.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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pshaviv@chat-edu.ca
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Yom Hashoah

Survivors pass on 'torch of remembrance'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

As members of the Canadian Parachute Battalion 60 years ago, Ronald Ford (Andy) Anderson and his fellow paratroopers happened on the concentration camp Bergen Belsen, en route to capture the city of Wismar on the Baltic Sea.

"The reality of this situation was to change our lives, our world, and inhabit our nightmares for the rest of our lives," the World War II veteran told a capacity crowd at Earl Bales Park last week. "We have but to close our eyes today to see the living sorrow, to hear the anguished cries and the smell of death we encountered that day."

More than 2,200 people gathered last Thursday night under a large white tent for a community Holocaust commemoration for Yom Hashoah and the 60th anniversary of liberation and the end of the war.

Anderson, the keynote speaker, now in his early 80s, said he and the others were "young, battle-hardened paratroopers in good physical condition. We could not fathom the situation that could cause so [many] tragic souls to be so close to death. We had no knowledge of the global situation. We had never heard of the word Holocaust or concentration camp."

His platoon didn't enter the camp, he said. Medics and doctors were moved up to assist. "The rest of us did what little we could... The need was so massive that the medical and other units of the American Ninth Army were called forward. They were only a few miles [away]."

But those medical teams lost an average of 215 souls a day, he said. "It was heartbreaking for all of us to think that so many had lived to see liberation only to die from the terrible effects of man's inhumanity to man."

His battalion did not celebrate the end of the war, he said, but instead held a non-denominational church service to pray for the victims of Bergen Belsen and 462 of their own members whom they had lost.

Holocaust survivor Gerda Frieberg reflected on her liberation from the Sudetenland concentration camp and the sobering aftermath when initial hugs and tears of joy gave way to sadness as reality set in.

"We were free, but we didn't know the fate of our loved ones," she said. "We were too sick, too weak, too grief-stricken to celebrate victory, engulfed by terrible loneliness, surrounded by an indifferent world that had shut its eyes to our suffering."

While the world celebrated the end of the war and soldiers went home to their families, Holocaust survivors had no place to go, said Frieberg. "For four years I desperately tried to leave the blood-soaked soil of Germany.

"We became refugees that nobody wanted... Our very presence was upsetting, embarrassing. Our survival was a matter of resentment, for we possessed the truth the world tried to forget. Survivors remained silent for fear of arousing disbelief."

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"Now we pass the torch of remembrance to the future generations. The victims of the Shoah must never be forgotten."

Ronald Ford (Andy) Anderson was keynote speaker at Yom Hashoah program at Earl Bales Park. [Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photo]

The moving ceremony, sponsored by more than a dozen community organizations including the Board of Jewish Education and the Holocaust Centre of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, also included remarks by Ya'acov Brosh, consul general of Israel, and MPP Monte Kwinter on behalf of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan of Chabad of Flamingo and Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb of Temple Kol Ami did readings, and Cantor Ben Silverberg of Shaar Shalom Synagogue recited the *K'el Maleh Rachamim*, and Holocaust survivor Mike Englishman recited the Kaddish.

Other participants in the 1¾-hour-long program included young singers Yehezkel Lipinsky and Robbie Wulfsohn, families who lit commemorative candles, students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, General Wingate Branch 256 Royal Canadian Legion, Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto Post, and GTA Israeli Scouts (Shevet Hermon).

Megillat Hashoah records events of the tragic past

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

By reading *Megillat Hashoah* on Yom Hashoah we can commemorate the Holocaust with a fixed Jewish ritual, said Rabbi Howard Morrison, spiritual leader of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Congregation, at the synagogue's memorial ceremony.

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Rabbi Scheim said at the service that *Megillat Hashoah* brings to the synagogue events of the tragic past that we cannot let the world forget.

"The readings attest to the spiritual resiliency of our people," he said.

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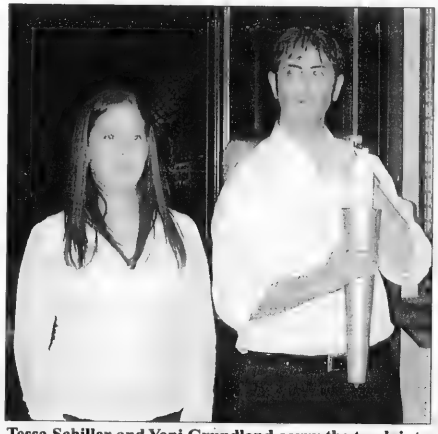

Tessa Schiller and Yoni Grundland carry the torch into the ceremony.

The service, which began with a procession of flag and torch bearers, included alternate readings from *Megillat Hashoah* in Hebrew and English, songs, prayers and candle-lighting.

Cantor Marshall Loomer of Beth David read in Hebrew: "For these do I weep: for the millions crowded in ghettos and in detention camps; for those who died of hunger and of thirst, smothered to death in freight trains or in gas chambers, shot, buried alive or cremated; for those who lost their homes, their dignity and their hope; and for those left alive to live the horror anew, day after day, moment after moment... For all these do I weep."

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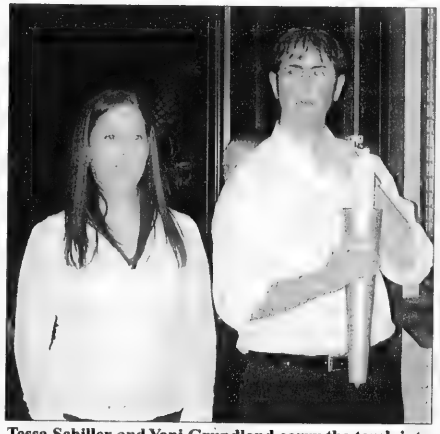

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'We will not forget,' says Canada's PM

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Representatives of 50 countries joined members of Parliament, senators and hundreds of Jews on the grounds of Parliament Hill last week to remember those killed in the Holocaust and to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

Prime Minister Paul Martin spoke of his youth in Windsor and recalled visiting the homes of his Jewish friends and being shown photo albums by their parents, "albums of families lost in the Holocaust."

Martin was echoing the sentiments of Rabbi Mordecai Zeitz of Montreal's Congregation Beth Tikvah, who said in his d'var Torah: "We mourn individuals, each having a name. We remember and we recall each and every person and we multiply the pain suffered by each person six million times."

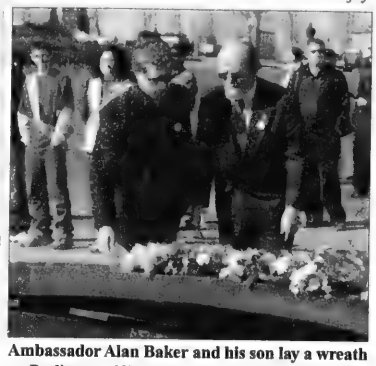
Said Martin, "We will not forget. We will look above when the evening comes and we will behold six million stars shining bright and each of them with a name… We must remember, for this is our duty."

Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, told the May 5 gathering about his fear that hatred, intolerance and anti-Semitism still abound.

"The fact that I am able to be here and to represent the State of Israel in Canada is perhaps the true answer to the Shoah and the hope of the Jewish people," he said.

Conservative leader Stephen Harper said that it's "hard, even after 60 years, to comprehend the magnitude and malevolence of this slaughter." He, too, called for vigilance to ensure that such a thing will never occur again.

"It is not our words, but our vigilance in our actions that will make our memory meaningful," he said.



Ambassador Alan Baker and his son lay a wreath on Parliament Hill last week during Yom Hashoah ceremonies. [Peter Waiser photo]

Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, said that "each member of the human community is responsible and has the duty of memory."

NDP leader Jack Layton stressed the same theme: "It is our duty to remember so that our world will never again know the worst that humanity is capable of, but rather will rejoice in the peace and the hope for a joyful tomorrow."

Journalist and broadcaster Joe Schlesinger, a Holocaust survivor, cautioned that despite calls of "Never again," the world has "had no end of violence and oppression since 1945," citing Darfur, Zimbabwe, Chechnya and Iraq as examples.

> ***'The recent rise of racist acts in Canada is troubling'***

Anti-Semitism is also rearing its ugly head. "The recent rise of racist acts in Canada is troubling. We know how hate, left unchecked, can metastasize," Schlesinger said. "It is up to us, to people of goodwill, to check it."

Schlesinger urged that we all follow the lesson of Dutch Jewish diarist Anne Frank in looking for the good in people, no matter how difficult it may be.

"If there is anything the Holocaust has taught us, it is that it is our sacred duty… to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and to nurture the good that lies in all of us," he said.

Former deputy prime minister Herb Gray, MC of last week's event, said that prior to the passage of Bill C-459 by an all-party consensus in 2003 – proclaiming a national Holocaust Remembrance Day – the Canadian Jewish community mourned the Shoah largely by itself.

Now it has been joined by all Canadians, he noted.

Wreaths were laid by the eternal flame by groups of Holocaust survivors accompanied by members of Parliament.

After a moment of silence, as well as the chanting of *Kel Maleh Rachamim* by Cantor Louis Danto and the recitation of Kaddish led by Cantor Moshe Kraus, the ceremony concluded with the blowing of three shofars, one each by Rabbi Arnold Fine, Cantor Daniel Benlolo and a student. The Shira Ottawa Choir sang and the Ottawa Jewish War Veterans marched off the colours.

Montreal mayor reads Holocaust victims' names

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – "Vigdor Vainshtein, born Poland, died in 1942 in Treblinka, age 10. Mikhl Vainshtein, born Poland, died in 1942 in Treblinka, age 9. Ida Vainshtein, born Poland, died 1942 in Treblinka."

Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay read out in total 26 names of Holocaust victims as he stood outside at the entrance to city hall, taking his turn with Vanier College students who, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Yom Hashoah, recited the vital statistics of approximately 6,000 of the six million Jews who perished.

They ranged in age from one to 17. Some, like the Vainshteins, were members of families annihilated.

There were no speeches, just a steady, chilling litany as a dozen teens, only one of them Jewish, took turns at the microphone, standing in front of six memorial candles. The event, called Unto Every Person There Is A Name, was organized by B'nai Brith Canada. The students were those of Jack Hirschberg, who teaches a course called cultural psychology and is a child of concentration camp survivors.

Tremblay, a man known for containing his emotions, said afterward that he did have difficulty maintaining his composure. "These could have been my children, and they just disappeared for no reason at all. It was an honour and privilege to take part in this," he said.

Tremblay said he and the city council readily agreed to allow the event to be held on the steps of city hall all day because "the public has to realize it is important to remember this tragic event and, most of all, to ensure that it never happens again. We also have to show our values of love, justice and peace, and we were far from those values in 1941 and '42.

Tremblay shook hands with each of the students and hugged Dida Berku, the independent city councillor who proposed the Yom Hashoah motion adopted at the last city council meeting. Berku's father was a survivor of the June 1941 pogrom in Iasi, Romania. "He was one of the few survivors among the 10,000 or 11,000 killed. He was put on a cattle car, crammed with people with no food or water for 72 hours, yet he managed to live because he had a sugar cube. But then they made him bury the dead in mass graves."

What troubled him the most, though, was that it was people who he thought were his friends, young men he played soccer with, who denounced him as a Jew, she said.

One of the students, Kim Pasquele, 18, said she was pleased that some passersby stopped to listen or ask questions. A few even accepted the flyers the students handed out.

Asked why someone her age, who is not Jewish, would choose to do this, Pasquele said, "We've heard so much about the Holocaust, seen movies and read stories about it, but when you call out those names it makes realize this could happen to any innocent person.

"I feel it's the least we can do now; we can't go back in time."

One of the stories the 40 students in Hirschberg's class hear about is how his Polish-born mother and father survived, respectively, Auschwitz and Mauthausen, lost the spouses and children they had before the war, and met each other afterward in a displaced persons camp in Munich. His mother had been subjected to experimentation by Josef Mengele and thought she was sterile. When she became pregnant, it was thought she had a tumour. "Nine months later, in 1947, that tumour was born – it was me," said Hirschberg. His mother Sarah, who lost 3,000 members of her large extended family, is 92 today.

The Holocaust figures prominently in the course, which examines such issues as inter-community relations and how intolerance and hate can flourish, and why some people resist or take risks to help others.

"They learn that each little thing they do to fight racism does make a difference. If it hadn't been exam time, all 40 of them would be here," he said. "I consider it a blessing that I can teach these young people how to recognize intolerance and hate, and what to do about it."

B'nai Brith regional director Bill Surkis said the Unto Every Person There Is A Name project is intended to "personalize the enormity of the Shoah because the figure six million is more than people can comprehend.

"We've calculated that to read all six million names, it would take two years, and that's reading seven days a week, 24 hours a day." The information used came from Yad Vashem, he said.

Surkis said the purpose was also to "make certain that the slogan 'Never Again' is not merely a slogan" and warned that even as these names were being read, a genocide was taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan, with the death toll now having reached, according to best knowledge, 400,000. "The world has to take responsibility," he said.

Surkis said the mayor and city council immediately agreed to allow the event to take place and provide the microphone and sound system.

As a sign of respect, the municipal blue-collar workers' union agreed to Surkis' request not to hold their weekly noisy demonstration outside city hall to press their grievances, but instead watched quietly from across the street.

Despite the goodwill shown that day, Surkis said his office still receives frequent calls from those who deny the Holocaust or who are hostile to its commemoration.

Coast to Coast

Flemish masterpiece among art looted by Nazis

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – A very valuable painting by Flemish master Jan Brueghel (1568-1625) is among the works once owned by the late Montreal art dealer Max Stern that fell into Nazi hands and are the subject of restitution claims by the executors of his estate.

At a press conference at the Quebec delegation office last month in London, art investigator Clarence Epstein of Concordia University publicly identified for the first time four of the more than 250 artworks that the Nazis are known to have either confiscated from Stern or forced him to sell in the 1930s. They were from his gallery in Dusseldorf, Germany, and his private collection.

Epstein could pinpoint the exact worth of Brueghel's *Still Life With Flowers*. "It's hard to say, but Brueghels like that are running into the millions. It depends on its condition," he told *The CJN*.

Epstein is director of special projects in the office of Concordia's president and special advisor to the Stern estate, which contained a huge art collection, amassed after Stern re-established himself in Canada.

Concordia is acting on behalf of executors and two other universities that were the estate's chief beneficiaries, McGill University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The other Nazi-confiscated works that Epstein named in London are the paintings *St. Jerome* by Lodovico Carracci (1555-1619), *Bagpiper* by Utrechter Meister (painted in 1632), and *Lucretia* by Panfilo Nuvolone (1608-1665).

Epstein said he chose these works to indicate the quality and variety of the lost art, but they do not necessarily have the highest value of Stern's pre-war holdings.

Epstein and his team have so far tracked down six of the 250 seized works – five are in Europe (in England, Holland and Germany) and one is in the United States. Their titles won't be made public until the estate's claims have been successfully negotiated, he said. The works are now in the possession of both institutions and individuals.

Once owned by Montreal art dealer

Stern owned the Dominion Gallery from 1947, after previously managing it for five years, until his death in 1987. In its heyday, it was one of Canada's most important galleries.

As per his wishes, the gallery continued to operate after his death from its landmark three-storey greystone on Sherbrooke Street, until 2000, when the collection was liquidated after the building and gallery name were sold.

At the press conference, Epstein also described Stern's attempts to recover his holdings after the war. He initiated proceedings in Germany in 1946, which led to the recovery of 14 paintings. Also at that time, he went to England to regain possession of several works that had been stored at Barclays Bank.

As part of the celebration of the centenary of his birth, a biography of Stern has been commissioned to be written by a senior curator at the National Gallery of Canada, where his archives were deposited.

These archives show that the Canadian military recovered *Musical Party* by Dirk Hals (1591-1656) and returned it to Stern in 1948. *Felsenmotiv* by Joos de Momper (1564-1634) was returned the following year.

Stern settled his claim on *Portrait of a Woman* by Otto Dix (1891-1969) in 1952.

Epstein is working closely with the Art Loss Register in London, the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, the Holocaust Claims Processing Office of the New York State Banking Commission, as well as international auction houses.

"Based on our preliminary research, we believe that the majority of the works will turn up in Europe and we are appealing to members of the art trade, museums and private collectors, who are aware that they are in possession of these works or who will be notified by us in the future, to do the right thing and return the works to their rightful owner," Epstein said in London.

The executors and beneficiaries hope to avoid using the courts, he said.

Stern and his wife and business partner Iris had no children and left the bulk of their assets to institutions across the world.

"We must all remember that Dr. Stern's personal and professional life were utterly shattered by the Nazis, yet he had the courage and the strength to start over after the war and, together with Iris, built the foremost art gallery in Canada," Epstein said.

Starting in 1913, the Julius Stern Gallery in Dusseldorf specialized in Dutch and Flemish Old Masters and German painting. Max Stern assumed ownership of the gallery upon his father's death in 1934, and the Nazi government soon began to pressure him to cease operations because he was Jewish.

"Stern was forced to make irrational decisions concerning his business and was left with no choice by 1937 but to consign most of his inventory and private collection to Lempertz auction house in Cologne and store the remainder of his holdings with a local shipper," Epstein said.

Stern fled to Paris with only a suitcase and soon left for England, where he operated West's Galleries on Duke Street in London, a short distance from where Epstein held the press conference.

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Coast to Coast

Hamilton Jews, Muslims call for action in Darfur

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — The 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in January and preparations for a March of the Living trip this week have had cardiologist Lorne Finkelstein thinking about the situation in the Darfur province of Sudan.

Instead of regretting past atrocities, Finkelstein decided to act to fight a genocide that is happening right now.

Finkelstein is a member of Strengthening Hamilton Communities Initiative, an organization of community leaders formed after Sept. 11 to combat racism in Hamilton. He teamed up with another member, Javid Mirza, president of the Hamilton Muslim Association, to organize Action for Darfur.

About 400 people packed the Hamilton Convention Centre April 28 to hear speakers Mohamed Hassan Haroun and Tragi Mustafa, who both emigrated from Sudan; Norman Epstein, founder and co-chair of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS); and Senator Mobina Jaffer, an African of east Indian descent who in 2002 was named Canada's special envoy to the peace process in Sudan.

"I hope people go home and talk to their friends and start petitions. Contact their MPs, the prime minister, the Foreign Affairs Minister," Finkelstein told the audience. "What have we learned from the Holocaust? We can't just sit quietly.

"Canada must act. The United Nations is impotent about most things and certainly about this."

In Darfur, an area of western Sudan, government-backed militias known as the Janjaweed are systematically eliminating entire communities of African tribal farmers.

While there are conflicting reports of the number dead, Epstein said recent authoritative research shows close to 400,000 have died from violence and famine, while more than 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes and more than 200,000 have fled to neighbouring Chad.

The Muslim and Jewish communities in Hamilton have been working together to promote peace and understanding locally, as well as on action for Darfur.

In March, Temple Anshe Shalom devoted a Shabbat service to Darfur that attracted about 80 people, Jewish and non-Jewish. Subsequently, executive members from UJA Federation of Hamilton attended an Eid-ul-Fitr dinner, marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Another fruitful partnership brewed in Toronto when Epstein teamed up with Dr. Achol Dor, who moved to the Ontario capital from southern Sudan in 1995.

The two met three years ago at B'nai B'rith's black-Jewish dialogue group. Their discussions led to the creation of CASTS. The group now has more than 800 members across the country.

Epstein told the audience that Canada must act independently of the United Nations in Sudan and mobilize peacekeeping forces immediately. He said such moves by Canada could spur the international community to act.

He also implored the media to devote more coverage to the story.

"They brought the tsunami to our doorsteps, to our living rooms. Why not genocide? If we are quiet and complacent, we will be complicit in another genocide," Epstein said.

He also urged members of the Jewish community to write to their MPs and to Prime Minister Paul Martin, and to start petitions.

"After the Holocaust, the world said, 'If only we knew, we would have intervened.' Today, living in this global village, we have no excuse this time," he said.

"We continue to recycle 'Never again,' but we never act on it. The Jewish community, because of its legacy of genocide, should be at the forefront proclaiming to the world to do the right thing."

For more information on Darfur, visit www.savedarfur.org. To contact epstein, e-mail norman.epstein@rogers.com.

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Coast to Coast

The Canadian and Israeli "constitutional" delegations meeting in the residence of Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker. [Peter Waiser photo]

Israel struggling for a constitution

Continued from page 1

Or, deputy head of the Israeli embassy in Ottawa.

To that end, the MKs, from all sides of Israel's political spectrum, spent two days in Ottawa meeting with Cotler, supreme court judges, academics and others to take a close look at what Israel can learn from Canada.

Israel has struggled with a constitution ever since its founding. "You can imagine the very serious obstacles it has to solve," said Gil-Or. "It was very important for [the MKs] to talk to Canadians."

Israel has 11 Basic Laws, enacted from 1958 to 2001, governing such areas as the Knesset, the judiciary, the status of Jerusalem, and human dignity. Together, these have served as a kind of mini-constitution.

The Israeli delegation consisted of the Knesset's constitution, law and justice committee, and was led by its chair, Michael Eitan of the Likud party. The itinerary was crowded but kept out of the public spotlight. "The media was not our first priority," Gil-Or said.

On May 2 and 3, the Israelis sat in on question period in the House of Commons; met with Commons deputy speaker Marcel Proulx; observed a session of the Commons' standing committee on justice, human rights, public safety and emergency preparedness; and held talks with four justices of Canada's supreme court: Louis LeBel, Morris Fish, Michael Bastarache and Rosalie Abella.

At the University of Ottawa, they attended a conference on constitutions in parliamentary democracies organized for them, and exchanged views with some of Canada's leading constitutional law scholars: Peter Hogg of Osgoode Hall Law School, Lorraine Weinrib and Ed Morgan of the University of Toronto, Joseph Magnet of the University of Ottawa, Daniel Turp of the University of Montreal, and Roger Tassé, who served as a key adviser to the federal government in the negotiations that led to the repatriation of Canada's constitution.

Also in attendance was Marc Gold, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee.

There was a later reception with Cotler and Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker.

In a statement, Israel's embassy said the MKs were interested in Canada because this country is "a model" when it comes to such similarities with Israel as democracy, multiculturalism, minority languages and the British common law heritage.

Issues explored by the Israeli parliamentarians included the importance of an entrenched bill of rights; the history of creating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; the notwithstanding clause; relations between the three branches of government as prescribed by the charter; and judicial review, activism and the system of selecting judges.

The Israeli justice committee intends to submit its recommendations on drafting a constitution for Israel that will replace the current system of basic laws, the embassy added.

From Canada, the MKs flew to New York and Washington to confer with U.S. constitutional experts.

In addition to Eitan, the MKs who took part in the trip were: Eliezer Cohen (NUP), Yuli Edelstein (Likud), Rabbi Itzhak Levy (NRP), Yuli Tamir (Labor), Nomi Blumenthal (Likud), Michael Ratzon (Likud), Rabbi Nissim Zeev (Shas) and Eti Livni (Shinui).

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Winnipeg students take part in trip to Washington

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Ethan Pollock says his visit to Washington, D.C., in mid-April was one of the most enjoyable experiences of his life, and the one that had the greatest impression on him.

The Grade 9 St. John's-Ravenscourt School student was part of a group of 114 Winnipeg high school students, Jewish and non-Jewish, who visited the American capital under the auspices of the Asper Foundation's human rights and Holocaust studies program.

The Grade 9 students and their chaperones took in the Smithsonian museum and other Washington sites. But the highlight, as always, was the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"It was an excellent experience," Joseph Wolinsky High School student Eli Cristante told an audience on April 26, just prior to a Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performance commemorating the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. "The Holocaust museum is beyond the concept of a museum. It combines memory with a sense of peace. It causes you to reflect deeply on what went on. We were standing with visitors from Japan and Nigeria. I would encourage everyone to go."

"It was an amazingly powerful four days," says Rene Kaplan, a co-ordinator of the Winnipeg part of what has become a national program. "It's a life-changing experience."

Jeff Morry, the senior program manager for the Asper Foundation's human rights and Holocaust studies program, reports that this year's overall program is expected to have more than 800 participants in total from approximately 27 communities in nine provinces. There will be five separate trips to Washington. The next one, scheduled for May 15 to18, will have about 330 participants from 14 communities in eight provinces. During this trip, joining Congressman Tom Lantos in speaking to the students at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will be Frank McKenna, Canada's ambassador to the United States.

Morry notes that more than one-quarter of participants in the program this year are non-Jewish.

"It is amazing how much support we are getting across the country," he says. "There is, for example, a teacher in St. John's, Nfld., who is bringing a group of 35 students on the May trip. It's the first group we have joining us from Newfoundland. And we are in negotiations with an Islamic school in Toronto."

Part of Asper Foundation's human rights and Holocaust studies program

Launched in 1997, the Asper Foundation program was conceived by the late Israel Asper. Its objectives are to promote tolerance and sensitize Canadian high school students to the consequences of racism through a specially designed education program. Initially, the Asper Foundation restricted the program to Grade 8 students at Winnipeg's Jewish Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, part of the Gray Academy.

It was then opened up to Jewish Grade 9 students in Winnipeg's public school system and then all Grade 9 students who showed an interest. The most recent group from Winnipeg included students from 15 high schools, including the Springs Christian Academy.

In 2000, for the first time, the program became a national initiative. It received the 2004 Human Rights Award from the Canadian Human Rights Commission. To date, over 4,500 students and chaperones of many faiths and backgrounds in 49 cities in nine provinces have participated.

Prior to the trip to Washington, all students are required to take an 18-hour education program – or its equivalent – on human rights and the Holocaust, with an added emphasis on American history and the civil rights movement. The curriculum for the educational component of the program was developed by Holocaust and human rights educators for the Asper Foundation.

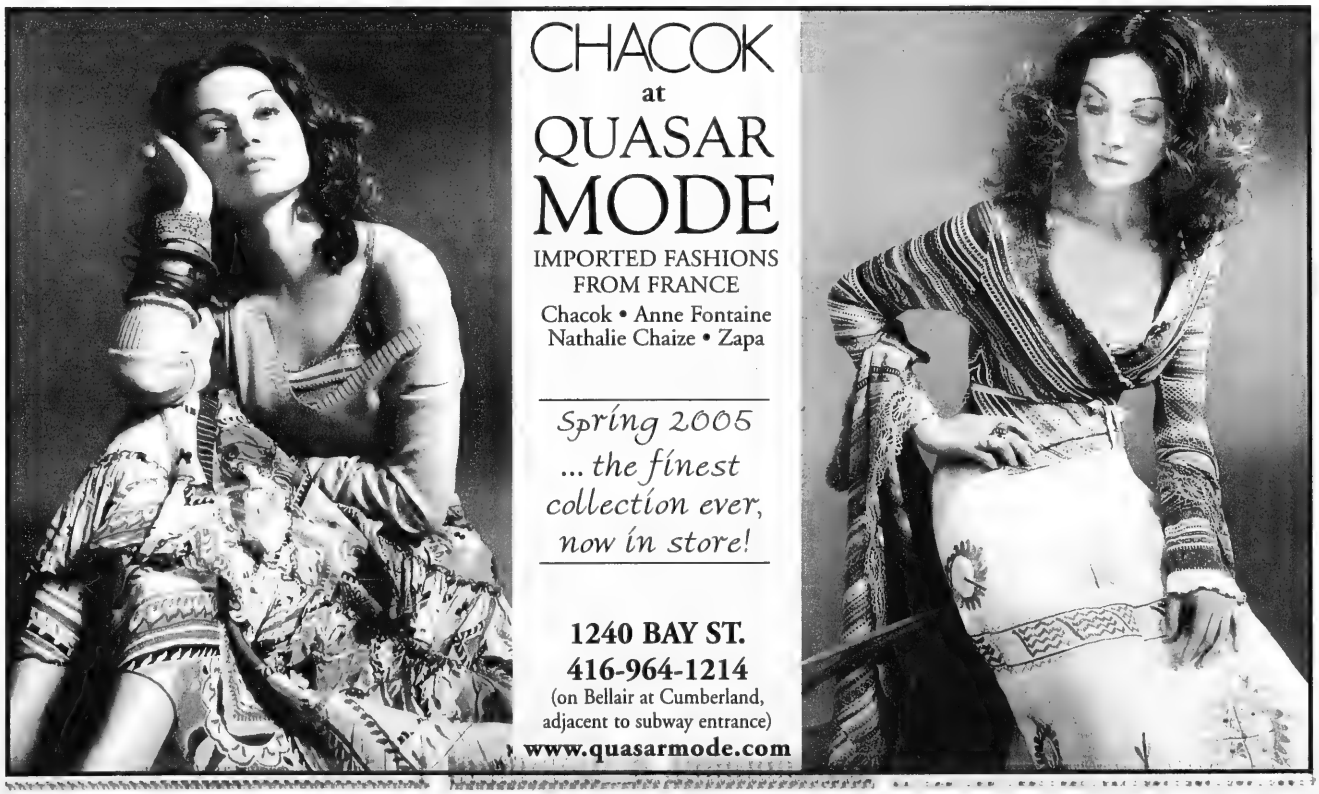
After the trip to Washington, where the students also visit other monuments relating to freedom, the students are required to volunteer in their communities.

The last component of the program, Morry says, is an evening graduation ceremony held to present a Memorandum for Personal Responsibility to each student. The document was commissioned by the Asper Foundation for this program and written by Israel Asper.

The memorandum aims to provide the students with a sense of the importance of their participation in the program and to remind them that they have a personal responsibility for the world community.

"The ceremony is a wonderful way to provide the students with closure to the formal part of the program as well as the sense that they are now beginning a new life of greater understanding and tolerance," Morry says.

He adds that the value of the program is reflected in the support it receives across the country from private and public foundations, organizations and individuals. Another measure of the program's worth is the fact that in Washington, D.C., for several years, Congressman Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the U.S. Congress, has met with and spoken to participants about the importance of understanding and protecting human rights.



Greater Toronto Area

Local Negev dinners raise funds for JNF projects

Held in Windsor, Hamilton and London

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Negev Dinners being held this month in Windsor, Hamilton and London, Ont., are raising money for a number of Jewish National Fund projects.

Proceeds from the Windsor dinner, to be held May 12 – Yom Ha'atzmaut – will go toward developing the Rock Park, located near the town of Kisra-Sumei in the western Upper Galilee.

Plans for the park, which has been created around a unique limestone formation, include developing a hiking path that will include comprehensive signage explaining the rock formations and their geological importance.

The park aims to attract Jewish, Druze and Arab Israelis, as well as tourists.

Honorees at the dinner, which is expect to attract about 600 people, are Rochelle and Bill Tepperman, owners of Tepperman's, a furniture store chain in southwestern Ontario.

Rochelle, a social worker, is, among other things, a co-founder of a breakfast program, chair of the Metropolitan Hospital Foundation, vice-chair of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, past chair of the Windsor Police Services Board, and past chair of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards.

Bill, the first federal candidate for the New Democratic Party in the area, in 1962, has been active in a number of areas, including as national board member of JNF Canada; president of JNF Canada's Windsor branch; board member of the Windsor Jewish Federation; fundraising co-chair for the Art Gallery of Windsor; and chair of the social planning division of United Way/Centraide of Windsor/Essex County.

He was named retailer of the year by the Ontario Furniture Manufacturers Association in 2003, and he was named entrepreneur of the year by the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce.

Keynote speaker will be former Ontario premier Bob Rae. Dinner co-chairs are Noah, Andrew and Jonathan Tepperman.

In Hamilton on May 16, the Negev Dinner will pay tribute to Hamilton Holocaust survivors. The evening will feature a video and some of the community's survivors. Children and grandchildren of survivors will also take part in the program. About 800 guests are expected.

David Loewith, co-chair of the event with his wife Bonnie, said funds raised through the dinner will go to construction of a playground at Mitzpe Ramon, a town in the Negev.

"We thought this was a good tie-in with [the theme] of our dinner, because we are looking at future generations and Jewish continuity."

Guest speaker is Alan Dershowitz, Harvard University law professor and author, who will be speaking in Hamilton for the first time.

In London, dinner honorees Jan and Richard Lubell have selected the development of a family playground at Moshav Dovev, near the Lebanon border, as this year's project because of their commitment to improving the lives of children.

The playground features an area for children who are physically disabled, as well as pathways, picnic tables, a water fountain and a foundation for play equipment in a natural grove area.

Richard Lubell is a pediatrician and association professor at the University of Western Ontario, and Jan is a senior partner in a management consulting company doing strategic planning and program development.

In the mid 1970s, the Lubells were one of five families to co-found the London Jewish Family Association, which later became Temple Israel. They have taught Sunday school and conducted holiday celebrations, and continue to be active in the temple.

Keynote speaker at the dinner is Lorne Gunter, a columnist for the *National Post* and the *Edmonton Journal*. Dinner chair is J. Bruce Lubell.

Obituary

Marjorie Baskin helped make Hamilton a better place

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Marjorie Baskin believed she had a responsibility to make her community a better place, and she acted on that belief in everything she did.

Baskin died April 26 of lung cancer. She was 77.

While many knew her as the wife of Bernard Baskin, rabbi emeritus at Temple Anshe Sholom (where he served as spiritual leader for 40 years), she was widely respected for her own accomplishments in health care, social planning and education.

Born in Denver, Colo., Marjorie moved to Hamilton with Rabbi Baskin when he came to the temple in 1949. Her involvement with the congregation included supervising its religious school, organizing its youth group and acting as hostess for numerous events.

"My wife was very much involved in the community," said Rabbi Baskin. "She worked at McMaster University for 21 years. She was chair of the Hamilton board of education. She was selected as the Negev Dinner honoree in 1984 for her outstanding work in the Jewish and general communities."

Marjorie Baskin

She started at McMaster as a research assistant in the department of metallurgy and also became a research associate in the department of epidemiology and biostatistics. Later, she worked as the community and public relations officer for the faculty of health sciences.

Baskin was elected to the Hamilton Board of Education in 1972 and was re-elected eight times, serving as chair in 1979.

She also served on the board of St. Peter's Geriatric Centre for eight years and was the first female president of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton.

Rabbi Baskin said that co-founding the transit system for seniors and the disabled (known as DARTS) was one of her proudest achievements.

A wife, mother, volunteer and career woman long before it was fashionable, Baskin mentored other women and nominated them for public positions.

Mary Bloom Devor moved to Hamilton in 1962 and immediately became friends with Baskin.

"She was very interesting. She wanted to do good for the community," Bloom Devor said. "She was willing to engage in different activities. I enjoyed her company."

The two women met each week for lunch to discuss family, their children and world events. Bloom Devor remembers annual Victoria Day barbecues at the Baskins with all the kids in tow.

Having birthdays just days apart in January meant they would often celebrate them together.

"We had a huge 75th party at the temple," Bloom Devor said.

Noting how Baskin believed in improving her world, Bloom Devor, a psychologist, said the two women would often joke about the good deeds they did.

"[Baskin's devotion to *tikkun olam*] started with her grandfather. We both came from families where we believed it was our responsibility to improve the community," Bloom Devor said. "Marjorie lived like that."

Baskin is survived by her husband, Bernard, her children Judith, David and Susan and seven grandchildren.

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

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IDF, settlers formulate pullout 'code of conduct'

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Israel Defence Forces together with the leadership of the Gush Katif settlements are formulating a code of conduct ahead of the evacuation of settlements in the Gaza Strip, the IDF said Monday.

Col. Erez Katz, commander of the IDF's Southern Command training facility, said the IDF has carefully gone over the mistakes made during the evacuation of Yamit in Sinai in 1982 and several illegal outposts in the West Bank over the last few years.

According to Katz, one of the key lessons learned is the importance of maintaining an open line of communication with settler leadership during the evacuation. He added that the Gaza evacuation is one of the most complex tasks the IDF has ever faced.

"Senior officers will be present at the site of evacuation as it is carried out in order to defuse potentially volatile situations," Katz said. "The settlers are not the enemy, they are our brothers."

Col. Ofer Segal, head of the IDF infantry force training department, said soldiers have received detailed instructions about when they will be allowed to use force. According to Segal, troops and soldiers who will take part in the physical evacuation of settlers will arrive at settlements without any weapons.

The officer said the IDF is now formulating instructions on opening fire for the forces who will form the outer circles of the evacuation.

"Under no circumstances will soldiers open fire at an Israeli crowd, even if they are protesters breaking through IDF and police roadblocks in order to return to the Gaza Strip," Segal said.

He added that special forces will be kept on alert in case extremists using firearms will have to be neutralized during a blockade.

Tens of thousands of Israelis poured into the Gush Katif area of Gaza on April 27, during Chol Hamo'ed, to protest against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to dismantle the 21 Jewish communities in the Gaza Strip and 4 communities in the northern West Bank. The withdrawals are now expected to begin after Tisha b'Av. [RNS/Reuters photo]

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CCCJ
Building Bridges Between Communities

14th March of Living brings together 18,000

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

OSWIECIM, Poland – Standing shoulder to shoulder and pressed in by history, 18,000 Jews from dozens of countries amassed on Yom Hashoah at the Birkenau death camp for the 14th March of the Living.

They listened as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called on them to carry the torch of memory forward to honour the 1.5 million Jews murdered there by the Nazis.

"It will be incumbent upon you to tell of the Holocaust when there is no longer anyone around to provide first-hand testimony," Sharon said in a speech entirely in Hebrew at special ceremonies coinciding with the 60th anniversary of V-E day, the end of World War II in Europe.

"You – the link between the generation of the Holocaust and revival and future generations – have the duty to bequeath the lessons, memories and stories, to underscore the importance of the existence of the Jewish state."

As he spoke, the sun emerged for the first time that day.

The presence of Sharon underscored the importance of the occasion. With skies overcast and intermittent drizzle turning some of the ground slick, the crowd teemed beyond almost all expectations. There was a crush of bodies as security procedures obliged participants to enter Birkenau almost in single file. The crowd bottlenecked again at the ceremonies site, a huge field adjacent to the barracks.

The ceremonies began more than an hour after their planned 3 p.m. start.

A little after noon, more than 1,000 Canadians – aged 16 into their late 80s – began to make their way from Oswiecem train station, where they had arrived by train and bus, and to move progressively toward Birkenau from Auschwitz, a five-minute walk from the station.

Canadian March of the Living participants make their way towards Birkenau. [Ryan Blau photo]

Survivor Terry Guttman of Montreal said to *The CJN:* "Why am I here? Because in 61 years, I never said Kaddish."

Her voice breaking, Guttman said she was willing to be at the camp for the first time since 1944 because she felt it her duty to speak to young people who are now the same age as she was – 16 – when she was brought to Auschwitz.

The Canadians – many draped with large Israeli flags – walked six abreast in utter silence along Wyzwolenia Street and then on to Birkenau. Only minutes earlier, outside the train station, the young people had kibbitzed boisterously, snapping dozens of digital pictures of one another to remember the day by.

Passersby from the town looked on with apparent disinterest as marchers proceeded.

Once they reached Birkenau, one of the survivors, Irving Eisner of Toronto, who stood in the first row, blew the shofar defiantly.

Before the ceremony began a couple of hours later, the mass of participants milled about among the camp's ruins of broken-down barracks and eroded crematoria, the lush greenery they walked on seeming to belie the camp's infamy. Others ate boxed kosher lunches and snacks or swapped hats as colourful national flags fluttered in the breeze.

Sixteen-year-old Emily Chaplin of Toronto, whose late grandmother had been a survivor, said she broke down visiting the gas chambers the previous day.

"It was very weird being there," she said.

Justice Minister Irwin Cotler and Bloc Quebecois MP Richard Marceau were originally scheduled to attend, but could not because of obligations in Ottawa (at writing, Cotler was to meet later with the Canadian MOL delegation in Warsaw). Among the Canadian municipal politicians at the event were city of Vaughan mayor Michael Di Biase and Vaughan city councillor Alan Shefman.

At the ceremonies, speakers included Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka, former Israeli chief rabbi, Israel Lau, and Abraham Hirchson, president of March of the Living International.

Wiesel referred to Birkenau as "the largest cemetery in history."

"It is here that evil minds shamed creation," he said. But he held out hope for mankind despite continued fanaticism, racism and anti-Semitism that are "a disgrace to whatever human nobility is."

Rabbi Lau questioned why humanity continues to do so little for the oppressed and for the millions around the world who continue to die at the hands of evil or neglect.

Hirchson called on Jews and non-Jews to preserve the memory of the Holocaust together. He said besides thinking of the six million "numbers of which the human mind can not comprehend… think about a different number.

"One. One Saraleh, one Moishele, who were killed at such a young age that they never had a chance to share with the world, their potentials for greatness or even to have any chance at life."

Belka praised initiatives to revive Jewish life in Poland and preserve the memory of the Holocaust there. He referred to the Nazi death camps in his country as names that "freeze the blood in our veins."

He described his daughter taking friends from western Europe to Auschwitz-Birkenau. "I remember he grief and sadness with which she talked to me about being there," he said. "Grief, sadness and meditation are with us today, when we bow our heads over the tragedy of the Shoah."

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at any time during business hours)
Presentation of Audited Financial Statements
Election of Directors
Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting

Shoel Silver, President

Michael Howard quits as leader of UK Tories

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — The Jewish leader of Britain's main opposition party said last week he would step down after losing a bid to become prime minister.

Conservative legislator Michael Howard made the announcement Friday, a day after British general elections, even though his party cut significantly into the margin of victory for Prime Minister Tony Blair's ruling Labour Party, which won an historic third straight majority.

Howard, 63, who has headed the Conservatives for the past 18 months, said it was time to allow a younger leader to come forward.

"At the time of the next election, in four or five years' time, I'll be 67 or 68, and I believe that's simply too old to lead a party into government," he said.

"So as I can't fight the next election as leader of our party, I believe it's better for me to stand aside sooner rather than later so that the party can choose someone who can."

Meanwhile, a Jewish member of Parliament lost her seat to a maverick pro-Palestinian candidate.

Oona King lost the eastern London constituency of Bethnal Green and Bow, which has a large Muslim population, to former Labourite George Galloway.

Galloway, who ran as a candidate for his own anti-war Respect party, toppled King after attacking her support for the war in Iraq.

King, who is black and Jewish, had accused some Galloway supporters of anti-Semitism after an egg-throwing incident at a memorial to Jewish war dead during the campaign.

Israel Briefs

Bracing for withdrawal

Forty-four Israeli border towns are expected to be vulnerable to Palestinian attacks after this summer's Gaza Strip withdrawal. The Defence Ministry accorded the 44 towns and kibbutzim surrounding Gaza "confrontation-line" status, earmarking $48 million (US) for their protection. Security officials believe the communities will be in range of Palestinian rocket and mortar fire once Israeli forces leave Gaza. *Yediot Achronot* reported that Israeli defence firms were developing rocketproof roofs for residents. The communities also will receive armed patrols.

Israeli film hits Cannes

An Israeli film will be screened at the Cannes Film Festival this year. Amos Gitai's *Free Zone* is about Rebecca, an American who falls in love with an Israeli and gets caught up in a car deal that takes her to the West Bank and Jordan. The film created controversy when people criticized Natalie Portman for kissing a fellow actor during a scene shot at Jerusalem's Western Wall plaza. She apologized for the incident.

Palestinian protesters killed

Israeli troops killed two Palestinian rock-throwers during a protest against Israel's West Bank security barrier. Two army jeeps that entered Beit Lekia, a village slated for fence construction, came under attack by hundreds of locals May 4. Resorting to live fire after non-lethal riot control gear failed to restrain the mob, the troops killed two protesters, aged 14 and 15.

Report: Anti-Semitism rising

Anti-Semitic violence reached a 15-year high in 2004, an Israeli study found. The annual report of Tel Aviv University's Stephen Roth Institute, said a significant proportion of attacks on Jewish people and property in Europe and North America were perpetrated by marginalized Muslim immigrants, often in sympathy with the Palestinians. "Jews tend to be assaulted in countries where groups of young immigrants, mainly Muslims, but others too, are not well integrated and envy the perceived success of the Jews, such as in France, England and Canada," the report said. The study cited 501 violent anti-Semitic incidents in 2004, a six-fold increase since 1989, when the institute began its research. It praised the European Union for its crackdown on anti-Semitism and criticized Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Turkish leader defends visit

Turkey's prime minister defended his recent visit to Israel. Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Islamist party that he came to Israel and the Palestinian territories "as a requirement of historical, national, humanitarian and regional obligations." Critics have accused Erdogan of visiting Israel to curry favour with the United States. Turkish-U.S. relations soured in 2003 after Turkey refused to participate in the Iraq war.

With files from JTA

Germans herald V-E Day as liberation from Nazi tyranny

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BERLIN — Germany turned an important corner in its tortuous history last week as it marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and its transition from Nazi dictatorship to western democracy.

In speeches by politicians at the Reichstag, the German parliament, V-E Day, May 8, was heralded as a moment of liberation from the Nazi yoke of tyranny rather than as a defeat.

Police kept neo-Nazis far from the Reichstag and the adjoining Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe, which was scheduled to be opened on May 10.

Left-wing demonstrators, some carrying Israeli flags to show their solidarity with Jews and Israel, took to the streets to denounce the neo-Nazis, some of whom were members of the radical right National Democratic party, which won 12 seats in Saxony's recent election.

Germans who celebrated V-E Day also attended Days of Democracy, a 48-hour festival of rock concerts, exhibitions and candlelit vigils to extol Germany's embrace of freedom and democracy.

At the newly refurbished Reichstag, Horst Kohler, the president of Germany, declared that Germans look back at the 12-year Nazi period with "horror and shame" and will never forget the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust.

Paying heartfelt tribute to the Allies for liberating his country, he said Germans are grateful for having been given a chance to redeem themselves.

Kohler, who addressed the Knesset when he visited Israel in January, noted that Germany has established good relations and ties of friendship with the Jewish state. "Who would have thought that possible in 1945?"

In a reference to Germany's "campaign of war and destruction," Kohler said he and like-minded Germans abhor and despise the crimes that brought disgrace upon Germany. Having emerged from the "moral ruins" of National Socialism, Germany has found itself again as a nation, he observed.

"Today we have good reason to be proud of our country."

He expressed trust that future generations will not allow such terrible crimes to be committed in Germany ever again.

Wolfgang Thierse, president of the Reichstag, said that Germany commemorates all victims of fascism, from Jews to Sinti (Gypsies), and remarked that its remembrance of the Nazi past is part of its national identity. "It's embedded in our collective culture and memory."

Germany has the right to remember the German victims of World War II, such as the civilians who were killed in bombing raids, he added. But grief over their deaths cannot atone for German guilt.

In a rebuke to Germans who identify with the Nazi epoch, Thierse said that racists and "dull-witted nationalists" can never again "hijack our democracy."

The most important results of the war, he concluded, are Germany's democratic constitution and its membership in the European Union, which "we must defend forever."

Several hours before Kohler and Thierse delivered their speeches, hundreds of neo-Nazis, mainly in their 20s and 30s, congregated at Alexanderplatz in eastern Berlin to rail against the Allied liberation of Germany and to describe V-E Day as a day of infamy and defeat.

Police in green uniforms kept them apart from leftist demonstrators shouting "Nazis out" and confined them to a small fenced-in area close to a major subway line.

In interviews with *The CJN*, a handful of neo-Nazis voiced nostalgia for the Third Reich, denounced the German government and complained about the restrictions that forbid them to express their opinions and display Nazi symbols and insignia in public.

The majority of the neo-Nazis, some dressed like hard-bitten bikers, refused to speak to a reporter. "Piss off," said one man with a pockmarked face and a ponytail. "We're not talking to the captive press."

At a festive anti-Nazi parade on Oranienburgerstrasse, the site of an old Jewish neighbourhood and a gold-domed synagogue that has been converted into an educational centre and museum, thousands of protesters marched to the beat of American big band music.

A few of the demonstrators, including Marius Weiss, a 25-year-old student, carried Israeli flags. Asked to explain, he said, "Because I'm German. I carry a great responsibility. Israel is confronted by a wave of anti-Semitism disguised as anti-Semitism. Israel must be strong and able to defend itself."

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Fatah demands two new elections

By ARNON REGULAR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Fatah, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' party, is demanding that local Palestinian Authority elections be held again in Rafah and Beit Lahia in the Gaza Strip, which were won by Hamas.

Fatah officials accuse Hamas voters in those areas of voting several times by using identity cards of people who are deceased.

After the initial count last Thursday night both PA and Hamas leaders claimed victories.

Fatah said it won 55 per cent of the seats in the local councils. But although Fatah won more seats, these are in insignificant areas, while Hamas won in most of the larger towns in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Fatah candidates won decisive victories in 38 of the 82 municipal authorities where elections were held, for a total of about 230,000 people. Hamas won in 30 authorities whose population exceeds 600,000. Candidates not clearly identified with either organization and independent candidates won in 12 authorities, with some 70,000 residents. In fact Hamas now controls at least 48 local authorities in the territories.

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Minyan turns Jerusalem–TA train into a rolling shul

By ELI STUTZ
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — A dedicated group of observant Israeli Jews has been sanctifying its cross-country morning commute by organizing a daily Shacharit minyan on the newly completed train line from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem via Beit Shemesh.

For many religious Jews, Shacharit, the morning prayer service, is ideally recited in the company of a minyan, a quorum of 10 Jewish men.

But juggling prayer in a minyan and a long commute is no simple business.

Shlomo Hubscher travels daily from Efrat to Tel Aviv. The last leg of his journey is a train ride from Beit Shemesh to Tel Aviv, a 38-minute trip.

Recently, he and a group of 15 to 20 fellow commuters have been making the most of that time by using it to pray together.

The haphazard collection of daveners includes passengers from Gush Etzion, Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh.

"We meet every day on the upper level of the last car, since that's the car which is closest to Jerusalem," Hubscher says.

Shacharit in a normal synagogue includes reading from the Torah on Mondays and Thursday. This element is so far lacking from the "train minyan." But the group hopes to procure a Torah as its members are now lobbying the municipality of Beit Shemesh to supply their minyan with a Torah scroll.

Alternatively, now that the line has been connected to Jerusalem, Hubscher hopes the Jerusalem municipality might provide one.

"The Jerusalem central bus station has a synagogue and Torah scroll, so we think it's not too much to ask for the city to facilitate the religious needs of daily commuters as well," he says.

For Hubscher, the rather unorthodox Shacharit service has been a real *mechayeh*.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon enjoys the inaugural run of the recently extended Tel Aviv-Jerusalem train line. [Israel Sun photo]

"Praying on the train has changed my life," he says. "It's the most efficient way of spending my time. It's one less thing to do in a very busy morning, which includes a cross-country trip to work.

"It's also fun, and there's a certain camaraderie that's developed between the *chevrah* [social group]. In fact, recently one of us celebrated a siyum [a completion of a tractate of the Mishnah and/or Gemara], and he brought herring and *Yerushalmi* [Jerusalem style] kugel for everyone."

Hubscher says there are actually two separate minyans every day, one that starts at 6:55 a.m. and another that begins at 7:45 a.m. He alternates between the two, depending on when he leaves for work.

"There's enough room in the car for the minyan, and the other passengers have demonstrated remarkable understanding and co-operation. Every now and then a woman, standing in the back, will join us too."

There are ideas to expand to a third minyan at 8:45 a.m., as six or seven of the regulars often catch the train at that time.

Hubscher says there's also often a minyan for Minchah (the afternoon prayer service) on the way home.

While there's a halachic debate about the feasibility and desirability of praying while in transit, Hubscher insists there are sufficient rabbinical authorities who contend that it's permissible.

Part of the opposition to praying in motion stems from the likelihood that a travelling worshipper will not be able to focus properly.

Hubscher admits that's a bit of a challenge, but he says it's surmountable.

"As far as concentration is concerned, you get used to it after awhile. People generally hold on to something as they are praying."

The "train minyan" is searching for a name. Suggestions the members are mulling over include "*Beit Knesset Tfillat Haderech*" (the Wayfarers Prayer Synagogue), "Choo Choo Shul," "Shul on Wheels" and "*Mesilat Yesharim*" (the Right Track).

As for the future, now that the line has been connected to Jerusalem, Hubscher is debating what to do with the 25-minute stretch between Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh.

One idea he is toying with is to start *Pesukei Dezimrah* (the first section of the morning prayer) with the Jerusalemites and then move on to *Barchu* (which starts the main section of the morning prayer) once the group from Beit Shemesh boards, allowing for a more leisurely paced service.

But he's confident that, with a second line under construction between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem via Ben-Gurion Airport and Modi'in, the future of rolling minyans is right on track.

To find out more about the "train minyan," contact Hubscher at +972-52-6006804 or shubscher@deloitte.co.il.

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Pentagon staffer arrested for passing info to Israel lobby

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon aide was arrested on suspicion of passing classified information to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Larry Franklin turned himself in to the FBI last Wednesday, the U.S. Attorney's Office told JTA, and will answer charges that he passed information to two senior staffers from the lobby group during a June 2003 lunch in Virginia.

The staffers – AIPAC's policy director, Steve Rosen, and Iran specialist Keith Weissman – were fired last month. AIPAC declined immediate comment on Franklin's arrest. According to the federal complaint, the information Franklin allegedly passed was classified top-secret and related to potential attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq.

The complaint goes on to say Franklin told the AIPAC staffers, who aren't named in the complaint, that the information was "highly classified" and asked them not to use it.

The criminal charge sheet was the first official accounting of a case that first made headlines last August, when FBI agents raided AIPAC's Washington headquarters and confiscated files belonging to Rosen and Weissman.

While the June 2003 lunch appears to be the linchpin of the criminal charges, there are other allegations, including that Franklin leaked classified information to journalists and to an unidentified "foreign official," and that he kept 30 years' worth of classified information on his computer at home.

Reports have suggested that Franklin also met with an Israeli Embassy official. The reference to a "foreign official" might point in that direction.

But the FBI has not contacted the Israeli Embassy, representatives say, and Israeli officials continue to maintain they would never take part in illicit information gathering in the United States.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

יום השואה און יום העצמאות

פון אַלעק סילווער

צוויי נייע דאָטעס, צוויי נייע געדענק־טעג זיינען צוגעגעבן געוואָרן צום ייִדישן קאַלענדאַר במשך די לעצטע 60 יאָר. דאָס זיינען כ"ז ניסן — יום השואה והגבורה, און ה' אייר — יום העצמאות. זיי זיינען ביידע אָפּגערוקט בלויז מיט אַכט טעג.

די ערשטע דאָטע פון כ"ז ניסן דערמאָנט די מלחמה יאָרן, נעמלעך, די נעלע לאָטע, קאָנצענטראַציע־לאַגערן, קרעמאַטאָריעס — דער גרעסטער חורבן אין דער ייִדי־שער געשיכטע. עס דערמאָנט אויך דעם אומקום פון אַ דריטל פון ייִדישן פאָלק אוֹן דאָס וווייטיקלעכע שטיל־שווייגן פון דער אַזוי־גערופענער ליבעראַלער וועלט.

די צווייטע דאָטע דערמאָנט די פּראָקלאָמירונג, נאָך 2,000 יאָר, פון דער אויפגעלעבטער ייִדישער מדינה אין דעם לאַנד פון אונדזערע אָבות. עס דערמאָנט די העלדישע קעמפערס פון הגנה, חרות, לח"י און סתם על־פּי־נס גערעטעוועטע ייִדן פון דער שארית־הפּליטה. עס דערמאָנט דעם שטאָלצן מאָמענט, וועלן עס איז אריינגעצויגן געוואָרן די וויים־בלויע ישׂראל פאָן מיטן מגן־דוד אויפן בנין פון די פאַראייניקטע פעלקער.

די ערשטע דאָטע האָט די כוונה ישׂראל באַשטימט פאַר יום השואה, כדי ייִדן איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט זאָלן זיך מתייחד זיין מיט דעם הייליקן אָנדענק פון די אומגעקומענע זעקס מיליאָן ייִדישע קדושים, וואָס זיינען מיט סאַדיסטישע מיתות משונות דערמאָרדעט און פאַרגאַזט געוואָרן פון די אויף אייביק פאַרשאָלטענע נאַצישע מערדערס.

די צוויי־טע דאָטע איז באַשטימט געוואָרן פון גורל, וועלכער האָט אין טאָג פון ה' אייר ווידער עטאַבלירט די אַלט־נייַע מדינת ישׂראל נאָך אַן איבערראַשע פון אַרום 2,000 יאָר. די דאָזיקע דאָטע האָט צוריקגענעבן דעם ייִדישן פאָלק זיין גלאָרייכן רום און נעגעבן די קינדער פון אברהם, יצחק און יעקב אַ נייעם פּריידיק יום־טוב פון געזאַנג, טענץ און פּריידע.

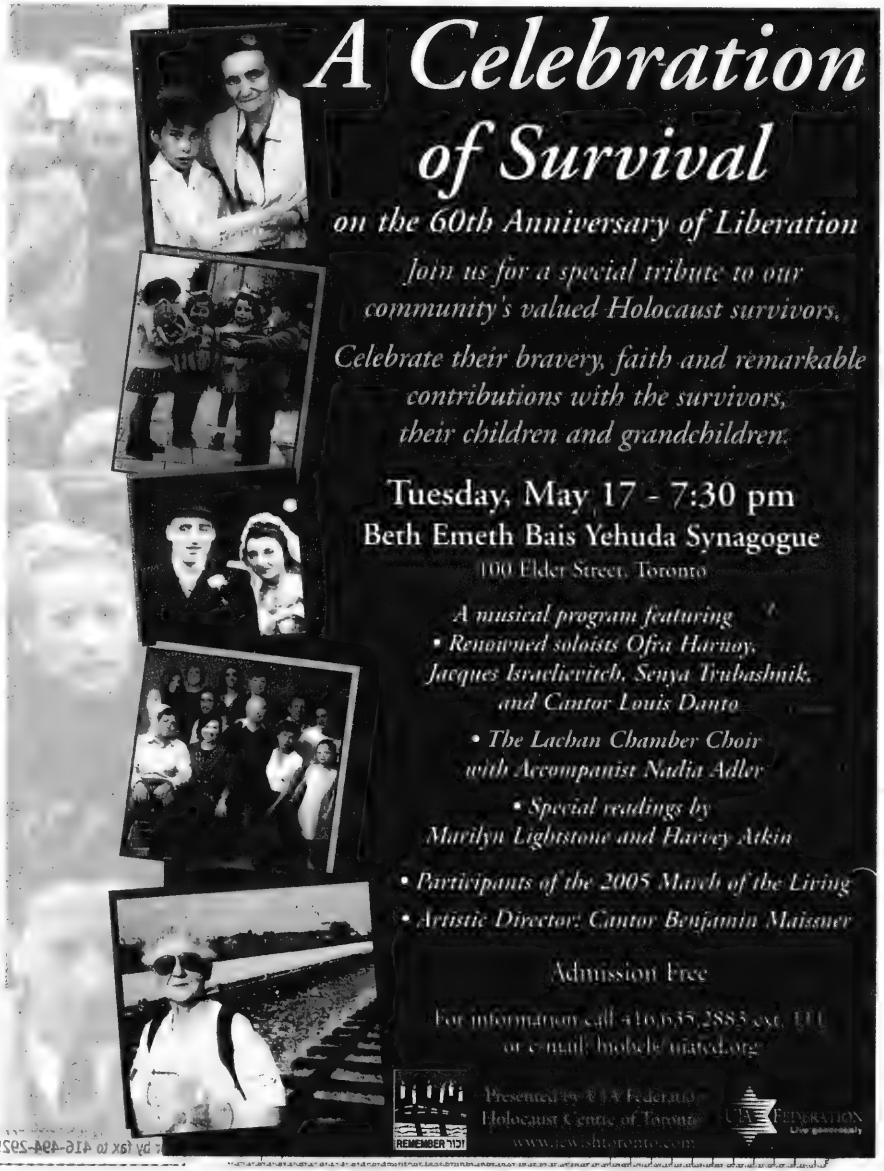
יום השואה דערמאָנט אונדז אין די גרויליקע פאַר־ניכטונגס לאָגערן אין אוישוויץ, מאַידאַנעק, בערגען־בעלזען און דאָס ריזיקע אייראָפּעישע שלאַכטהויז, וווּ די דייטשע מערדערס מיט זייערע העלפערס האָבן אויסגעשאָלטן אונדזערע ברידער און שוועסטער.

יום העצמאות דערמאָנט אונדז אין דעם „היום הזה נהיית לעם" — אין דעם טאָג ביסטו צוריק געוואָרן אַ פאָלק צווישן אַלע פעלקער, געשאָפן דיין אייגענע מלוכה און אַראָפּגעוואָרפן דעם יאָך פון פרעמדע הערשער.

יום השואה און יום העצמאות זיינען אין תוך איינס. מדינת ישׂראל איז די נחלה פון אונדזערע זעקס מיליאָן קדושים. מיט זייער גייסט איז מדינת ישׂראל אויפגעבויט געוואָרן. זייער קידוש השם האָט דערמוטיקט און גע־שטאַרקט אונדזערע העלדישע זין און טעכטער זיך מוסר נפש זיין אין דער מלחמת השחרור. זייער רוח קדושה איז אין די הערצער פון אונדזערע העלדישע ייִדישע קעמפערס פאַרוואַנדלט געוואָרן אין אַ רוח גבורה. די געבליבענע ביים לעבן פון די אש קרעמאַטאָריעס, די שארית הפּליטה בציון, האָבן מיט זייער קרבנותפולער גרייטקייט געהאָלפן אויפשטעלן מלכות ישׂראל.

יום העצמאות — דער יום־טוב פון אַף על־פּי־כן און למרות־הכל — סימבאָליזירט דעם אייגן־שטאַרקן זעלבס־צוטרוי, בטחון און פעסטע אַנטשלאָסנקייט פון די ישׂראל־בירגער. עס איז דער בעסטער אויסדרוק פון זייער קאַמף פאַר גערעכטיקייט, פאַר פרייהייט צו לעבן ווי אַ פאָלק אין זייַן אייגענעם לאַנד אין מנוחה און שלום; צו פאַרזיכערן זייער נאַציאָנאַלע, פאָליטישע און עקאָנאָמישע זעלבשטענדיקייט.

יום השואה און יום העצמאות — טרויער און פרייד, געווייַן און געלעכטער. זייערע כאַראַקטערן זיינען היפּוכדיקע אָבער אין תוך האָבן זיי עפּעס געמיינזאַמעס — זיי פאַראייניקן חורבן און גאולה.



Jewish Americans created the U.S. comic book industry

Men of Tomorrow by Gerard Jones, HarperCollins.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The comic book, featuring action heroes from Superman and Batman to Jimmy Olsen and Captain America, is a uniquely American art form.

Transcending class, religion and ethnicity, comics hold millions of adolescents and adults in thrall to a parallel reality drenched in fantasy where good always triumphs over evil.

Gerard Jones

The writers, illustrators and publishers who created and nurtured this immensely profitable and influential industry in the United States were largely Jews from immigrant and working-class backgrounds whose cast of steely characters still capture the imagination of North American readers.

In *Men of Tomorrow*, Gerard Jones, an insider in the business, offers a rigorous and entertaining examination of comic book history, culture and lore.

Comics, as he explains, were basically an extension of the world of pulp magazines and adventure movies and spoke to the anxieties of modern life.

What had been "a small corner of the junk culture industry" in the late 1930s had morphed into "the greatest single unifying element of American childhood" by the early 1940s.

Readers lapped up *Superman* and *Captain Marvel* and a plethora of new titles such as *Flash*, *Hit*, *Crack* and *Zip*. But, as Jones notes, comics aroused the contempt of many Americans as a byword for "cultural stupidity" and even depravity.

Still, comics thrived, and the war years were the wonder years of the industry. *Superman* sold more than two million copies an issue, while *Captain Marvel* was close behind.

He estimates that, by 1942, more than one-third of the printed matter mailed to U.S. military bases consisted of comic books.

Toward the close of the 1940s, some 40 publishers, based in Manhattan, were churning out 300 titles generating sales of 50 million comics a month.

According to one study, more than half the readers were 20 or older, reading an average of 11 comics per month.

Tastes changed as a new genre of humour, western, romance, crime and horror comics more or less supplanted the superhero comic.

Under the impact of television and paperbacks, the business slumped in the mid-1950s, but eventually bounced back.

Jones devotes chapter and verse to the now-legendary figures whose genius transformed comics – notably Harry Donenfeld, Jerry Siegel, Joe Shuster and Jake Kurtzberg (otherwise known as Jack Kirby).

The son of Romanian immigrants, Donenfeld was an ambitious, driven individual who drifted into the industry after his clothing store went bankrupt. Suddenly under pressure to make a living, he took a job as a salesman in his brother's printing company.

A talented hustler, he landed a lucrative contract to print six million subscription inserts for mass-circulation Hearst magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* and *Good Housekeeping*.

For the restless Donenfeld, this was not enough. In laser-like fashion, he turned his energy to a line of sex pulps – "smooshes" in the parlance of the genre – whose suggestive titles ran the gamut from *Joy Stories* to *Gay Parisienne*.

But Donenfeld's greatest claim to fame was as publisher of *Superman*, the stupendously successful comic created by Siegel and Shuster, who were friends.

As Jones relates, Siegel was an indifferent student and tended to be shy. However, he was a fervent aficionado of comic strips and an aspiring comic book artist. Shuster, born in Toronto, was a quiet, gentle boy who had similar interests and aspirations.

They collaborated on comic strips about crime fighters and interplanetary adventurers. Newspaper syndicates rejected their work, but they soldiered on, until their breakthrough with *Superman*.

Though hardly a new idea as a concept, *Superman* was an instant sensation when it made its debut in 1938. Being unschooled in these matters, Siegel and Shuster signed a release surrendering all rights to the publisher, Action Comics. They would deeply regret their act of folly and, in the ensuing decades, attempt to redress it through lawsuits.

Superman spawned a series of animated cartoons and licensing agreements for toys, costumes, puzzles, watches and cereal, all masterminded by Donenfeld and his similarly astute partner, Jack Liebowitz.

Adolf Hitler denounced Superman as a Jew and banned sales of the comic in Germany. In Italy, Benito Mussolini followed suit.

These idiotic edicts had no real effect on the solvency of the U.S. franchise. But by the mid-1940s, *Superman* sales had, for other reasons, dipped temporarily by 20 per cent.

Victor Fox – a British Jew who arrived in the United States at the end of World War I and whom Jones describes as a disreputable character – was instrumental in the creation of Wonder Man. He was a golden-haired muscleman in red tights who had a yellow "W" emblazoned on his chest.

Bill Finger dreamed up Batman, but the illustrator Bob Kane breathed life into him. For dramatic effect, Kane drew his hero in silhouette and placed him against a full moon.

Kirby, whose father had emigrated from Austria, had little formal training as a draftsman. But his piece de resistance – Captain America smashing through legions of jackbooted fascists and belting Hitler in the jaw – was a great hit. Within two issues, *Captain America* was selling a million copies a month, and Kirby was an overnight icon.

Yet comics did not appeal to all Americans, as Jones points out.

In 1948, long after Captain America had vanquished the bad guys, a psychiatrist named Fredric Wertham, who had studied the factors that lead children to violence, accused comic books of being a pernicious influence on youth. He levelled his accusation in an interview in the mass-circulation magazine *Collier's*.

The public response stunned the powers-that-be in the comic book industry and prompted the media to address the issue.

Newspapers warned of the dangers of comics, while *Newsweek* pointedly asked, "Are comic books a national hazard?" *Time* magazine, meanwhile, quoted Detroit's police commissioner as claiming that comics were "loaded with communist teachings, sex and racial discrimination."

Still worse was yet to come. Churches organized boycotts of retailers who carried comics and citizens' groups demanded action from police and lawmakers.

Scrambling to avert financial ruin, comic book publishers fired off press releases boasting of their in-house codes of decency and formed the Association of Comic Magazine Publishers, modelled on the Motion Picture Production Association.

These ploys worked, and the industry never looked back.

More than 65 years after Superman's initial appearance, comic book heroes from Batman to Wonder Woman are still around, flying though movie theatres, television screens, video games and toy stores.

"They may be more popular and culturally relevant now than when they were new," observes Jones in this trenchant book that celebrates "this oddest of American art forms."

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Arts & Travel

A peak into Israel's Zionist community

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival ends on May 15. Here are previews of four of the final movies.

* * *

Joseph Cedar's sensitive and compelling *Campfire* is one of those rare Israeli movies that offers a peek into the religious Zionist community in Israel.

Mainly set in Jerusalem, a year before Israel's 1982 withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula, it's about a youngish widow trying to find meaning in life and keeping her two coltish daughters under parental control.

Rachel Gerlick (Michaela Echet), an observant woman whose husband recently succumbed to cancer, has decided to live on a settlement in the West Bank. She believes a new environment will help her and her teenaged daughters, Esti and Tami, adjust to the new situation.

Moshe Ivgy and Michaela Echet.

Esti (Maya Maron), a rebellious girl who blames Rachel for her father's death, is less than enthusiastic about leaving the comfort of her familiar surroundings in Jerusalem.

Tami (Hani Furstenberg), her vivacious younger sister who's discovering her budding femininity and yearns for a boyfriend, is willing to support her mother.

Rachel believes in "the cause," and as she tells a committee studying her application, she has long dreamed of living on a settlement. The committee members take her sincerity and dedication at face value. But what they are really looking for are couples, not single women.

In an attempt to help her, Motke (Assi Dayan), the chair of the committee, encourages his gossipy wife to find a suitable mate for Rachel. The first candidate, Yossi, is a kind, simple bus driver and confirmed bachelor.

Not impressed with Yossi (Moshe Ivgy), Rachel agrees to date a self-absorbed, globe-trotting cantor. But he, too, falls short of her expectations.

Eventually, Rachel, who has never been in love before, learns to appreciate Yossi's qualities. In the meantime, Tami is sexually abused. The incident forces Rachel to re-examine her goals.

Campfire, which elicits excellent performances from its cast, is the work of a young and accomplished filmmaker with a bright future.

* * *

Back at the festival by popular demand, *Gloomy Sunday* is a moody 1999 German film directed by Rolf Schubel.

A wealthy German businessman, his elegant wife and entourage are in Budapest to celebrate his 80th birthday at Szabo, a famous Hungarian restaurant. The man was posted to Nazi-occupied Hungary in 1944 and 1945 as an SS officer.

As he gazes upon the photograph of a beautiful, dark-haired woman, he stands up, clutches his chest and drops dead.

The film flashes back to Budapest in 1941. Ilona, a sultry waitress, is the object of desire of three attractive men: Szabo, the charming Jewish owner of the restaurant; Aradi, the talented house pianist; and Wieck, a pragmatic German entrepreneur.

As their respective romantic liaisons and yearnings play out or fizzle, Aradi composes a sweet, melancholy tune. An international hit, it bizarrely prompts some of its fans to commit suicide.

Gloomy Sunday fast forwards to 1944. Wieck, all decked out in a fancy uniform, appears in Budapest. He and his superior, an officer modelled on Adolf Eichmann, dine at Szabo's restaurant. Wieck is friendly, but his colleague is deeply anti-Semitic.

Ilona, having met Wieck again, warns Szabo that the Nazis intend to murder the Jews of Hungary. Szabo receives a document from Wieck excluding him from deportations. But who knows what the future holds?

It turns out that Wieck, while not necessarily anti-Jewish, is a supremely calculating and cynical operator who believes he can benefit financially from the climate of rampant anti-Semitism.

Schubel's film, with its strong intimations of the Holocaust, fleshes out a dark period to the accompaniment of an alluring piece of music.

* * *

King of the Corner, an American film based on the book *Bad Jews and Other Stories* by Gerald Shapiro, is a low-key comedy directed by and starring the character actor Peter Riegert.

Riegert portrays Leo Spivak, a harried middle manager at a New York advertising company who is coping with an ailing but demanding father in an Arizona nursing home.

Sol (Eli Wallach), the father, is tired of life and asks his son to make his funeral arrangements. Sol, though, is still on the ball. He warns Leo that a young, ambitious employee he is supervising back in Manhattan covets his job.

The film can be amusing. A scene in which Leo and the mercenary funeral director negotiate a contract is, if you can excuse the pun, dead on.

The plot thickens when Leo's wife (Isabella Rossellini, in a limp performance) berates him for not being strict enough with their daughter.

Then, in a wasted vignette that really adds little or nothing to the proceedings, Leo has a fling with an old high school flame (Beverly D'Angelo) during a business trip down south.

Eric Bogosian shines as a freelance rabbi hired to officiate at Sol's funeral, as does Riegert when he delivers a spontaneous eulogy.

King of the Corner is hardly a first-rate film, but it has its moments.

* * *

Atash, an Israeli Arab film directed by Tawfik Abu Wael, is bleak in the extreme.

An Arab man of few words and his family live in a backwater on confiscated land somewhere in Israel. They are charcoal makers, and Abu Wael conveys their hard-scrabble life with a minimum of strokes.

His wife wants to leave. His son, against his wishes, hopes to continue his studies. His daughters are sullen, maybe because the man has had an incestuous relationship with one of them.

This is doubtless a dysfunctional family.

The first-time actors in this searing film, which is frankly hard to watch, acquit themselves quite well.

Atash, which means "thirst" in Arabic, is a most unusual movie.

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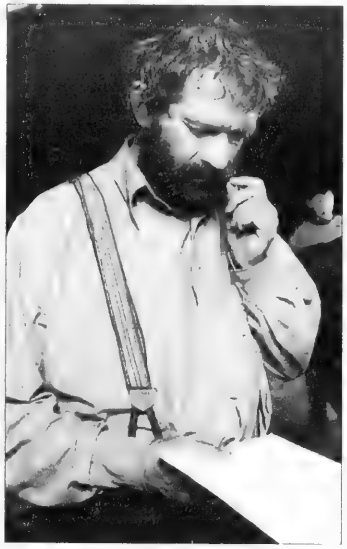
Russian triptych closes film festival

Bill Gladstone reviews two movies showing at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which runs until May 15. For information, call 416-324-9121, e-mail boxoffice@tjff.ca or visit the website at www.tjff.com.

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN



Director/ actor Vladimir Mashkov

Papa

Papa, the emotion-laden film that closes this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival, has been noted as the first major Russian film with a shtetl Jew for a hero. Its director is Vladimir Mashkov, one of Russia's leading actors, who also plays the title role as Abraham Schwartz, a struggling merchant in the Ukrainian village of Tulchin.

Adapted from a stage play by Aleksandr Galich, the film has only three time settings – Tulchin in 1929, Moscow in 1939 and northern Russia during wartime – as opposed to Galich's four; Mashkov omitted a final episode that he believed appeared in the original as a result of Stalinist pressure. The result is a simplified cinematic triptych that, although well made, carries none of the complexity we have come to expect from Russian storytellers such as Dostoevsky, Chekhov and Pasternak. It's a short story, not a novel.

Similarly, Schwartz is nothing like the Jews in the shtetl fiction of Sholem Aleichem and I.L. Peretz, though his depravity seems a little reminiscent of I.B. Singer. Schwartz drinks, collects postcards of faraway places and dabbles in illicit business deals; he also beats his young son, David, a gifted violinist whose eye is on the train that leads out of town.

Ten years later, in the movie's middle section, David has risen to his promise as a violinist and is being feted as a musical prodigy in Moscow, having left the shtetl far behind him. Then his crude, dishevelled Papa barges in, embarrassing him in front of his friends and party superiors. Withstanding his son's angry curses, the old man blesses him, leaves him a pile of money and departs.

The third section opens on a Russian hospital train five years later. David, injured in battle, is about to have his arm amputated. Then his father's ghost pays him a visit, recounting how the Nazis deported all the Jews of Tulchin to their deaths; the tragedy is retold in ghetto flashbacks that seem hauntingly surreal. As the son begs forgiveness from his paternal phantom, the soundtrack rises to a sentimental violin crescendo, suggesting, as closing credits flash, that David's magical arm might be spared.

Like many 19th-century European tales that featured romanticized vignettes of ghetto Jews, this darkly imagined allegory of shtetl life and its dissolution seems to adhere to some externalized vision of who the Jews might have been: it makes no reference to Torah or synagogue.

While there's much of genuine interest in this well-crafted film, its cardboard idea of a Jew is its weakest element. Speakers of Russian may find the Muscovite accents in the shtetl also somewhat incredible. Still, *Papa*'s cinematic imagery is intriguing and its conclusion packs an emotionally jarring punch. Bloor Cinema, May 15, 9:30 p.m.

* * *

Another Side of Peace

Making its Canadian premiere at the festival, *Another Side of Peace* is an hour-long Israeli documentary that focuses on the Parents Circle, a joint Israeli and Palestinian support group for bereaved families who have lost children in the conflict.

Although the organization would like to grow smaller, there's no shortage of traumatically victimized families from both Israeli and Palestinian societies who view their participation in the group as a way of living their belief that it's time to end the bitter enmity and coexist peacefully as neighbours.

Roni Hershenzon, a 60-year-old Israeli, lost one son to a homicide bomber and a second son to depression and suicide after the latter's best friend was also taken by a homicide bomber. He says his life is about getting out of bed and surviving each day, yet he's driven to help others cope with an anguish parallel to his own, in part because he realizes that his daughters and grandchildren still need and rely on him.

Hershenzon's Palestinian counterpart, Ghazi Brigrieth, seems equally motivated to share his grief with other bereaved parents in Israel and the West Bank, hoping the bridges built between the two societies will help to lessen the violence between them.

Fortunately, director Ellen Frick does not let her ideological bent intrude too deeply into the film, saving it from becoming just another preachy documentary. Instead, she plays off our natural compassion and sympathy for these bravely bereaved beings, whose response to personal calamity may inspire as much admiration from others as it does comfort for themselves. Bloor Cinema, May 15, 5 p.m.

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Epic about the Crusades riveting but not first class

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ridley Scott's epic, *Kingdom of Heaven*, which opened in theatres in Toronto on May 6, turns on an awesome, historic clash of civilizations.

This period piece, which resounds to the echoes of his previous film, *Gladiator*, is set between the second and third Crusades in the 12th century.

It is infused with political overtones and with the sound and fury of battle as Christian and Muslim armies fight ferociously for the heart and soul of Jerusalem.

In essence, *Kingdom of Heaven* is about the hatred that stirs some believers and about the consistent absence of peace in the Holy Land, from the Crusades to the present day.

The $110 million (US) picture, shot in Spain and Morocco (a stand-in for Palestine), adopts an even-handed approach to the bitter medieval conflict, which pitted the forces of Christendom against Islam.

Balian, the central character in this rousing movie, observes in a rare reflective moment that no one has a carved-in-concrete claim to Jerusalem, where a better world – a veritable kingdom of heaven on earth – can be fashioned.

Jews are mentioned only in passing in *Kingdom of Heaven*, which unfolds almost a century after Christian crusaders slaughtered Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem.

Balian (Orlando Bloom), the solemn blacksmith-turned-knight, is deep in mourning when he is first glimpsed in France in 1184. Still heartbroken by his wife's suicide and the loss of his child, Balian compounds his problems by killing a sneering priest.

Bloom comports himself with conviction and gravitas, as do the rest of the cast.

Balian's father, Godfrey of Ibelin (Liam Neeson), a wise nobleman who has been a Crusader, advises him to go to Jerusalem. There, in the city of forgiveness, he can erase his sins and begin anew.

As Balian proceeds to Jerusalem, he discovers that his fellow pilgrims are animated by dark impulses. In a reference to Muslims, a pilgrim declares that if he kills an infidel, he will be catapulted to the path to heaven.

Far from being ethnocentric and bloodthirsty, Godfrey supports the idea of amity between Christians and Jews. This can be interpreted as a plea for tolerance in a world riven by religious triumphalism.

Like *Gladiator*, whose sheer arresting drama it usually cannot match, *Kingdom of Heaven* is awash in violence. The thunder of horses, the clanging of swords and the splatter of blood and gore fill the screen. And it is riveting stuff.

Balian's voyage to Palestine, which is fraught with uncertainty and danger, is dispensed with in an all too brief scene during which his flimsy ship capsizes in stormy waters. His trip across desert sands to Palestine is punctuated by a deadly duel with an overconfident Arab warrior.

Jerusalem is portrayed as a city of minarets and churches, thick crowds, teeming outdoor markets and braying donkeys.

Much of the dramatic tension in the film is provided by warring Christians in the Kingdom of Jerusalem, one of the Crusader principalities in Palestine.

Christian extremists want to break the uneasy truce with Saladin, the Arab general who exudes caution and wisdom. Christian moderates, such as the leprosy-ravaged king and his adviser, Tiberias (Jeremy Irons), hope to preserve the tenuous ceasefire.

When the king dies and his sister, Sibylla (Eva Green), marries one of the Christian radicals, after having had a love affair with Balian, the die is cast for a renewal of warfare. "Give me a war," bellows her short-sighted husband, Guy de Lusignan (Marton Csokas).

Scott depicts these immoderate Christians as aggressors. He also impugns the basic motivations of the Crusaders. As Tiberias puts it, "We weren't fighting for god, but for land and wealth."

Saladin's siege of Jerusalem, filled with fire and dust and death, is spectacular. Yet *Kingdom of Heaven*, lacking depth and overdosed on testosterone, falls short of being a first-class epic.

Still, it may enthrall many viewers.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

ASSOCIATED PRODUCERS OF TORONTO HONOURED FOR *IMPACT OF TERROR*

The Toronto-based film production company Associated Producers has won an award for Best International Reporting in the Broadcast Media Showing a Concern for the Human Condition, for its feature documentary, *Impact of Terror*.

Simcha Jacobovici, the producer-president of Associated Producers, accepted the Carl Spielvogel Award from the Overseas Press Club of America at a black-tie ceremony in New York in late April. The film, an anatomy of a suicide bombing at the Sbarro Pizzeria in Jerusalem in 2001, premiered on CBC in 2004 and was broadcast internationally on CNN.

* * *

Festival Tribute to David A. Stein: The 13th Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which concludes this weekend, has been dedicated to the memory of the late filmmaker, **David A. Stein**, and offers two separate presentations of his films.

A retrospective of selected works by Stein previously shown at the festival is at the Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre, Thursday, May 12, 8:15 p.m. A premiere screening of Stein's final film, the documentary *Jonathan Pollard: American Fall Guy*, takes place at the Bloor Cinema, Sunday, May 15, 3 p.m. Both events are free but tickets are required. Details at www.tjff.ca

* * *

Names in the News

• Storyteller **Peninnah Schram** from New York's Yeshiva University performs various storytelling concerts and workshops, including a cabaret with **Dan Yashinsky**, director of the Storytellers School of Toronto, and Hamilton storyteller **Charley Chiarelli**. Temple Anshe Sholom, Hamilton, May 13 to 15.

• Toronto writer **Simcha Simchovitch** recently completed two new literary projects. *A Woman of Valour* is a 129-page Holocaust memoir of his aunt, while *Likht Fun Khesed* (*Light of Mercy*) is a second volume of his own collected Yiddish poems. The Otwock, Poland-born octogenarian is the former librarian and curator of the Beth Tzedec Museum in Toronto.

• Californian **Lawrence Rubinoff**, a former Torontonian with numerous relatives still here, is the author of *Faces in the Firelight*. The novel was published recently by FWP Enterprises of Fiddletown, Calif.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **Sable & Batalion's** Hip-Hop 4 Dummeez offers "hip-hop in five easy lessons." $15-$12. Tarragon Theatre Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Ave. (Bathurst-Dupont). Previews May 10, runs May 11 to 22. 416-531-1827.

• **Michael Bodemann** reads from his book, *A Jewish Family in Germany – An Intimate Portrait*. Israel's Judaica, 870 Eglinton Ave. W. (west of Bathurst). Free admission. Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. 416-256 2858.

• Save Darfur, a benefit for the beleaguered Sudanese region and people, features performances by **Belladonna**, **James Bryant**, **Flipside Collective**, **Peter Katz** and **The Sweet Thing**. $10 ($8 with a ribbon) at the door. Revival, 783 College St. Monday, May 16, 9 p.m.

• Stage Centre Productions concludes its 28th season with *The Lark*, a "visually stunning" production about **Joan of Arc**, featuring 25 cast members in some 50 elaborate costumes. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr. $25-$15. May 19 to June 4. 416-299-5557 or www.stagecentreproductionscom.

* * *

Sam Cohen, one of the subjects in Yuri Dojc's "Portraits of Bravery."

At the Galleries

• "Portraits of Bravery: Canadian Jewish War Veterans" is an exhibition of 29 photos by **Yuri Dojc**. The 28 male and one female veterans in the show range in age from centenarian **Sam Cohen**, who served in the Toronto Scottish Regiment, to 78-year-old **Art Robins**, who lied about his age so he could join the army at 16. Subjects include former federal minister of defence **Barnett Danson**, developer and philanthropist **Al Green**, former Thunder Bay mayor **Saul Laskin**, and Toronto **Rabbi David Monson**. On view at the Miles Nadal JCC till May 26. Opening reception, Wednesday, May 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

• "Instruments of Faith – Toronto's First Synagogues" is a photographic exhibit focusing on six downtown synagogues, all still active. Eric Arthur Gallery, Faculty of Architecture, University of Toronto, 230 College St. Until May 21. 416-978-7415.

• "Retro-Spective," a solo show of works by **Katherine Dolgy Ludwig**, is at the Toronto Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm St., until June 3. Public opening, May 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All other viewings by appointment. 416-782-1404.

• "Meant Two Be," an exhibition of partner pieces designed and created to be together, is on view at the Petroff Gallery, 1016 Eglinton Ave. W., until May 29.

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Pint-sized fundraiser is a tzedakah veteran

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Young Amanda Belzowski has a very impressive record as a fundraiser. To date the seven-year-old has raised $15,000 for the Becel Heart and Stroke Ride for Heart.

Every year the Grade 2 student at United Synagogue Day School sells lemonade on behalf on the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Last year she raised $6,300.

Amanda Belzowski is seen preparing for her lemonade stand on May 15.

The little lemonade stand she set up on her bubbie and zaidie's lawn in 1999 is now an annual event that has grown in scope to include an auction, button making, pony rides, jumping castle. and live entertainment. Dan the Music Man will perform at noon and balloon artist Kenton Kruger will also be on hand for the festivities.

This Sunday, on May 15, Amanda will be running her lemonade stand from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the front lawn of her grandparents Lou and Betsy Fruitman's home at 10 Brian Cliff Dr., in the Lawrence Avenue and Leslie Street area, just across from Edwards Gardens. There are tax receipts for donations of $15 or more.

"We have signs with lots of balloons," says Amanda's mom, Lisa Belzowski. "People say you can see the balloons from far and wide. Just turn west on Lawrence at Leslie and drive three blocks. You can't miss it."

Amanda ran her first lemonade stand with her parents, Lisa and Dan Belzowski, when she was just 1½ years old.

"We were driving by a lemonade stand and then my dad asked me if I would like to sell lemonade, too. I said, 'Yes.' We just finished the bicycle ride for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and we thought it would be a good idea to raise money for them."

Amanda says she enjoys raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation because it's such a worthy cause, and she notes that there are people in her family with heart conditions who may potentially benefit from her efforts. "My bubbie and my great-grandfather have artificial valves in their hearts. They think what I'm doing is great."

The event is also very enjoyable, she adds. "It's fun to see my friends and some of my teachers also come. I like the riding ponies."

Amanda has garnered a lot of media attention over the years. Aside form *The Canadian Jewish News*, her story has been covered in the *Toronto Sun* and the *Toronto Star*, and she has been featured on CFRB, Global Television, CFTO and City TV.

She has also been getting support from U.S. business mogul Donald Trump. Last year she invited him to attend the event, she says. "He wrote a letter saying he couldn't come because he was filming *The Apprentice*. He told me to 'Keep up the great work.'"

In this year's letter, she says, Trump thanked her. He said he expected her to continue and that he was very proud of her.

She's also received letters from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and former premier Mike Harris.

Her fundraising efforts in 2004 were aided by Shirley and Barry Jones of PPL Legal Care in Trenton, Ont. She says Barry Jones called to say he would match whatever money she raised. The lemonade stand and all the related events brought in $3,300.

She later ended up with Barry Jones on the Becel Heart and Stroke Ride for Heart podium after the community bicycle ride last June to present a large cardboard cheque for the money she raised.

"It was really fun," Amanda recounts. "I held up this really big, big cheque for $6,300."

Amanda's mother Lisa says there is an important value to be learned from this fundraiser: that you can give back to the community in different ways.

"Amanda says, 'You're never too little. You can have lots of fun and help other people at the same time.'"

Corporate sponsors of the event include World Star Entertainment, Party Warehouse Outlet, Lionel's Pony Rides, Fedex Kinko's, Dominion (which provides the lemonade and food) and Aquareal (which lends water cooler dispensers for the lemonade), Simonwong.com, the designer of Amanda's website and Black's Photography.

For more information, visit www.amandas lemonade4heart.org.

Charity fashion show to benefit ICRF

The Next Generation division of the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) is presenting a fashion show.

C3: Come Cure Cancer, which showcases Toronto's young Jewish community modelling and dancing, takes place on May 16 at 7:30 p.m at the Moonlight Ballroom in Toronto.

The event is organized by a group of Montreal-born 20-somethings who live in Toronto. They hope to raise awareness as well as funds for ICRF.

This is the first year that the Next Generation division will hold what will become an annual ICRF charity fashion show in Toronto. Previously, it was held in Montreal. Last year's show raised about $30,000 for the cause.

"There are very few opportunities for young people in Toronto to get involved in their community. There are even fewer opportunities for them to contribute to specific, serious causes such as cancer research," said Jen Weisz, C3 executive committee member.

"Young people may not have the capacity to make big financial contributions to important causes, but they do have the talent, the energy and the will to produce a show that will generate funds and awareness for ICRF."

The Israel Cancer Research Fund supports innovative cancer research conducted by Israeli scientists.

For more information about the fashion show, contact Janna Zittrer, 416-977-8225, or ICRF executive director Joy Wagner, 416-487-5246.

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Jewish Food: The World at Table

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

I've got a bone to pick with Matthew Goodman, the Food Maven columnist at the *Forward*, the renowned 105-year-old Jewish newspaper. His new cookbook, *Jewish Food: The World at Table*, contains so many fascinating essays on the history of nearly extinct Jewish communities and their cuisines that I spent so much time reading I almost missed my deadline!

Did you know the mother of King Ferdinand of Spain was a Converso, that Yemenites were the only people on earth who used Hebrew for communication before it became the official language of Israel, and that the earliest borscht was made not from beets but from parsnips?

More than 170 recipes, some of which have never before been written down, document the rich and varied Jewish culture of 29 countries linked by law and ritual, yet distinguished by unique customs, traditions and celebrations, the history of a people told through its food.

Goodman used his reporting skills to search out diverse cuisines of far-flung, once-vital centres of Jewish life. "What I tried to do with this book was to locate and preserve food traditions from communities around the world that are today endangered because the communities themselves are endangered," Goodman said from his home in Brooklyn, N.Y. "So many of them weren't able to survive the 20th century or survived only in the most attenuated form."

Take, for example, the Tunisian Jewish community, which most people don't even realize existed, he said. "The site of the El-Ghriba synagogue goes back, I believe, to the fifth century BCE. In 2002, it was the target of an Al-Qaeda attack and was blown up. As of 1948, there were 100,000 Jews in Tunisia. Today there are fewer than 2,000."

Baghdad and Tripoli, Bombay and Calcutta – once vital Jewish communities – are extinct or practically so, he continued.

"In Salonika in Greece, the markets used to be closed on Saturday for the Sabbath. Today there are 1,500 Jews left. From 32 synagogues to two. Their food is a history lesson on a plate."

But what is Jewish food? Can it even be defined?

"There are very few dishes that are shared by all Jewish communities around the world," noted Goodman. "Only two or three, and only one shared ingredient, matzah. You couldn't define a cuisine based entirely on matzah. Jewish food is food that has been made by Jewish communities through the centuries and sustained by them, wherever they happened to be."

Nestled between the recipes are essays on selected ingredients, dishes and communities, deepening our understanding of their historical context. "Food is kind of a repository of a community's history," Goodman observed. "You can see the wanderings of people over time, the influence of conquest, of poverty, of travel."

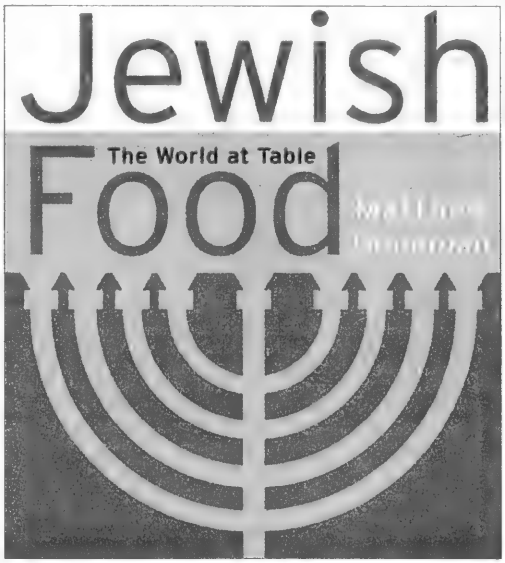
As an example, he cites the use of pine nuts and raisins in Roman Jewish cooking, as in baccalà, salt cod stewed in tomato sauce. "Pine nuts and raisins were brought by the Arabs to Sicily, where the Jews learned how to use them," he said. "Then when they got kicked out of Sicily during the Spanish Inquisition, they brought them when they moved up to Rome. Today, the use of pine nuts and raisins in both sweet and savoury foods is one of the hallmarks of Roman Jewish cuisine. You can see the history of these people in this dish."

The closest thing to biblical era cuisine anywhere, said Goodman, is the food of the Yemenites. "The Jews of Yemen tended to live in isolated rural villages, not in big cosmopolitan areas," he explained. "As a result, their cuisine remained fairly static over the centuries. There wasn't a lot of technological development or interaction of ingredients with people coming in from other places, so you have today almost a vestige of a cuisine that goes back 2,000 years. The bread called salouf made in Yemen today might well be recognizable to a Jew of 2,000 years ago."

Salouf is served with z'houg, a very spicy green chili paste, which Yemenites use on practically everything, he added. "It's a wonderfully fascinating and healthy cuisine that people don't know much about. There are maybe only about 10,000 people of Yemenite descent left, most of them in New York and New Jersey."

Sadly, some recipes are irretrievable, Goodman said. "There are so few of these dishes left. It's really like an extinct species.

"So many generous people shared their recipes with me. Some would invite me to their home and let me cook with them. It was just an amazingly moving experience for me. But with each recipe they'd give me, they'd say, 'I wish you could have tried these other two that so-and-so used to do, but she died.' That dish is gone forever."



BACCALA IN UMIDO ALLA ROMANA
Italian salt cod stewed in tomato sauce with raisins and pine nuts

2 lbs. dried salt cod
2 tbsp. olive oil, plus more for frying
1 onion, sliced
1 28-oz. can chopped tomatoes
2 tbsp. chopped fresh basil
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
salt
freshly ground black pepper
flour for dredging
½ cup raisins
¼ cup pine nuts

Soak the salt cod in cold water for 36 to 48 hours, changing the water at least 3 times per day. Drain the cod, pat dry and remove any bones. Cut the cod into 2-in. pieces and set aside.

Heat the 2 tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring often, until soft and lightly coloured. Add the tomatoes, basil and cinnamon, and season with salt and pepper. Simmer over low heat for 15 minutes.

Spread some flour on a plate and season it with salt and pepper. Dip the cod pieces in the flour on both sides to coat evenly, shaking off any excess.

In another large pan, add oil to a depth of about ¼ inch and heat over medium-high heat. In batches, add the cod pieces to the pan and fry until golden brown on both sides, about 3 minutes on each side. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.

Add the cod to the simmering tomato sauce, along with the raisins and pine nuts. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat until the cod is tender and cooked through, 15 to 20 minutes. (Add a bit of water if the sauce seems too thick.) Taste the sauce and adjust for seasoning. Transfer the fish to a large serving platter and pour the sauce over it. Serve hot. Serves 6.

SALOUF
Yemenite flat bread

2 cups warm water
1 package (about 2½ tsp.) active dry yeast
1 tsp. sugar
1½ cups unbleached all-purpose flour, plus additional for kneading and rolling
1 tsp. salt

Put the warm water in a large bowl. Add the yeast and sugar and let stand until the mixture begins to bubble, about 5 minutes. Slowly add the flour and salt and stir until fully incorporated.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until it is smooth and elastic but still moist and slightly sticky, about 10 minutes, adding flour as necessary to keep the dough from sticking. Place the dough in a large, oiled bowl, turning once to coat. Cover with a towel and let rise in a warm place until nearly doubled in volume, about 1 hour.

When the dough has risen, punch it down, cover again, and let it rise for another 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375. Lightly grease 2 baking sheets or line them with parchment paper.

Spread some flour on a large plate. Slice the dough into quarters. Roll each quarter into a ball, and roll the balls in the flour until they are lightly covered. Let them rest on the plate, covered with a towel, for 20 minutes.

On a lightly floured surface, stretch each dough ball into a round about 10 inches in diameter. Place 2 rounds on each of the prepared baking sheets and bake until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 4 loaves.

Z'HOUG
Yemenite green chili paste

This fiery-hot paste is essential to Yemenite cuisine and is added as a flavouring to stews or served as an accompaniment with fish and meats or with the many varieties of Yemenite bread.

1 cup fresh cilantro or flat-leaf parsley leaves
3 tsp. cumin seeds
4 tsp. black peppercorns
1 tsp. caraway seeds
8 cloves
8 cardamom pods
1 tsp. salt
8 garlic cloves
¼ lb. green chili peppers, such as jalapeno or serrano
3 tbsp. olive oil

Combine all of the ingredients in a blender or food processor and process to a rough paste. Transfer to a tightly closed jar and refrigerate until ready to use. It will keep in the refrigerator for several weeks. Makes about 2 cups.

Congratulations

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

Please fill in the requested information and fax to 416-391-0949 or mail to 1500 Don Mills Rd, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

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Date of wedding _____

Location of wedding _____

Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Charlene and Robby are thrilled to announce the birth of their first miracle, daughter

SKYLER MELODY WEXLER (Hebrew name – **SARA**)

born at Women's College on March 25, 2005 at 7:23 P.M. Welcoming her into the world are proud grandparents Savta and Zaida Becky and Marty Goldfarb and Bubbie and Zaidie Biby and Alex Wexler. Uncles and Aunts Shawn, Pam, Mark, Michele, Jerry and Kim are overjoyed with the new addition to the family as cousins Ethan, Tyler, Jamie, Josh, Jamie, Lauren, Brandon, Rachel and Brooke look forward to playing with and spoiling their cousin. Skyler shares her Hebrew name with her late great-grandmother Sara Choc.

Anna Korolnek, Rabbi Selig Korolnek, Hilda & Dr. Irving Pisarek are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children...

Rosalee Faygie & David Michael

Overjoyed siblings are Debbie & Pascal Huisman. Proud Grandfathers are Harry Pisarek & Harry Kreitzman. Sadly missed at this time and always remembered are Lucy Appelbaum Kreitzman, Sabina Pisarek, and Gittel & Samuel Jaskulka.

Congratulations to Robbie Libman who celebrated his bar mitzvah in November. Love, your parents David & Carolyn, sisters Jenny & Sarah, and grandparents.

Mazel tov Seymour Zweig on your 85th birthday. Wishing you much health and happiness always. From your children and grandchildren.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

INSCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONES ON THE YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
EARL BALES PARK - TORONTO
416-785-1333

What's New deadlines: Monday, May 16, is the deadline for May 26 issue and Thursday, May 19, is the deadline for June 2. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Friday, May 13

SERVICE & DINNER

Congregation Darchei Noam celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut with a Kabalat Shabbat service and potluck dinner. The evening continues with a variety of musical and dance performances and Israeli singing and dancing. Bring vegetarian, fish or dairy contributions to the meal. 6:30 p.m. RSVP to 416-638-4783.

Sunday, May 15

SUNDAY SOFTBALL

Join Jewish adults for recreational slow-pitch softball Sunday mornings, 9 a.m., beginning today. Free. Bishops Cross Field, John St. and DVP. For info, call 416-703-8161.

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST

The Beth David Brotherhood presents the Shalom Singers at their golden jubilee and election program breakfast. 9:15 a.m. 416-638-5100.

HUGE RUMMAGE SALE

The Montessori Jewish Day School holds a rummage sale and a raffle. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Proceeds will help build a new playground. 416-784-5071.

LEIBTAG ON ZIONISM

Join **Rabbi Menachem Leibtag** for text study on "Yom Ha'atzmaut: The Biblical Roots of Religious Zionism." 9:15-11:15 am. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $10. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770.

MARRIAGE COURSE

Chabad of Markham offers a three-session marriage course with **Rabbi** and **Goldie Plotkin** for couples getting married before October. Beginning today, 10-11:30 a.m. 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

SELIGER ON JERUSALEM

Downtown Jewish Community School offers adult text study, "Jerusalem from Afar and From Close Up," with **Yael Seliger**. 9:15-10:15 a.m. at the Miles Nadal JCC.

BREAKFAST MEETING

The Aryeh Baraf Chesed Network for Jewish Singles breakfast meeting takes place at 10:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. $5. 416-488-0441.

SHIRA SMILES LECTURE

Women are invited to hear a lecture via satellite from **Shira Smile** on "Sefirat Haomer: The Inner Count." 11 a.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. drsis@rogers.com.

3 FUNNY YIDDISH FILMS

The Beach Synagogue screens *I Want To be a Boarder*, *The Advisor* and *Two Sisters*, three humorous short Yiddish films with subtitles. 2 p.m. 109 Kenilworth Ave. Free. 416-694-7942.

JUDY AND DAVID CONCERT

Judy and David perform at Beth Shalom Synagogue's Yom Ha'atzmaut concert at 4 p.m. Tickets start at $12. 416-783-6103.

ART AND SILENT AUCTION

Shaar Shalom Synagogue hosts art and silent auction. Preview and silent auction 6 p.m. Art auction at 7:30 p.m. $10/couple. 905-889-4975.

ART & HOLOCAUST CLAIMS

The Beth Isaiah Congregation in Guelph presents **Aaron M. Milrad**, speaking about "Stolen Art and Holocaust Claims." 8 p.m. 47 Surrey St. 519-822-8487.

Monday, May 16

STUDY WITH BRYNA LEVY

Spend a morning studying with **Bryna Levy**, of MaTaN, Jerusalem, examining "Painting from Heaven: Understanding Torah Through Art" – a text study of the attitude of Jewish scholars toward representational art. 10-noon at Ulpanat Orot High School, 45 Canyon Ave. $10. Call Mekorot at 416-877-2050.

Continued on page 45

The Canadian Jewish news
invites the public to a
Town Hall Meeting
to discuss:
How to change the World
Speakers:
David Bornstein
Award-winner author of the book by the same name
Avrum Rosensweig
Executive Director, Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee
Thursday, May 26, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

What's New

Continued from page 44

LAWN BOWLING
Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club open house takes place at 150 Beecroft Ave., behind North York City Hall at 7 p.m. 416 271-4860.

WOMAN IN FOLK TALES
Beth Emeth and Beth Tikvah Sisterhoods present "The Voice of the Woman in Folk Tales," with **Peninnah Schram**. Members $5, non-members $8. At Beth Emeth, 100 Elder St. 7:30 p.m.

CHUG HATANACH
Rabbi Moshe Shulman leads a discussion of chapters 49 and 50 of Psalms. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

DIABETES CHAPTER MTG
The Jewish diabetes chapter meeting presents **Dr. Ian Blumer** on "Don't Just Survive, Thrive With Your Diabetes." 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $1. 416-363-0177, ext. 7403.

Tuesday, May 17

LUNCH AND FILM
Beth Tikvah Synagogue Lunch and Learn Tuesdays presents the Israeli film *Broken Wings,* followed by a discussion led by **Heather Kassel**. Lunch noon, followed by film and discussion 12:45-3 p.m. $8 To reserve, call 416-221-3433, ext 0.

FAMILY IN ISRAEL DINNER
Emunah Women of Toronto Family in Israel Dinner honours **Jack** and **Susan Kahn** at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 6:30 p.m. For reservations, call 416-636-0036.

FEEDING THE FUTURE
Evan Solomon, co-host of *CBC News: Sunday*, lectures on "Feeding the Future: How to Solve the World's Food Crisis" 7:30 p.m., at Holy Blossom Temple. 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

BOOK & FILM CLUB
The Adath Israel Sisterhood Book and Film Review Series reviews *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by **Mark Haddon** with facilitator **Heather Kassell**. 8 p.m. $10, non-members $15. 416-495-9281.

Wednesday, May 18

LIBRARIAN WORKSHOP
The Association of Jewish Libraries presents a workshop for librarians and teachers. The workshop includes a demonstration of cataloging in Hebrew characters and a discussion of a range of databases. Non-members $3. 7:30 p.m. at CHAT, 200 Wilmington Ave. For info, call 416-635-2996.

PARTNER IN KINDNESS
Shmuel Greenbaum, whose wife was murdered by a suicide bomber at the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem, speaks on "Fighting Terror with Kindness: Coping with Tragedy." 8 p.m. Westmount Collegiate Institute. $10. 905-482-9488.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Dr. Irving Abella discusses "Becoming Canadian: Jewish Immigration to Toronto 1900-1930, " at the Jewish Genealogical Society meeting 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5.

ORTHODOX DRUG TALK
Torahweb.org presents a satellite lecture by **Dr. Abraham Twerski** and **Rabbi Mayer Twersky** on "Alcohol, Drugs, and Morality among Orthodox Teens." 8:30 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. $5. For info, contact drsis@rogers.com.

Other news

DARFUR: WHAT WE CAN DO
Norman Epstein, founder of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan, and **Acol Dor**, a south Sudanese survivor, speak about the crisis in Darfur at the Narayever Congregation, Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. at 187 Brunswick Ave.

SURVIVAL SEMINAR
Jews for Judaism begin a six-week series Thursday, May 19, with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** on Judaism's responses to missionary claims. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Free, registration is required. Call 905-761-0040.

CHABAD DINNER
The Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre hosts its second annual Spirit of Community Dinner, "In the Merit of Brotherhood," Thursday, May 26. The chief rabbi of Thailand, **Rabbi Yosef C. Kantor**, will speak on "The Force of Humanity." For tickets, call 905-709-7770.

STRATFORD TRIP
The National Council of Jewish Women trip to Stratford to see *Fallen Angel* will take place on Monday, May 30. Ticket including transportation $75, seniors $70. To order, call 416-633-5100.

ATERET KAVOD AWARDS
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism will honour **Rabbis Avraham Feder, Joseph Kelman** and **Erwin Schild** at the Ateret Kavod Award Celebration, Wednesday, June 1 at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $60. To reserve, call 416-667-1717 or e-mail canadian@uscj.org.

RABBI STROH FAREWELL
Temple Har Zion is honouring **Rabbi Michael Stroh** after 35 years of service. Rabbi Stroh gives a farewell address at congregational Shabbat services, 8 p.m., on Friday, June 3, followed by an Oneg Shabbat. Wednesday, June 8, the temple hosts a gala farewell dinner. The family farewell picnic takes place at Robin Hood Camp on Sunday, June 19, and on Friday, June 24, at 8:30 p.m. Rabbi Stroh's last Shabbat service takes place. For information, call 905-889-2252, ext. 5.

SINGLES SHABBATON
Jewish Futures and SEC are holding a kosher, under COR, Northland Experience Shabbaton for young adults 22-32, June 3-5. Cost including transportation $200, $150 before May 23. 905-882-6755 or jfutures@rogers. com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Canadian Zionist Federation needs help with the Israel Day Festival, Sunday, June 5, Mel Lastman Square, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Contact **Heather** at 416-633-3988 or volunteer@freed.ca.

YOUNG JUDAEA EVENTS
Junior Program celebrating Israel, Sunday, May 15, 2-4 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. $3.

Israel pre-program for all participants on CYJ Israel Programs, Sunday, May 15, 7-9 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave.

JF&CS GROUPS
Jewish Family & Child Service, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 215.

Choices: A six-week group for young women, 16 to 18 years old, who would like to explore and understand how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Begins Tuesday, May 17, 5-6:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

Fathering After Divorce: A four-week group to help fathers understand the role they play in their children's lives and how to maintain their connection with their children. Begins Wednesday, May 18, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Happiest Baby on the Block: A workshop for parents of newborns and infants who want to learn how to calm their baby. Based on the principles of **Dr. Harvey Karp**. Thursday, May 19, 7-9 p.m. at the Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall. Registration required.

FOR SENIORS

Congregation Darchei Noam presents discussions for seniors and anyone growing older. "Sharing Your Immigration Story" with **Myer Siemiatycki**, Wednesday, May 18, 12-2 p.m. Bring friends and a brown bag lunch, beverages and cookies provided. 15 Hove St. 41-638-4783.

The Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting hosts **Bernie Farber**, of Canadian Jewish Congress, Thursday, May 19, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Call **Debbie** at 416-635-2860.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Dixie Outlet Mall flea market, May 15; Sunday dance, May 22. Call 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 15, Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.
"Sage Medication Use for Heart Health," Monday, May 16, 10 a.m.
Eye Care Clinic, Tuesday, May 17, 12-1 p.m.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m May 17, lecture.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Parkinson's support group information evening, Monday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., Room 211. Family, caregivers and individuals with Parkinson's disease are welcome. RSVP to ext 259.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca

Photographic homage to Jewish war veterans, "Portraits of Bravery" exhibit by **Yuri Dojc,** through May 26.

Club Schmooze celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut, May 12, 9:30 p.m. at Club Menage 333 King St. W. 416-913-2424 or 416-398-6931, ext. 252.

Sunday, May 15, Israel shuk, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Israel fair 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Many children's activities.

The Israeli dance community celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut May 12, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. 905-761-0004 or visit www.Israelidancetoronto.com.

The Day Martin Buber Was Buried and *To Love in Jerusalem*, a live performance of two radio plays by **Yehuda Amichai**. Thursday, May 19, 8 p.m. Al Green Theatre. $15.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Gantwerger, Lisa	April 21/05	Private
Myers, Harold	April 21/05	Private
Bowman, Sydney	April 21/05	Private
Doman, Steve	April 21/05	Private
Cohen, Rachel	April 21/05	Private
Kleitman, Anya	April 22/05	3270 Bathurst St.
Gary, Jean	April 22/05	22 Norfinch Ave.
Beyo, Esther	April 23/05	850 Steeles Ave. W.
Shidlowski, Harry	April 23/05	88 Alexis Blvd.
Zaitlen, Goldie	April 24/05	Private
Vainberg, Yokel	April 25/05	Private
Gerendasi, Rose	April 28/05	Private
Goldstein, Janet	April 29/05	7905 Bayview Ave.
Salpeter, Irene	April 29/05	1201 Steeles Ave. W.
Hochman, Leysor	April 29/05	17 Brett Ave.
Rubinovich, Dvosia	April 29/05	Private
Rotenberg, Jean	April 30/05	Private
Schreiber, Alexander	April 30/05	Private
Erwinne, Ann	April 30/05	28 Tullamore Dr.
Grimberg, Aron	May 2/05	6091 Bathurst St.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW DASIC BURIAL
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Hannah Sandberg	Apr 22/05	11 Catford Road
Jeanette Goldenthal	Apr 26/05	600 Dundas St. East

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Doris Abbott	Apr 22/05	15 Barberry Place
Norma Mernick	Apr 22/05	261 Fulton Avenue
Morris Laskin	Apr 23/05	333 Clark Ave. West
Edward Stransman	Apr 24/05	115 Elm Ridge Drive
Earl Balaban	Apr 25/05	7825 Bayview Avenue
Mary Mintz	Apr 26/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Mary Freedman	Apr 26/05	59 Fontainbleau Drive
Ted Zubata	Apr 27/05	1 Chedington Place
Bert Feiner	Apr 27/05	1 Quail Crescent
Manuel Rechtman	Apr 28/05	3303 Don Mills Road
Sylvia Kraft	May 1/05	22 Robingrove Road

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FAY BLACK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th, 11:45 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. north of Major Mackenzie
IOF Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOSEPH REDLICK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles
The Stopnitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SHANA MORAYNISS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th, 1:45 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KORNELIA IZSAK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Veteran's Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HONEY (ANNETTE) SHAPIRO ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HYMAN LAMPERT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BEN KIRZNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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We would like to thank all our family and friends for your overwhelming love and support during this very difficult time.
The Nefsky, Chorner and Grossman Families

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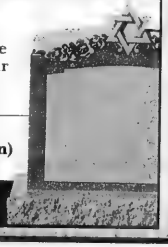

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On Campus

U of T conference still a go despite Israel boycott

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

The University of Toronto says it will not cancel a psychiatry conference to be co-hosted by British academics who are members of a group that boycotted two Israeli universities last month.

In a statement posted on U of T's website, vice-president and provost Vivek Goel said that while he does not agree with the boycott by Britain's Association of University Teachers (AUT), cancelling the May 27-28 conference, to be co-hosted by the University of Manchester's psychiatry department, would be hypocritical.

"We do not agree with the boycott action by the British academics," Goel said. "Furthermore, the university does not agree that as a result we should cancel this important academic event or bar our Manchester co-hosts from participating – that would be another blow to academic freedom. Two wrongs don't make a right."

In an interview, Goel said that although U of T has received many calls from people in the Jewish community urging that the conference be cancelled, the school will not do so.

The AUT boycotted Bar-Ilan and Haifa universities for allegedly supporting Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and for repressing academic freedom.

Bar-Ilan was targeted due to its support of the College of Judea and Samaria in the West Bank town of Ariel, and Haifa was boycotted because the university allegedly victimized "academic staff and students who seek to research and discuss the history of the founding of the State of Israel."

Goel said the U of T conference, which will address issues about trauma and global health, has nothing to do with the issues raised by the AUT three weeks ago and that all academics, including Israeli ones, are welcome to attend.

He also emphasized this is not an AUT conference, and that the Manchester professors just happen to be part of the union. (The six participating Manchester academics have reportedly gone on record as saying they do not support the boycott.)

"It's less than a handful of British academics that made that boycott. It makes no sense for us to cancel [the conference]," Goel said.

Ed Morgan, a U of T law professor and the president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, is encouraging Dr. Donald Wasylenki, the chair of U of T's psychiatry department and the conference's organizer, to invite professors from Haifa and Bar-Ilan to participate.

Wasylenki, who did not return calls by *The CJN*'s deadline, told the *Toronto Star* there would be no reason to invite professors from Haifa or Bar-Ilan because neither institution has a medical school, but Morgan said Israeli professors should still be invited as a gesture.

"I'll be encouraging [the organizers] to look for Israeli professors in the related fields. We want to show them that we embrace academic freedom and boycotts are contrary to that. We should be open to exchange ideas, not block them," he said.

While Morgan is upset by the AUT's boycott, he said that a "counter-boycott" would not help.

"My suggestion was not to engage in counter-boycotts [by banning British professors,] but to make sure that Israelis can participate in the conference."

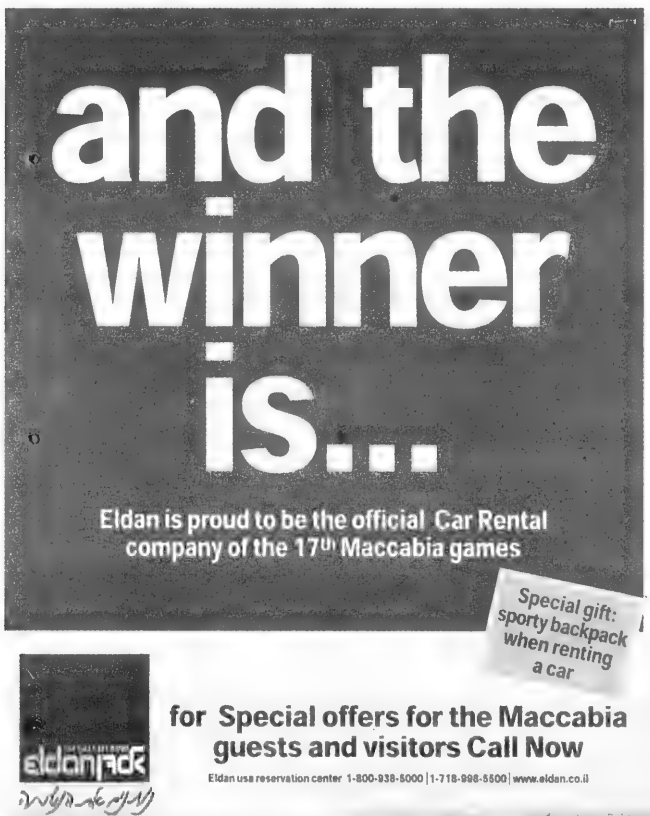
Morgan believes the AUT boycott has more to do with anti-Semitism than a protest to Israeli governmental policy.

"It is an opposition to the very existence of a Jewish state, and I do equate that kind of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism," Morgan said.

"The best case scenario," he said, "is that professors from Haifa and Bar-Ilan will participate in the conference."

Meanwhile, the AUT has decided to call a special meeting to reconsider its boycott in the wake of letters of protest from members requesting the decision be reversed and after several members resigned in protest. A meeting date had not been set as of last week.

With files from Ha'aretz.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Academic gathering to study parallels between Shoah and Nanjing Massacre

By PETER CAULFIELD
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — An academic conference in China this summer will examine the parallels between the Holocaust and the Nanjing Massacre.

Called the International Seminar on Holocaust and Genocide in World War II: Jewish and Chinese Experiences, the event is scheduled to take place in August at Nanjing University.

Some 300,000 Chinese civilians were murdered by the Japanese army in Nanjing in 1937 and 1938. According to Robert Daum, a University of British Columbia professor of classical, near eastern and religious studies who visited Nanjing in 2004, the massacre is remembered by most Chinese as a key event in their country's history.

The conference is being sponsored jointly by the Center for Jewish Studies at Nanjing University and the London Jewish Cultural Centre. It will include participants from Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in France.

The meeting will feature lectures, seminars and museum tours. Lectures will include "Rescue and Resistance during the Holocaust and Rescue Efforts during the Nanjing Massacre"; "Massacre and Remembrance" and "The Holocaust and Memory: Nanjing and Japanese Deniers and Holocaust Denial"; and "Teaching the Holocaust and Teaching the Nanjing Massacre in Schools."

Daum said he is impressed by the strong interest in Jewish studies in China and by the solid research on the subject there in the last 15 years.

"It might seem unusual for Chinese scholars to be interested in the activities of a small Jewish community so long ago," Daum says. "I'm only speculating, but both Judaism and China are ancient civilizations, and it is possible that the Chinese are naturally drawn to another ancient civilization."

Jewish studies is a growing discipline in China, due largely to the efforts of Nanjing University's Xu Xin, who has lectured all over the world on Judaism in China. His work has paved the way for researchers in at least nine Chinese universities and institutes.

It is thought that Jews settled in China in the early Middle Ages, arriving in Kaifeng in the central province of Henan more than 1,000 years ago.

Jews settled along, and traded up and down, the Silk Road, which stretched from China to the eastern coast of the Mediterranean.

The Kaifeng Jews built a congregation in the late 12th century. Scholars believe they trained their own rabbis and had siddurs and Torah scrolls to conduct services, which they performed until the 19th century, when the last rabbi died.

Last October, Xu organized the largest conference on Jewish studies ever held in China. The event, which took place in Nanjing, attracted some 75 scholars from around the world. Among the participants were Daum and Morton Weinfeld, a McGill University professor of sociology.

The conference covered a broad range of subjects, including biblical literature, post-biblical rabbinic literature, modern Hebrew literature, Jewish cultures around the world, Jewish life in China in the Middle Ages and in the 19th and 20th centuries, and Jewish studies in China.

Jewish and Chinese civilizations have much in common, Daum says, including the importance of tradition, memory, education, family and longevity and the measurement of time in millennia.

After the October conference, Xu led the group on a tour of historic sites, including the site of the Nanjing Massacre.

"That visit was not on the original itinerary," Daum said. "Prof. Morton Weinfeld, the only other Canadian scholar at the conference, requested the itinerary change on behalf of all of us.

"We insisted on paying our respects to the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, as well as to learn what we could about this terrible event. I wonder whether our detour played a role in shaping the conference [on the Holocaust and the Nanjing Massacre]?"

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
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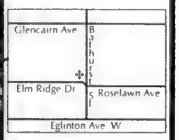

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Family Moments
Mazel Tov
see page 43
The Canadian Jewish news

Arts & Travel

The Shoah: Rock 'n' Roll never forgets

By SCOTT R. BENARDE
Special to The CJN

When remembering and teaching the Holocaust, we often forget the power of the popular song. For decades, rock, pop, folk and rap songs have served as gripping reminders of the Shoah, but have been overshadowed by literature and film.

Folk icon Woody Guthrie wrote about the Holocaust as early as 1948 when he penned *Ilsa Koch*, about the sadistic wife of the commandant of Buchenwald. The opening couplet immediately sets the hopeless scene: "I'm here in Buchenwald. My number's on my skin."

The Klezmatics pulled the recently unearthed song into the 21st century by adding music, turning the as yet unrecorded *Ilsa Koch* into a fearful dirge in concert. (The song is to be included on a Klezmatics CD called *Holy Ground* set for release in 2006.)

A whole album worthy of mention, though it's difficult to find and more a blend of jazz and opera, is David Axelrod's *Requiem: The Holocaust*, released by Liberty Records in 1993. Axelrod, a noted jazz producer and composer who also worked with the '60s rock act Electric Prunes, was compelled to write and produce the record in response to watching white supremacist Tom Metzger deny the Holocaust during a TV broadcast.

Axelrod's haunting opera includes but four songs averaging 11 minutes each: *Krystallnacht*, *Trains*, *Auschwitz* and *Gas Chambers*.

One of the earliest Holocaust references on record occurs in Bob Dylan's classic *With God on Our Side* from 1964's *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. "When the Second World War/ Came to en end/We forgave the Germans/ and we were friends/ Though they murdered six million/ In the ovens they fried/ The Germans now too/ Have God on their side."

These Holocaust-themed songs also are available on CD:

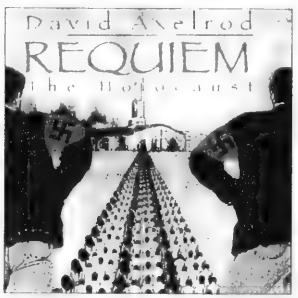
Red Sector A by Rush: Perhaps the most well-known of Holocaust-influenced rock songs as it first appeared on the band's hit 1984 album *Grace Under Pressure*, and has been a staple of the band's live shows ever since. The seeds for this harrowing rocker were planted 60 years ago in April of 1945 when British soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Rush lead singer Geddy Lee's mother Manya (now Mary) Rubenstein, was among the survivors. "I once asked my mother her first thoughts upon being liberated," Lee says. "She didn't believe [liberation] was possible. She didn't believe that if there was a society outside the camp how they could allow this to exist…"

Rush's lyricist Neil Pert came up with lines such as: "Are we the last ones left alive? Are we the only human beings to survive?"

"The whole album," Lee says, "is about being on the brink and having the courage and strength to survive."

This Train Revised by the Indigo Girls (From 1994's *Swamp Ophelia*): Set to blazing fiddles and volcanic drums, the song steams along like an out-of-control engine spitting smoke-and-fire images: "It's a fish-white-belly, lump-in-the-throat, razor-on-the-wire, skin-and-bone, piss-and-blood in a railroad car, 100 people—gypsies, queers and David's star, this train is bound for glory…"

The Door by Martin Page (From 1995's *In the House of Stone and Light*): The non-Jewish Page did not set out to write a Holocaust-inspired song for the album. He had a piece of music he describes as "uplifting, dark and mysterious," and he kept singing the phrase "the door," to a certain part of the melody. After he finished making a demo recording of the tune in his home studio, he glanced up at a bookshelf, saw *Treblinka* by Jean-Francois Steiner, grabbed it and read it.



"I was so moved," Page says. "I grew up in England, so I was very aware of the Holocaust, but I was not aware of the bravery at Treblinka…I instantly went back into studio and the song, in a way, wrote itself."

Never Again by Remedy (From the 1998 compilation *The Swarm: Wu Tang Presents the Killa Bees*): Frustrated that public schools weren't teaching the Holocaust, the Jewish Staten Island rapper, (born Ross Filler), composed his own history lesson. Combining ancient Jewish prayers, hip-hop rhythms, an ominous melody and quaking lyrics resulted in the most complete and defiant portrait of the Holocaust painted in song: "Never again—shall we march like sheep to the slaughter. Never again-shall we sit and take orders. Stripped of our culture, robbed of our name, Raped of our freedom and thrown into the flames. Forced from our families, taken from our homes. Pulled from our God and burned of our bones. Never Again!" (Also available on Remedy's 2001 and 2002 solo releases *The Genuine Article* and *Code: Red.*)

Tattoo by Janis Ian (From the 1993 album *Breaking Silence*): Ian was 10 when she first learned about the Holocaust from books in her parents' home library. As an adult, she tried for years to write a song addressing the calamity. The poignant, almost-whispered *Tattoo*, which reminds us that survivors never completely heal, is the result: "Her new name was tattooed to her wrist. It was longer than the old one. Sealed in the silence with a fist. This night will be a cold one."

Ride 'em Jewboy by Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys (From 1973's *Sold American*): Perhaps the most misunderstood pro-Jewish Jewish musician around, Friedman's choice of band name and song titles offended many Jews and gave a chuckle to many bigots. *Ride 'em Jewboy* was a sentimental tribute to those who perished in the Holocaust: "Dead limbs play with ring-less fingers. A melody which burns you deep inside. Oh, how the song becomes the singers. May peace be ever with you as you ride."

Lithuania by Dan Bern and the International Jewish Banking Conspiracy (From 2002's *The Swastika EP*): Bern lost grandparents, aunts and uncles when the Nazis invaded Lithuania in 1941and wiped out the Jewish population. Hitler and the Holocaust are a recurring theme in Bern's music, but nothing is as cathartic as *Lithuania*. Long and angry, it includes this passage: "I sometimes want to dance on Hitler's grave and shout out 'Groucho Marx, Lenny Bruce, Leonard Cohen, Philip Roth, Bob Dylan, Albert Einstein, Woody Allen, Abby Hoffman, Leonard Bernstein, Harry Houdini, Sandy Koufax!' And then I want to scream and sing as loud as I can, to the chandeliers that sway dangerously overhead, and proclaim Krystalnacht is over!"

Attic by Jill Sobule (From the 1997 album *Happy Town*): The Denver-born singer-songwriter conjures up the ghost of Anne Frank when she asks in a wistful, almost naïve tone "Would you have hidden me in your attic, that's the question I'd like to know." The acoustic tune poses a most powerful question between its pretty melody and Sobule's delicate, almost fragile singing. Sobule, who is Jewish, says she feels compelled to put songs about WWII on her albums.

Untitled by Peter Himmelman (From 1992's *Flown this Acid World*): Also known as *The Taxi Song*, Himmelman based this quiet yet potent tale on his own experience of riding in a taxi with a bigoted, anti-Semitic cabbie who doesn't realize his passenger is Jewish. During conversation, the driver speaks of his admiration for Hitler saying, "Hitler's only fault was that he had to go and lose." The song ends with Himmelman visiting a survivor:" I spent the next morning with a man who had death camp numbers on his arm/ And I swore to myself I would do anything to protect him from further harm/ and he told me 'Wherever you may go/ You must refute them if they say it wasn't so.'"

Boynton Beach, Florida-based journalist Scott Benarde is the author of Stars of David: Rock 'n' Roll's Jewish Stories *(Brandeis University Press).*

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Winnipeg businessman named to curling hall of famers

By HARVEY ROSEN
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Zivan Saper has never been much more than a casual curler, yet the well-known Winnipeg businessman was recently inducted into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame.

Saper made the hall as a builder alongside curlers Elaine Jones, Iris Armstrong, Gary Ross and E.J. Rochon, plus the Vic Peters rink of 1992-93.

As far as the "roaring game" is concerned, Saper was never the skip you called upon to draw to the button in the game's final end to take home all the spoils.

Zivan Saper

Yet, in his own quiet way, he humbly climbed to curling's top rung and was added to the hall of fame's executive honour roll in recognition of his service to the sport as president of the Canadian Curling Association (CCA) in 2000-01.

Prior to that, Saper served as president of the Manitoba Curling Association (MCA), was a tireless volunteer for the Maple Leaf Curling club, where he was secretary treasurer for 25 years, and was the man credited with bringing the 2003 World Curling Championships to Winnipeg.

"I did not play the game competitively," he confirmed in an interview. "I'm a recreational curler. I used to go to the odd bonspiel, but I'm more of a grassroots person. I was just interested in promoting the game."

Saper, who is in the insurance business, never set out to make his mark in the world of curling. It just happened and he was as surprised as anyone when he learned the MCA was beckoning him into its hall of fame.

"In all the years I was involved, I never ever dreamt about it," he said. "I always thought that I had received the biggest payback from the gratitude."

As a young man, back in 1963, he curled with the juniors at the storied Maple Leaf Curling Club in Winnipeg's north end. "Here is another oddity," said Saper. "I recall how Barry Greenberg used to come in on the train from Portage La Prairie to curl with us on the same team and he is now the president of the CCA. Also on that same team was Ian Staniloff, who is today the executive director of the MCA."

Ever the promoter, Saper reminded me that "Manitoba is the curling capital of the world. We have two major dailies and when there is anything going on we have wall-to-wall coverage."

There was a time not that long ago that Manitoba curling veterans felt that the game was going to fade in the province unless the younger set became involved in the sport. Today, Saper doesn't completely share such a gloomy outlook. "I think it's returning because it's back in the high schools," he said.

He tempered his enthusiasm somewhat by adding, "I think the problem now is that there are so many other distractions. When I started curling, there was nothing else to do. Job responsibilities and family commitments are different. At one time I curled three times a week, now just once."

Saper's curling roots run deep, thanks to his late father Max's passion for the sport. Max Saper passed away at age 78 during the March 1998 Brier being held in Winnipeg.

"I learned from my dad that whenever anyone asks the Sapers to help with curling, you don't say no to people. Dad taught me that. It was important to him and he made it important to me," he said.

Saper also credits wife Tannis and son Avi for their understanding over the years. "If you don't have a supportive wife and child," he said, "how else are you going to be involved in curling like I am?"

Saper, as it turns out, still has much promotional work to do for the sport he loves. "Now I'm involved as a consultant for the Men's World Curling Championships to be held in Lowell, Mass., at the Tsongai Arena in April of 2006. I have friends in this game," he said, "not only from coast to coast, but all over the world."

MACCABI TEL AVIV TRIUMPHS: A victory celebration took place in Tel Aviv after the Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team beat the Spanish team, Tau Vitoria, 90-78, in the European basketball final in Moscow last Friday. This was the second year in a row that Maccabi Tel Aviv won the Euroleague basketball final and the fifth time the team has won the European championship. After the game, the centre of Tel Aviv became a sea of excited fans waving scarves and placards emblazoned with the team's yellow colours and the Israeli national flag. At one point, the police had to block off the city core to traffic because of the celebration. [Isranet photo]

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Schechter Showdown

An all-star team from United Synagogue Day School, comprising players from the Bathurst, Bayview and Richmond Hill campuses, participated in a spring tournament in Cleveland against Conservative-stream Solomon Schechter schools from Chicago, Detroit and Pittsburgh. In addition to playing in the tournament, the boys enjoyed a Friday evening service and dinner followed by a student-run service the next morning. The team managed to defeat their Ohio hosts by 18 points.

We walk alone

Many years ago, someone ruthlessly told me that we are born into this world alone and we leave this world alone. Overwhelming sadness swept through my body and soul at the realization this was possible. Today, the harshness of what these words mean haunts me because I believe they are true.

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

Loneliness is a universal phenomenon and it visits every human being at some time in every culture all around the world regardless of race, class, age or sex. For different people it means different things. For some it may be a feeling and for others a condition. It is the paradox of human existence to attempt to fill the loneliness void. However, our search, our desire, and our need to surround ourselves with people we can share our lives with can go on forever.

There are lonely people all around us. Last week, I saw my friend sitting in the rain alone with his dog. He very recently left a life of homelessness and moved into his own apartment. When I asked him what he was doing back on the street he said, "I don't want to go to my place and just stare at the walls alone. I would rather sit out here."

That night, instead of going home to my own empty apartment, I sat with him. We watched people rush along the busy downtown Toronto streets and I wondered how many of them experience loneliness.

How many elderly people do you know who feel alone? I used to visit a woman in her 90s named Mable. She never got married and had no children. The loneliness she felt as she sat in her hospital bed at Mount Sinai must have been devastating. But you don't have to be homeless or elderly to feel the silence of living in an innocuous world that regrettably does not always offer peace of mind.

However, I attempt to find solace in the lyrics of a song by Green Day called *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*. I am also comforted by the popularity of it – if others also listen to it, they must be feeling the same way. Right?

Green Day sings, "I walk a lonely road, the only one that I have ever known. Don't know where it goes, but it's home to me and I walk alone. I walk this empty street on the Boulevard of Broken Dreams. Where the city sleeps and I'm the only one and I walk alone.

"My shadow's the only one that walks beside me. My shallow heart's the only thing that's beating. Sometimes I wish someone out there will find me. Till then I walk alone."

The lingering effect of the lyrics resonates with me in my empty moments. As thoughts rush to invade my subconscious, I try not to hide from the truth and reality of the world – that ultimately we are fundamentally separated from each other and that it's OK to feel this way. Because when you really think about it, no matter how many people love you and how close you are with your partner, friends and family, at the end of the day there is always a part of us that is alone. No matter how much love and compassion you feel for another person, there is still a boundary. You cannot change the fact that you are you and I am me and you can never fully experience someone else's thoughts and feelings.

We may be on the same planet in the same universe as each other but eventually we all walk alone.

I read that when the Temple was destroyed and torn away from the Jews, they saw themselves as no longer connected and sat shivah. During that time they felt the expression of existential loneliness and said, "*Aicha yashva badad*" (How lonely it is to sit alone).

I welcome your comments at Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

GREEN BEANS WITH SESAME VINAIGRETTE

1 1/2 lb. green beans, trimmed
3 tblsps. olive oil
1 tsp. Asian sesame oil
1 tblsp. white-wine vinegar
2 tsps. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 tblsps. sesame seeds, toasted

Cook beans in a large pot of boiling salted water, uncovered, until crisp-tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain in a colander and immediately transfer to a bowl of ice and cold water to stop cooking. When beans are cool, drain and pat dry.

Whisk together oils, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper in a large bowl until combined well, then add beans and sesame seeds and toss to coat. Yield: makes 6 servings.

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Epi on Education

We need more than continuity

Seymour Epstein

We are just completing the week of new Jewish holidays that fall between Pesach and Shavuot. The week starts with the tragedy of the Shoah, commemorated in the calendar on the 27th of Nisan as Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah. A week later, we find ourselves remembering yet another great loss, the many soldiers killed in Israel's wars since 1948. The sadness of that day, Yom Hazikaron, is broken by the joy of the following day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

The ongoing curricular problem for Jewish educators is the same problem that our sages had in trying to eternalize the first Pesach in Egypt for future generations. Their solution was the seder, and, indeed, that wondrous piece of educational theatre has worked for us wherever we have lived and in all periods of Jewish history.

We are still very close to the events commemorated in this week of new Jewish dates, but I notice that my students think of the Six Day War as ancient history, while my memories of June 1967 are quite vivid. Will we find the proper ceremonies and lesson plans to re-create the terror and the loss of the Shoah, the fragility of our new state in times of war and the loss of so many young, brave souls, and the national joy of the sovereign return to our homeland?

Many attempts have been made over the past decades by individuals and by movements in the Zionist camp, but no single instrument has emerged that resonates with Jews in the way that the Pesach seder has both engaged us and galvanized us as a people.

This is the main reason that I have such disdain for the term "Jewish continuity." Jewish education has always been about Jewish creativity. Jewish teachers work diligently in their classrooms, youth groups and camps in the hope that a few of their students will use their genius to create the Jewish future through that rare mix of a deep foundation in our past and an innovative concern for the next era of Jewish life. Continuity is not enough!

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Guest Voice

How I met Mr. Gorgeous and Interesting

By MINDY LAMPERT

He sat down next to me and told me he was a lawyer. Or was it a financial adviser? Or an accountant? All I can remember is that after the eighth guy told me he was a lawyer, I suddenly became very interested in his shoes.

I'm only 23 years old and I'm already too busy to find time to date. Between school and a full-time job, I barely even have time for online dating. So when my friend told me about a Jewish speed dating event in Toronto, I was excited.

Having never heard of speed dating before, I had several questions that I wanted answered. What if I don't like any of the guys? What if they don't like me? What if I saw someone I know there (and I knew the chances were good)?

But the idea that in one night I could go on dates with 28 different Jewish guys intrigued me. So my two girlfriends and I arrived at the designated venue just in time to go to our assigned seats. I was station "D," and luckily my friend was right beside me at "C." The room was set up so that each of the 28 female participants had her own station. Every three minutes, a bell would ring to indicate a date was over and that it was time for the men to rotate clockwise to the next station. We kept a scorecard for each date and put a checkmark beside the names of the guys we liked.

My first date was great. The guy was gorgeous and very interesting. We talked about how we attended the same university and had, ironically, lived in the same student house just four months apart from each other. The second date, however, was a disaster. It was with a guy I had dated very briefly a month earlier and with whom I had abruptly ended things. That three-minute date seemed to last for three hours!

As the night went on, I met other interesting guys and I met some not-so-interesting ones. One poor guy even used the line, "You'd be crazy not to want to date me… I mean look at me." I felt like saying, "Oh yeah, have you ever cheated on your girlfriend or forgotten her birthday?" But instead, I just nodded and smiled and pretended to be interested in what he was saying.

After 28 dates, I was tired. It was time to go home and reflect on my evening and see which guys I would hear from. There were only two guys that I was really interested in seeing again. The first guy was date number 1, Mr. Gorgeous and Interesting. The second guy was a non-lawyer with whom I felt a connection.

One of the great perks of speed dating is that you don't get stuck with people e-mailing or calling you if you don't indicate that you're interested in them. Within three days of the event, each of the participants received an e-mail with a list of the people who also checked our names off – in other words, our mutual matches. Luckily, both of my guys had also checked off my name. So we now had each other's e-mail addresses.

For someone who is too busy to date, I suddenly found myself with two guys – whom I had already had a first date with – e-mailing me and inviting me out for a second date.

Two weeks after the event, I met up with guy number 2 at a bar and discovered that I was wrong to think there was any connection between us. The following week, I met up with Mr. Gorgeous and Interesting. We had a wonderful first date, which led to a second date, and we are making plans for a third. We still laugh about how we were each other's first date of the evening, and how we were stuck sitting through 27 more dates after we met each other.

Mindy Lampert is still single and living in Toronto.

Urban Writer by Avrum Rosenswig will return next week.

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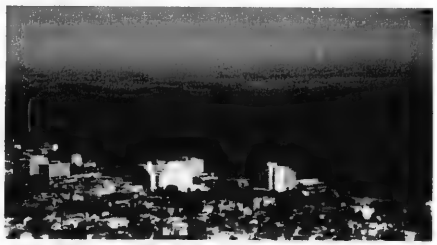

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Dear Reader,

Throughout history, Jews have always yearned to live in Eretz Yisrael. Jews who lived in the Diaspora often invested much time & effort in order to reach the shores of Eretz Yisrael. This never-ending lure, underscores Am Yisroel's unbroken bonds to the Holy Land & their Avos. Today, most of us have friends and family who have chosen to live inthe Holy Land and nearly everyone has visited or spent some time in the country. Almost all of us have dreamt at one time or another- of owning property in Eretz Yisrael.

The dream of owning or investing in real estate property in Eretz Yisrael continues to lure a wide array of foreign investors, including a sizeable portion from the U.S. and Canada. In order to provide our readers with the most up-to-date information on real estate opportunities in Eretz Yisrael, we embarked on creating a multi-dimensional Israel Real Estate Supplement and Exhibition.

We believe that the vital information contained in this supplement, will go a long way towards helping make your real estate dream become a beautiful reality.
B'hatzlach!

Kenneth Stevens, Jerusalem

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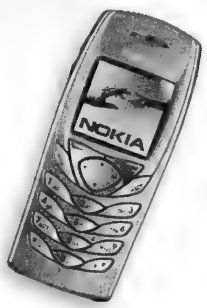

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Israel's Real Estate Market Continues To Ride A Wave of Unique Opportunities

By Ken Solomon

While "true peace" between Israel & its hostile neighbors may still be years away, the new realities in the region, namely the demise of Yasser Arafat & the democratization of the Arab world, have had a direct impact on the Israeli economy- especially in the real estate market. During the past year, as the number of terrorist incidents against the Jewish population dropped precipitously, the local economy began to show sustained growth. Consumer confidence returned, as did the number of investors from overseas. In fact, even as you are reading this, Israel's Tel Aviv Stock Exchange is riding a wave of record-breaking performances.

The domino effect of increased tourism to the Jewish State from the UK, USA, Canada, & France, as well as a spike in European anti-Semitism has also re-energized Israel's real estate sector. Many foreign visitors from the USA, Canada & other countries are coming to Israel with initiatives to purchase apartments or homes, thinking short-term (staying for the Yom Tovim & summertime vacation) or long-term (potential aliyah, part-time residency, investment). Thus, prices that were rock-bottom less than 18 months ago, have recently jumped by at least 20% or more.

The most active areas within Israel's bustling real estate market are found in towns & cities where there are sizeable English-speaking communities (mostly in Central Israel or Jerusalem) or specifically designated neighborhoods that are being built in order to attract new Orthodox families. These areas include Jerusalem, Ramat Beit Shemesh, Netanya, & Modiin/ Modiin Illit. All of these communities boast sizeable and active Anglo populations.

Jerusalem

Many people don't realize that Jerusalem is Israel's largest city, with nearly 600,000 residents in the metropolitan area.

Jerusalem's real estate market is extremely diverse & competitive. Prices in and around the city continue to rise. In recent months, city planners have given the green-light to several builders, who have started to construct high-quality apartment complexes in the Romema neighborhood at the entrance to the city. The dearth of new "inner city" real estate projects, has led to a spike in prices of individual flats & homes throughout the area. Because Jerusalem boasts many different types of religious neighborhoods (Litvishe, Chassidic, Sephardic, National Religious etc.) and standards of building, it is best to consult with a competent local real estate expert.

There are however, exciting new real estate projects that are in various stages of development in some of the city's newer neighborhoods and Northern suburbs. Some of these projects feature incredible panoramic views of the region, or are located close to Judaism's most holy sites.

Suffice to say, that Jerusalem offers a quality of life that is second to none, spiritually (shuls, mikvaot, yeshivot) as well as fiscally (shopping, cultural activities etc.). Almost any investment in the Holy City is bound to pay fiscal and spiritual dividends. And, as we went to press, Israel Railways inaugurated its new Jerusalem- Beit Shemesh - Tel Aviv line (opposite the Malha Mall), which will certainly ease traffic congestion and provide businessmen with a scenic alternative to driving between the Jewish State's two largest cities.

Ramat Beit Shemesh

Located about 20 minutes from Jerusalem, Ramat Beit Shemesh was specifically designed as an Orthodox satellite community just outside of Beit Shemesh proper. Beit Shemesh itself was once a sleepy town in the rolling hills & valleys near where a young Jewish warrior named David slew the Phillistine giant Goliath (nearby Elah Valley). During the past 15 years, Beit Shemesh has emerged from being a backwater immigrant town, into a city with a diverse population. Ramat Beit Shemesh became a real estate challenge for many private and commercial building companies. The results have been astounding, as the hills have literally come alive with a wide variety of new apartment complexes and private cottages. Remember, Ramat Beit Shemesh is a frum community, so like Jerusalem, there are many different types of neighborhoods catering to different religious preferences. There are plenty of shuls, mikvaot, yeshivot, kollelim etc. Ramat Beit Shemesh also boasts a mélange of social & health services as well as a wonderful variety of new Mehadrin supermarkets. Downtown Beit Shemesh (just 3 minutes away by car) also features a beautiful new train station, which whisks many business people to and from the Tel Aviv area throughout the day in about 25 minutes. Many English-speaking immigrants from N. America & the UK have purchased flats and cottages in the area during the past few years.

Netanya

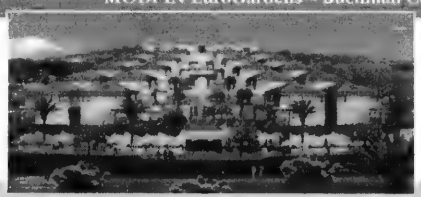
This rapidly growing coastal city is in the midst of a construction boom. Netanya, which is located about 25 minutes north of Tel Aviv is also home to one of Israel's veteran Anglo communities. While Netanya is a "mixed" city of religious and secular Jews, there are several neighborhoods that are by and large Orthodox with a variety of shuls to choose from. Due to its proximity to the sea, Netanya has unlimited real estate & tourist potential. Netanya is also renowned for its diverse shopping opportunities (including the country's only IKEA branch). Netanya also has a growing hotel & tourist industry that has pumped millions of dollars into the local economy. It is a "hot-spot" for many Canadian, French & British Jewish vacationers.

Modiin Illit/Modiin

The Modiin region, the birthplace of the Hasmonean dynasty (Maccabees) and the Chanukah story is home to a modern miracle. Ten years ago, the hills in the Modiin region were nearly barren. Today,

continued on next page

MODI'IN EuroGardens – Buchman Cottages



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over 100,000 people live in the area and it continues to grow at an astounding pace. Statistically speaking, it is perhaps the hottest real estate market in the country.

Modiin Illit/Modiin is strategically located only 25 minutes from both Jerusalem & Tel Aviv (also only 15 minutes from Ben-Gurion Airport). The area also boasts a diverse population and a high quality of life, with lots of "green belts". Modiin Illit emerged as part of Kiryat Sefer, a quiet Torah community that outgrew its original boundaries. When the town of Kiryat Sefer became a city, the name was officially changed to Modiin Illit. There were real estate considerations involved in the name change as well. Some of Israel's best-known real estate companies began building bigger and better apartment complexes and shopping areas, appealing to middle and upper class ultra-Orthodox families.

At the present time, three new entire neighborhoods are under construction in Modiin Illit. In addition, the adjacent "East Mattityahu" area of Modiin Illit is about to be transformed into a major real estate development for the Torah community. It is predicted that within five years, Modiin Illit will triple its current population from 40,000 to 120,000 residents. Real estate prices in Modiin Illit are currently cheaper than Ramat Beit Shemesh or Jerusalem but it won't stay that way for long.

The nearby city of Modiin, is the fastest growing "mixed" metropolis in all of Israel. At the present time, over 20 real estate companies are building all over Modiin, with the ultimate goal of creating a city of over 125,000 people (60,000 live within the city limits already) within five to seven years. Modiin, despite its historical & religious significance (recent archeological findings include shuls & mikvaot from the Second Temple/ Hasmonean area), was originally not conceived as a city with a religious future. However, a wave of religious immigrants from N. America, UK, Uruguay, South Africa & France as well as an influx of religious Israelis looking for a change of lifestyle, has transformed the composition of the city. While still very much a "mixed" city, Modiin now boasts close to 35 minyanim! There are also many different types of yeshivot in and around Modiin. It is truly a "city of the future", as Modiin is on the verge of being linked to the national rail system (by mid- 2006, you'll be able to take "the train to the plane" i.e. Ben-Gurion Airport from midtown Modiin, as well as Tel Aviv). A major shopping mall & business district that will serve the entire region is also currently under construction. Real estate prices have risen by nearly 20% in Modiin's fast-growing Buchman neighborhood during the past six months. It is expected that they will rise even higher in the coming year, as the city's infrastructure projects (train, new roads, shopping centers & parks) are completed.

Kinneret Region

Because Israel is still growing by leaps & bounds, the government has encouraged builders to erect projects in towns & cities that may not be as well known as Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, but are nevertheless attractive investments for a variety of reasons. Examples include Ashdod & Tzefat (Safed). Ashdod, a beautiful coastal city of over 200,000 people (located about 20 miles south of Tel Aviv) has become a magnet for many European Jews, who have purchased magnificent seaside/marina apartments that are in various stages of construction. The city also features an expanding Orthodox population. Community leaders are working with construction companies to increase the number of real estate opportunities in the area. A new train link to the city from Tel Aviv has also made Ashdod a lucrative place to live.

Up North, the beautiful & mystical Galilean town of Tzefat has quietly seen an expansion of one-of-a-kind real estate developments. The Israeli government is planning a major push to populate with the Galilee-Kinnerret region within the next few years, making any real estate venture an attractive investment.

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305-761-8744

Project Guide

Pearl Skolnik Reaslty

Pearl Skolnik has worked as a real estate agent for 25 years in Jerusalem and for nearly 10 years in Ramat Beit Shemesh. Two years ago, she opened a new office in Modiin, which is growing at a rapid pace.

All the real estate agents in her offices, are veteran Anglo immigrants who understand the needs of Western olim and strive to find just the right community for each family. They are very aware of the importance of securing the right home and neighbors for their clients, knowing that this is a critical part of a successful integration into their chosen communities and Israel.

Pearl Skolnik Realty offers a wide selection of services including: investment projects throughout Israel, both income-producing and in pre-building stages; homes for sale/rent in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Beit Shemesh, Modiin, Yad Binyamin, TelzStone, and Jerusalem, as well as absentee owners' management services of property in these areas. They also offer services in several senior citizen housing complexes throughout Israel.

In addition to a wide array of "second-hand" homes, Pearl Skolnik Realty also represents several enticing real estate projects, which have the potential for excellent investments. In some cases, the value of a residence can go up 20% upon completion, and sometimes even as much as 50%, depending on location and type of residence. They are very careful to work with reputable developers, so that their clients will be in trustworthy hands!

Some of the more interesting projects Pearl Skolnik Realty is representing include: Yad Binyamin, a marvelous community now expanding, which is only half an hour from everywhere; Ramat Neriya and Ahuzat Shimshon townhouses/homes in Beit Shemesh, along with two popular townhouse projects in an area most in demand within Ramat Beit Shemesh. In addition, they are currently working on the development of a very special project for Western immigrants in Modiin.

For more information, you may contact them in their office with a 'local' call to Israel: 718-715-0283 or at 972-2-999-7746.
Email: skolnik@netvision.net.il

Pearl Skolnik Realty agents are also available for private or parlor meetings during their stay in the U.S.A.
Pearl Skolnik Realty 34 Nachal Kishon St.Ramat Beit Shemesh
Tel: 02-999 7746 Fax: 02-991 8713
Local (U.S) call to Israel: 718-715-0283
e-mail: info@pearlskolnikrealty.com www.pearlskolnikrealty.com

Nof Zion

How Much Would You Pay For A Seemingly "Priceless" View of Jerusalem?
Unique "Nof Zion" Real Estate Project Offers Buyers A Stunningly Affordable Opportunity

While there are a variety of real estate opportunities in Israel's capital city, none of them can be compared to what is taking place at "Nof Zion", a unique project that is offering buyers perhaps one of the last unobstructed views of the Temple Mount, Old City & the Judean Desert at affordable prices.

When the "Nof Zion" project was initially unveiled to the real estate market last year, sales representatives were overwhelmed with inquiries from all over the world, including the USA. Since that time, construction has begun in earnest on "Nof Zion". The key to this project is the fact that new neighborhoods such as "Nof Zion" haven't been built within Jerusalem in a long time. And in "Nof Zion's" case, this will most probably be the first & last opportunity to purchase a piece of property that guarantees a priceless view of Jewish destiny.

It is a recurring dream for many Jews to reside in a home overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. "Nof Zion" has turned this recurring dream into a stark reality-a self-contained private neighborhood of nearly 400 apartments, built on 115 dunams of private land. This uniquely designed project will also blend into the natural terraces of the Jerusalem Promenade slope, providing every resident with a private terrace overlooking the Old City.

The exacting standards that have been set by the developer of this one-of-a-kind project – the Digal Investment Company – are of the highest quality. More importantly, the price of a 125 square meter "luxury apartment" (4 rooms) starts at only $320,000 dollars (5 rooms=150 sq. meter-$400,000). Suffice to say, residents of "Nof Zion" will marvel at the attention to detail that has been invested in the project.

In addition, "Nof Zion" is showcasing various types of apartments, some of which feature private gardens and penthouses. Aside from enjoying the spectacular view of Jerusalem, the "Nof Zion" neighborhood will include a commercial center, kindergartens, educational institutions, synagogues, health club, and will be conveniently integrated into Jerusalem's new public transportation system. Major public and government institutions are also slated to be built nearby.

Sales of "Nof Zion's" luxurious apartments are being handled exclusively in Israel by Anglo-Saxon Jerusalem. Sales of the "Nof Zion" project in the USA are being conducted by the company's American representative-Mrs. Gita Galbut. You can also visit the project's website at www.nofzion.co.il

For further information in Israel please call 1-700-700 476 or 03-560-1149
or
Mrs. Gita Galbut, Nof Zion representative in USA: 305-761-8744

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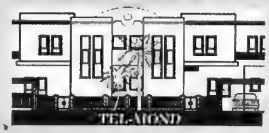

Jerusalem:	Tel: 972-2-625-1161 Fax: 972-2-625-9207 Email: jerusalem@anglo-saxon.co.il
Tel Aviv:	Tel: 972-3-546-7722 Fax: 972-3-546-7674 Email: kikar@astlv.com
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Sky Marom

Breathtaking Condos In Tsfat (Safed)

"Vacation Village Tsfat" is a new project consisting of private-suite condos that are now being offered for sale to Jews all over the world. By purchasing a Vacation Village Tsfat condo-unit, both family & friends will have a relaxing & congenial place to stay whenever you are in Israel.

These breathtaking suites are located on the mountaintops of the mystical Galilean town of Tsfat. Buyers will be able to enjoy many advantages that these condominiums have to offer, including a half-acre of lawns and greenery, high-level hotel service, catering facilities, sports/fitness center, shul, and private child care for residents.

Vacation Village Tsfat is superbly located in the heart of the Upper Galilee, just minutes away from the Sea of Galilee and within easy reach of major highways that lead to all areas of the country.

The average price per standard one-bedroom private-suite unit starts at around $79,000 dependent on various factors including upper or lower level suites and available views. For more information about this project, see the ad in this issue.

For further information :
Shneur Herman
Tel: 310-447-4427 or in Israel 972-4-697-3171

Holyland

Holyland Properties- Make Your Dream Come True..

For years, Jews have dreamed of making their homes in Eretz Yisrael. Countless individuals have left their jobs, sold their houses, packed their belongings and moved east to settle in the land of their dreams.

But even for those who've chosen not to make their homes there, Israel remains a favorite vacation spot. Year after year, people flock to the mekomos hakdoshim, to the Lag Ba'omer celebrations, to the Succos Festival etc. Indeed, Eretz Yisrael beckons. You too, may have felt the yearning. You too, may share in the dream.

Holyland Properties, a firm selling land, apartments and houses in Israel, is ready to help you realize your dream. With nearly two decades of experience behind them, they are a company you can trust and rely on to find you the perfect property, whether it's for a primary or second home.

Holyland Properties currently has many luxurious apartments – in Jerusalem and the surrounding suburbs– for sale, at terrific prices. Instead of spending money on an impersonal hotel room, enjoy Jerusalem's majestic views from the windows of your own beautiful apartment.

Owning a second home in Eretz Yisrael makes sense... personally and economically. But if you're not yet ready to buy a house or apartment, yet

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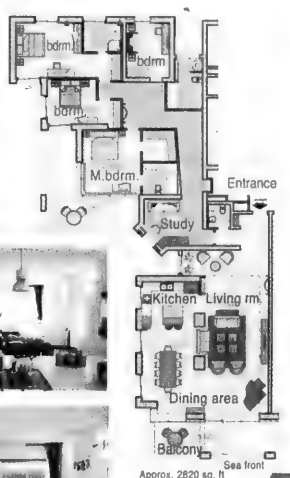

*4.5 bedroom apartment, for illustration purposes only

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do want to own property in Israel, Holyland Properties has terrific deals for you too. They offer pieces of land in all sizes to suit even the most budget-conscious buyer.

The Midrash states: "He who owns a share of Israel has a share of olam haba." With the help of Holyland Properties, owning a share of Israel is as easy as ever.

Besides offering you property at outstanding prices, they also offer assistance in obtaining a mortgage. Furthermore, they will work out a plan for you to pay in easy installments over the course of several years, if you so desire.

Holyland Properties has the support of many Gedolei Yisroel who recognize the role they play in helping people move to Israel, buy a second home, or simply own land there.

Call or email them today and make your dream come true.
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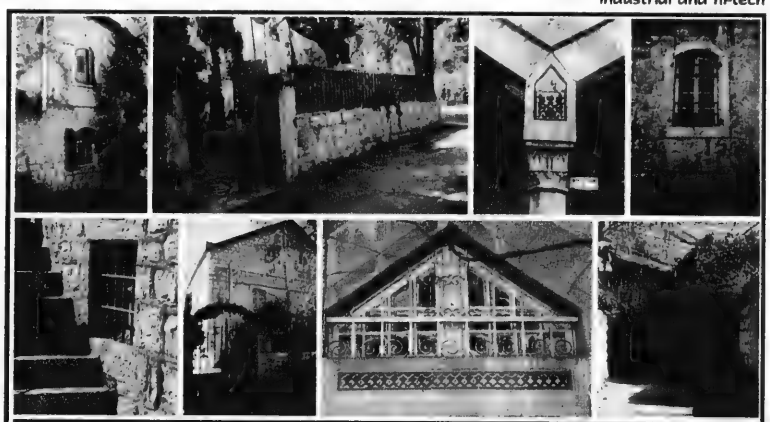

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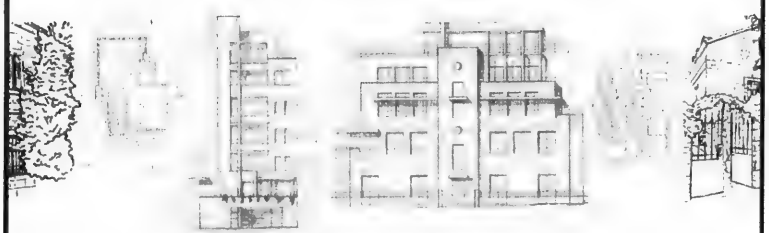

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Sea Opera

Netanya's New Concept In Gracious Living
By JAMES HARRIS

The "Sea Opera" real estate project is a new concept in gracious living. The developers and architects have designed a residential complex that is suitable as a year-round home as well as a holiday getaway. Sea Opera's 200-plus apartments were designed as year-round homes, while the location lends itself to a permanent residence or a holiday visit.

Sea Opera is situated in Netanya, opposite the sea, with every apartment displaying an excellent view of the Mediterranean. This proximity to the sea, a mere few yards away, means that in the summer residents can take a dip in the ocean or use the in-house swimming pool. Living in Sea Opera means that you can take a leisurely stroll on the seaside promenade just outside the residence or relax in the pleasant 6,000-square meter Sea Opera park.

Living in Netanya year-round is ideal for many reasons. For those who live in Sea Opera and want to work, the estate is within easy access of the modern industrial and hi-tech parks in nearby South Netanya, Herzliya, and Tel Aviv, as well as the commercial and financial centers of the Tel Aviv metropolitan area. Tel Aviv is 30 minutes away by car or train, while Herzliya is just 15 minutes away.

The relative proximity to the economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv is a great advantage; but for those purchasing a Sea Opera apartment as a holiday home, the attractions are mostly in Netanya itself. First, there is accessibility to all parts of the country. Jerusalem, Caesarea, Acre (Akko), Dead Sea, the Galilee, to mention just a few examples, are all within easy reach. Jerusalem is 90 minutes away, while Masada in the Dead Sea region, can be reached within two hours. Caesarea is only about 15 minutes away, and Acre less than an hour.

Netanya itself is also a great place to live. It is a growing Mediterranean coastal town with all the amenities and attractions one would expect from a typical coastal town in Spain, France, Italy, or Greece- including numerous synagogues. There are sea views and wide beaches, open-air cafes and restaurants, lots of entertainment, and an abundance of shopping centers.

For overseas buyers of Sea Opera apartments, Netanya is doubly inviting. Netanya has a large percentage of English-speakers from the U.S., England, and Canada, as well as expatriates from European countries, especially France. The majority of Sea Opera residents are English-speakers from America & England.

Besides being a magnificent home and holiday apartment complex, Sea Opera is the perfect investment. According to real estate experts, property values will continue to rise in the area. Seafront apartments in Israel aren't easy to come by these days, which is why Sea Opera is such an attractive option. Israel's most important financial daily publication, Globes, recently wrote that in the next five years seafront residences will more than double in price.

This is especially true of Sea Opera. It is located on Nitza Boulevard, Netanya's most exclusive street, and was built on private freehold land. Most other housing is built on land owned by the state. Since Sea Opera was built on privately owned land, the property will in the future command premium prices.

For further information, contact:
Tel: 972-9-892-2466 Fax: 972-9-832-9384 Cellphone: 972-50-7812261

e-mail:dave@seaopera.co.il Website: www.seaopera.co.il

Nofei Illit

Nofei Illit: A Majestic View From Your New Apt. In The Heart of Modiin Illit

Thousands of frum families have discovered that Kiryat Sefer/Modiin Illit has become the most ideal location in Eretz Yisrael to purchase an apartment. The country's fastest growing Charedi city was conceived as a place where families could buy beautiful new & affordable apartments and enjoy convenient access to a variety of high-quality Mosdos Chinuch, shuls, kollelim, & mikvaot as well as pristine parks and shopping centers. Literally, a Torah-community built with a country-style atmosphere that is healthy for both body & soul. In addition, there are over 800 English-speaking families that live in this hub of Torah living, with many more on the way.

Kiryat Sefer/Modiin Illit is strategically located near many transportation hubs, making travel to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Petach Tikva and Bnei Brak only 30 minutes away by car or bus. The airport which is only 15 minutes away, will be linked to the region by a new train line that is due to be completed late next year.

Because of these desirable features, Kiryat Sefer/Modiin Illit has attracted a growing number of families from English-speaking countries, particularly the U.S., Canada & the UK.

The Kiryat Sefer-Modiin Housing building company (which is building Nofei Illit) has been at the forefront of constructing thousands of high-quality apartments & town-houses, throughout the city. The Kiryat Sefer-Modiin Housing company designs apartment interiors to meet the specific needs of Charedi families, boasting large kitchen & dining areas, several bedrooms and options for expansion. A number of buildings also feature duplex penthouse apartments and garden apartments. Buildings currently under construction are being made with aesthetically pleasing Jerusalem stone exteriors, elevators, balconies for Succahs and outdoor patios.

"Nofei Illit" is located on a lush, green plateau in the heart of Modiin Illit and is designed for families who are looking for 3, 4 & 5 room apartments, built to the highest standards and featurin g large terraces & gardens. The views from atop "Nofei Illit" are breathtaking. Just imagine sitting on your terrace and staring at the biblical Judean Mountains or the Coastal Plain. Country living that's within close proximity to both Jerusalem & Bnei Brak.

And because Kiryat Sefer/Modiin Illit is considered a vital development area, new immigrants are entitled to attractive mortgages, which significantly reduce the overall financial burden.

For more information about "Nofei Illit":
In Israel-Tel. 08-974-0313 (Head Office-18 Avnei Nezer St.)

Oz Vehadar

The residents of the holy city of Tsefat love their mountaintop home and wouldn't dream of trading in the fresh air of the Galil, the breath taking views and the feeling of holiness that envelopes the city every Shabbos and Yom Tov. Throughout its history, the holy city of Tsefat has been known as an important Torah center. Many great Kabbalists and Torah giants chose to make their homes in Tsefat, dating as far back as the Mishna and Talmud.

Once a remote city in the Galil, Tsefat is now easily accessible due to frequent buses from Jerusalem and Bnei Brak and the upgrading of highways and access roads leading to Tsefat. It's proximity to both commercial centers and nature reserves makes Tsefat an ideal home year-round or as a summer retreat.

Safed Gates is a residential project of the highest standard now in construction in Tsefat. Safed Gates upper Mountainview complex consists of four floors—spacious homes for those who desire a high standard and privacy. Each level of the Mountainview complex has only two apartments per floor, ranging from 4-5 rooms with a spacious living room and kitchen and large ad joining porches.

The lower terraced complex consists of eight floors with apartments each ranging from 3-4 rooms. All apartme nts have a Succa suitable porch as well as a second porch which can be used for future expansion. Some apartments have a garden. The complex is made up of eight floors. The size of the apartments are 3-4 rooms. The residential project offers its residents breath-taking views of Mount Meron and the Galil.

Fo r complete information about the city of Tsefat and our current projects, along with detailed floorplans and specifications for each property, please visit our website: www.diro.biz

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Tivuch Shelly

RBS-Aleph & Modi'in Buchman Are "Two of The Very Best"
By Staughton Clarke

"Some communities just keep getting better and better," observes Shelly Levine, CEO of Tivuch Shelly. The veteran realtor is referring to Ramat Bet Shemesh and Modi'in, two of her prime exclusive offerings.

* RBS-Aleph has a new development by veteran builder OR AMI, Ltd. located next to the popular neighborhood's commercial and services center. The 54 units now available are divided between two-family cottages (each with attic and basement), deluxe terraced apartments and towering pent-cottages. The builders are especially proud of the separate entrances, garage parking, central air-conditioning and southern exposures looking out onto hill-and-forest views, which characterize the project.

*Modi'in Buchman is home to SHARBAT BROTHERS "6 Stars of Buchman," a beautiful 4 and 5-room hillside development that offers a choice of either rolling gardens or large balconies. Gorgeous views that go on forever twin with high technical standards and central air-conditioning, parking and storeroom, all included in the price.
Modiin is Israel's fastest growing city and features one of the most active English-speaking communities in the country.

"Within Modi'in, it is clear to us that the most dynamic and desirable community, as well as the properties appreciating most quickly, are in the Buchman neighborhood," a spokesperson for Euro-Israel developers claimed.

Thus, Euro-Israel decided to make its move...and what a move it is! 144 spacious, exquisitely designed cottages neatly built on a picturesque mountain in "South Buchman."

Each home is approximately 170 square meters in size, with all of them featuring gardens and sweeping, panoramic views. Initial buyers include Israelis, as well as new immigrants from North America- religious and non-observant.

Euro-Israel builds top projects throughout Israel: in Jerusalem, Beersheva, Givat Zeev and now, Modi'in. Euro-Israel's building standards are of top international quality with precision professionalism and attention to detail. Sales are brisk, reflecting the uniqueness of the project, as well as the investment in the city's renowned quality of life.

EXCLUSIVE SALES: Tivuch Shelly, 02-566-2499 /Office-6 Jabotinsky Street-Jerusalem
(opposite the Inbal Hotel)
E-mail: shellylevine2000@yahoo.com

Kfar Hamccabiah

"2nd Home in Israel" :A Real Estate Project At Kfar Maccabiah

Kfar Maccabiah's "2nd Home" project offers an ideal solution to the accommodation dilemmas of Jews and Israelis abroad visiting frequently for business, pleasure or living part of the year in Israel. Apartment-sized suite-units are listed in their owners' names in the Property Register ("Tabu") and are entirely free of municipal property taxes and other payments. When their owners are not in residence, the units are available for rental by Kfar Maccabiah Hotel to its guests, and the owners' share in the rental income. It is NOT a time-share scheme as the units are available at any time, whenever their owners desire.

The 20-acre Kfar Maccabiah complex is superbly located in the heart of Dan Region, next to the Safari Park in Ramat-Gan, minutes from Tel Aviv and the Mediterranean beaches, and very close to major highway interchanges affording easy access to all parts of the country. The 130-room Kfar Maccabiah Hotel, Convention & Events Center is one of Israel's largest Sports & Leisure Clubs, complete with 4 swimming pools, fully equipped fitness room and tennis courts, are all in a tree-filled setting of lush gardens and greenery. Established 50 years ago, the complex is owned by the Maccabi World Union, organizers of the famous Maccabiah Games (a.k.a. Jewish Olympics).

"2nd Home in Israel" is an 8-storey building offering 124 one or two-bedroom, fully-furnished and equipped units, of 500 or 750 square feet respectively. Innovatively, owners pay no maintenance, taxes or any extra bills besides charges for hotel services when they use their units. Owners enjoy all the services available at Kfar Maccabiah, ample parking, security, sports club facilities free of charge and discounted-price restaurant and other hotel

services. Starting at $165k, prices for these high-quality suite units rise depending on size, floor and facing direction. Each unit includes its own fully equipped kitchenette (locked when owners are not in residence), dining area, living room, bedroom, en suite luxury bathroom, lockable storage area and balcony. 50 units have already been sold! Construction on additional sections will begin after the 17th Maccabiah Games in July.

Prospective buyers can see the project online at http://www.2nd-home.co.il
For further information please call: In the U.S.: 1(866) 5628648 or 1(866) 935-5233
In Israel: 972 3 6715701 or e-mail Anouk Spitzer anouk@kmc.co.il or 2nd-home@kmc.co.il

Alumot

Alumot: Inside Jerusalem's Fast-Track Real Estate Co.

Alumot MG Engineering Ltd. is a real estate development and construction company specializing in the Jerusalem region.
The company has sold tens of units in unique sites in Jerusalem during the past year. With this success, Alumot wishes to expand its operations with a focus on the more prominent districts of Jerusalem.

Alumot MG Engineering Ltd. was founded in 2003 and has purchased and developed unique housing projects in Jerusalem by purchasing land in various sites including- Rehavia, Nachlaot, German Colony, and Old Katamon.
They are in the process of developing projects that include complex preservation of the original buildings.

The market for these homes is small, but is on a constant upswing. Israel's affluent buyers and Jewish investors from abroad have made their homes within the German Colony.
The Alumot team features eight men and women who have a combined 20 years experience in the real estate business, as well as 10 years in marketing, 15 years in engineering and 20 years in management.

Alumot has purchased and is in the process of developing the following projects in Jerusalem:
Rehavia:
Harav Berlin 17- Residential building of 530 Sqm.
Katamon:
Tel Hai 2- Residential building of 1060 Sqm.
German Colony:
Patterson 4- Residential building of 640 Sqm. (including a complex preservation project)
Cremieux 8- 2 residential buildings of 600 Sqm. Each. (the first building is a complex preservation project)
Nachlaot:
Beer Sheva 34- Residential building 225 Sqm. (preservation)
Givon 8- 2 Residential buildings 460 Sqm. (preservation)
Zichron Tuvia 19- Residential buildings 420 Sqm. (preservation)
Rama 1- Residential buildings 920 Sqm. (preservation)
Yosef Haim 4- Residential buildings 160 Sqm. (preservation)
Eilat 24- Residential buildings 450 Sqm. (preservation)
Nachalat Achim:
Tveria 3- Residential buildings 420 Sqm.
Tzfat 32- Residential buildings 620 Sqm.

Contact: Danny Rosenbluth Alumot- MG Engineering Ltd.
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Looking For A Top-Flight Real Estate Investment? It's All Right Here!

By: David Shamah

The first rule of investing, as everyone knows, is to buy low and sell high. The key to getting a good investment deal is to get on board early - before everyone else finds out about it! On the other hand, you want something that is going to appreciate to some extent in the short term, while retaining its value for the long term. The trick is finding investment opportunities that are on the cusp of a big move up, as well as moving quickly to ensure that your asset (s) is in place.

Fortunately for you, you're reading this article, which means that you are about to find out about one of the best places you can invest in, one that has proven itself historically time after time.

The name of the investment? Israel - its economy in general, and its real estate market in particular!

Once upon a time, astatement like that (vis-à-vis Israel) would have engendered disbelieving stares, if not outright guffaws. Israel was known as an over-inflated and overtaxed economy. As the old adage went, "If you want to make a small fortune in Israel, make sure you come with a big fortune."

But things have changed for the better. Israel has experienced extremely low inflation during the past several years. This year for instance, the inflation rate is a paltry 1.5%. And as far as taxes areconcerned, consider his little fact::

According to an OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) report, Israel's tax burden, including income and property taxes, customs duties, VAT (sales tax) and national insurance payments totaled 28.6% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product, the total of goods and services produced) last year, much lower than in most Western countries. Only Mexico (19.5%), the United States (25.4%), South Korea (25.5%) and Japan (28.6%) had a lower tax burden as a proportion of GDP than did Israel. Most other OECD member states have a much higher tax burden, especially Denmark (49%) and Sweden (50.9%). Even the Swiss pay more (29.8%).

High-Tech & TASE Rebound

Israeli high-tech is back as well. During the first half of 2004, VC (venture capital) investments in Israeli high-tech companies were up over 50%. And with the recession of 2001-2002 at an end, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has been hitting historic highs. In fact, the TASE climbed a whopping 73.9% during 2003, with an additional 10.66% rise in the first half of 2004.

Foreign investors have been noticing the market's appreciation. Since 2003, investments by foreign residents have been on the rise. Investments in tradable securities from Jan. 2004-May 2004 have totaled $2.4 billion. During the past five years, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has also outperformed many world markets, including the key U.S. stock indices. TASE stocks have also outperformed the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Bonds, have also been performing well, thanks to the stability of the dollar vs. shekel rate and the Israeli economy's relatively steady interest rates.

Tax Update

Even the new Capital Gains Tax on investment income is not as scary at it sounds. Israeli residents are subject to a Capital Gains Tax on income derived from investments that top out at 15% - far less than the top 28% rate in the United States.

New immigrants can be exempt from these taxes altogether for up to 10 years, while foreign residents don't have to pay it at all. And if you're a dual citizen of Israel and another country, don't fret - Israel is a party to more than 35 tax treaties. The new tax reforms have not affected the existing treaties. If a taxpayer is liable both in Israel and abroad for the same income, double taxation relief is available - usually in the form of a credit for one or the other set of taxes. Tax reform has been on the minds of Israeli leaders for several years now. Cutting and rationalizing taxes has been a top priority project for Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, whom many credit with Israel's low inflation rate as of late.

Hot Real Estate Markets

As far as real estate is concerned, the picture is very bright for potential investors. Prices have risen in some areas, most notably Ramat Beit Shemesh and Modiin, two up & coming communities that have proven very popular both for new immigrants and long-time Israeli residents. However, as a result of the building glut during the late 1990s and the recession of 2001-2002, prices have remained low in many other areas. But as with so many other bargains, savvy investors take advantage of low prices and drive them up. In Jerusalem, for example, prices on luxury projects are up 25% from the summer of 2003. As a result of this demand, developers are offering projects in all the Jerusalem neighborhoods from Rehavia, Talbieh, the German Colony, and Old Katamon down to Baka in the southern part of the city. The newest project in Jerusalem, Har Choma, has already shown handsome returns, with many apartments still under construction there.

The current low prices give investors the opportunity to buy property in desirable areas that will pay off now as well as later. For example, rents on starter apartments in the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem areas have been climbing in recent months, while prices on smaller apartments remain stable, making them a good mid- and long-term investment. For example, a two-room apartment in Ramat Gan or Givatayim now sells for an average $140,000, while the annual rental yield of an apartment like this can be $6,000 to $7,200, or from 4.62% to 5.14% a year. There are also many undervalued properties in what are currently considered "less desirable" areas of Tel Aviv, bordering on neighborhoods that are going through a gentrification process.

Demand is always high in the frum areas of Petach Tikvah and Bnei Brak. In these areas as families continue grow, prices and demand are almost guaranteed to rise. The fact that real estate in prime areas is a limited resource helps homeowners maximize their investments. There are of course, development towns like Betar Illit (near Jerusalem) where you can get substantial tax incentives on purchases.

Then there's commercial real estate, which has proven to be an excellent investment. Industrial zones, located on the outskirts of Israel's cities and towns, house a mixture of uses, including high-tech, manufacturing and warehousing tenants. Industrial zones also have been at the forefront of much of the recent growth in retail development. During the past few years, these areas have begun to take on many of the characteristics of suburban office parks, albeit with a higher concentration of development as is typical in Israel.

Another good strategy would be to look at properties in areas that are slated to rise in value within a few years, such as towns/cities that lie in the path of the ever-growing network of train tracks being constructed by Israel

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Railways. For example, the government is building a rail line between Beit Shemesh and Jerusalem, as well as Tel Aviv & Modiin, which means that homes in towns located in the Jerusalem & Tel Aviv Corridors will likely rise in value as well. Foreign currency markets have helped make Israeli real estate even more attractive, especially for European investors. Why? Because, real estate in Israel is usually quoted in dollars. The dollar is going through a weak period against the Euro and but is stable against the shekel.

Getting In On The Action

What would one do if one wanted to get in on the action? Most Israeli banks offer mutual funds that investors can place money into (although the Knesset may soon require banks to get out of the investment business). This is probably the best way to get involved with the Israeli equity markets. Bank Hapoalim, for example, lists dozens of funds in its Lahak portfolio, which has a fund to suit every investment style, from an aggressive portfolio consisting of the TASE Tel-Tech Index (featuring high-tech companies like Comverse, Gilat, etc.) to a conservative blue-chip fund that invests only in large, stable companies (Bezeq, Teva, etc.), to "mixed bags" that invest in local and foreign stocks, as well as shekels and foreign currency. Many private groups also sponsor mutual funds with a variety of investments and returns vis-a-vis the "big" investment houses - Merrill Lynch, CitiBank Global, HSBN, etc. (Banks are prohibited by law from selling investors their own shares, so if you want to buy stock in a particular bank, you'll have to utilize the services of another organization). Of course, as always, you should check out a fund's prospectus before investing (nearly all have an English-language version of this document, if your Hebrew is not up to the task).

If real estate is your game, there are a number of considerations to look at, both in terms of government regulation and banking rules. Mortgages can be taken in shekels, or in nearly any other foreign currency (although banks are most comfortable with dollars). For shekel loans, a borrower will generally repay the loan at either a fixed interest rate, currently hovering around 5%, or a variable rate loan, with some rates below 5%. Customers also will pay a "linkage" component in addition to principal and interest that is based on increases in the Consumer Price Index, a holdover from the 1970s and early 80s when Israel experienced triple-digit hyperinflation and some form of linkage was necessary to protect lenders. While inflation generally has been nearly negligible over the past few years, the fact that the escalator linkage will be found in the contract, means that it could become a significant factor in payments. But the stable inflation and shekel rate over the past decade, has given banks the confidence to write unlinked mortgages as well.

How much do you have to put down? In the past, mortgage banks in Israel required you to ante up a high percentage of a property's cost as a down payment, but times have definitely changed. Each bank has its own formula, but generally they will look at your income. (Generally, the monthly payment should not be more than 40% of household income). Loans, depending on the area the property is located in and its value (the bank will send out an appraiser at its own expense), average 60 to 70% of the property's cost. However, if one takes out personal mortgage insurance (called EMI in Israel), which is offered by all mortgage banks, the bank will usually increase that amount, sometimes up to 90% of the property's value.

Once upon a time, apartment purchasers were required to make the rounds of friends and relatives to find guarantors willing to back their loans. Some banks may still insist on them. But the country's largest banks claim that this is also a requirement they no longer insist upon - unless they feel that the purchaser's income is unstable or not high enough to repay the loan. Interestingly, your purchase contract and mortgage documentation generally will list the price of the property you are buying in shekels, although you probably will have negotiated the price with the seller in dollar terms.

What if you prefer to conclude your deal in dollars? Israeli residents, as well as non-residents, can take out loans in foreign currency and pay back in shekels linked to that currency (usually dollars). Foreign currency mortgages generally carry interest based on the 90-day London Interbank Overnight Rate (LIBOR), plus a premium of approximately 1.75%. Individual rates will depend on the borrower's particular situation. Preferential rates are available for more credit-worthy borrowers. Banks generally also want a higher down payment (as much as 50%) of a property's value on loans of this type. With Israel's inflation rate low and stable, taking out a foreign currency-linked loan in dollars or Euros is far less attractive. Why? Because the currency exchange rates tend to fluctuate almost daily, making payback planning difficult if you are paying in shekels. Thus, the payment is bound to change every month - and is likely to be higher, given the historic trend of the shekel to gradually devalue vs. the dollar and Euro.

Once you have found the real estate property you want to purchase, one negotiates the price of the property either directly with a seller or the agent representing them. Then the lawyers (yours & theirs) take over and negotiate contract terms. Usually, you don't have to make an "earnest money" prepayment to enter negotiations; you come to a deal and provide an initial payment (usually 10% of the value) to seal the deal, and work out payment terms for the rest. (Unless you and/or the seller are in a hurry, payments usually extend over a period of up to a year). Escrow accounts are known but not common, as you usually make the final payment the day you receive the keys/title to the property. Realtor fees are similar to those in other places (1% to 3% of the deal, usually payable by both parties). Mortgage banks also require a life-insurance policy on the mortgage, which they will gladly provide. Recently, insurance companies also have entered the sales fray and claim that they are able to actually provide better coverage for less money.

As far as taxes are concerned: yes, you have to pay them. But the tax burden on real-estate transactions is not overwhelming. Buyers pay a purchase tax (significantly discounted for new immigrants) and a Value Added Tax (VAT) of 17% on new apartments or home purchases, which will be included in the price of the property. There is no VAT on secondhand purchases. Sellers pay a Land Appreciation Tax (mas mekarkiin) and, sometimes, a Betterment Tax (mas shevach) if the property value appreciates considerably. Again, there are discounts for new immigrants and foreign residents, as well as exemptions and discounts based on the property's location

Epilogue

Once upon a time, Rav Kalman Zev Wissotzky of Moscow, who had a close friendship with to Rav Yisrael Salanter, was one of the greatest tea merchants in Russia. In 1936, one of his descendants established a small tea factory in Eretz Yisrael. Today, long after Wissotzky's Russian holdings were plundered by the Bolsheviks, Wissotzky Tea is the best-selling brand in Eretz Yisrael! So pour yourself a delicious cup of tea and revel in the inspiration of investing in Israel!

The Law of Real Estate Property Agenting 5756-1996

By: Aharon Volk Adv.

1.- Introduction

1.1 As an attorney specializing in the field of real property many people from abroad who want to acquire property in Israel ask me questions that relate to "the real estate broker" in Israel. In The Holy Land, as opposed to England and the United States, for the sake of comparison, around 80 percent of the real property deals for dwellings are closed without the aid of a real property broker. In Israel the real property broker, regretfully, suffers from many negative attitudes – the impression that they are not professional people and sometimes not even honest, for example – that is our life in the Promised Land. In addition one should note that in recent years the situation in Israel improved a lot following legislation of a law on the subject of real property agenting, following rulings of law that were handed down in the courts, and most important, following the entry of real property brokerage offices that are professional and of high quality.

1.2 Recently I have encountered questions from foreign residents such as: "am I obligated to pay a brokerage fee in the event the real property broker gives me details about an apartment verbally?", "is the brokerage fee that the real property broker requests from me limited in amount?" "is the real property broker obligated to maintain discretion regarding the details I transfer to him?" "what is included in the service that the real property broker is obligated to give me?" and also, "when exactly am I obligated according to the law to pay the brokerage fee?" And so on and so on. I will expand on these questions and others further on, particularly with respect to service to our brothers in the nation of Israel who live in the diaspora and who strongly desire to acquire property in Israel. I also attest that I have tried hard to write in simple language as opposed to legal language so that the widest possible public will understand these things.

2. Conditions For Dealing As A Real Property Broker

2.1 In order to receive a license to deal as a real property broker the candidate must undertake certain actions. First of all, he must pass successfully a test on the subject of real property laws, planning and construction laws, and laws of real property taxation. In addition the candidate must pay a one time licensing fee at the time he receives the license and also an annual fee, etc.

3. Conditions For The Obligation To Pay A Brokerage Fee

3.1 A real property broker will be entitled to a brokerage fee only given the existence of a certain accumulation of conditions. The court shows increasing signs of flexibility regarding the conditions, but there is no doubt that if the real property broker is not meticulous about the conditions the chance exists that the court will deny the real property broker the right to a brokerage fee. And these are the accumulated conditions:

1. The real property broker must have a license to deal in real property brokering, as explained above.

2. The real property broker must have the client sign a written order for undertaking real property brokerage activity which includes, among other things, the name of the client and the name of the real property broker, the type of deal concerned (rental or sale), a description of the property that is the subject of the brokerage activity, the price of the requested deal, the rate of the agreed on brokerage fee including Value Added Tax.

4. Extent of Permissible Brokerage Fees and Tips

4.1 According to the law there are no limitations on permissible brokerage fees a broker may collect and therefore the brokerage fee must be agreed on with the real property broker in advance and not after the real property broker has shown the client the property and discerns that the client is enthusiastic about the property.

4.2 It is customary to request a maximum of 2 percent, plus Value Added Tax from someone who acquires an apartment or payment of a month's rent plus Value Added Tax from someone who rents an apartment.

4.3 Today, on account of the economic situation there are many real property brokers who after a short negotiation agree to reduce the brokerage fee to 1 percent plus Value Added Tax for someone who acquires and apartment or asks for a month's rent including Value Added Tax for someone who rents an apartment.

4.4 The client must verify that the real property broker writes on the order form the exact places he is about to show and should not be satisfied with a general address.

4.5 From my experience professional real property brokers justify the fees they receive for work done, if only that they make it easier for the clients to sift early on through potential properties, or perhaps their professional opinions regarding the value of the property, and perhaps surprising, but from my experience during negotiations a professional and reliable real property broker succeeds in reducing the requested price for the property in a significant way.

4.6 Not many know how to cause the real property broker to undertake all the actions that are in his ability to undertake. It is possible to request that the real property broker check who are the neighbors around the property, to check with the neighbors whether in the adjacent building to the property there are engineering problems, sanitation problems, nuisance problems such as noise, bad smells, etc. Ask the real property broker to prepare a list of similar properties to the desired property that were sold in the recent period or are on the market at that time.

4.7 In many cases a real property broker is prepared to take on himself the responsibility of transferring the meters for electricity, water and gas, and also the obligation for city taxes (Arnona) to the name of the person acquiring the property or renter, and because transferring these things is many times tied to wasting of time and bureaucracy it is worthwhile for that reason to accept such assistance.

4.8 The brokerage fee should be paid only after signing the contract and not after signing a memorandum of agreement. In addition it should be noted that in cases where the contract is signed and then cancelled the real property broker will be entitled to the brokerage fee despite the cancellation of the deal.

5. The Time When The Broker Is Entitled To Receive The Brokerage Money

In principle the court stated that the test of when the broker is entitled to the brokerage fee is if following the brokered deal the sides did indeed join together in an enforceable agreement.

So it emerges that sometimes upon signing a memorandum of agreement an obligation concerning a brokerage fee will be created even if afterwards a detailed contract between the sides is not signed and even if the deal is in the final analysis cancelled.

Comment: what is stated above is formulated in a general way but there are instances that are exceptional and out of the ordinary. For example: given the existence of certain conditions, someone at age 68 can receive a license without a test as stated in sub-paragraph 2.1.

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This Week

National

Hans Krasa's opera *Brundibar* opens in Saskatoon. **Page 13**

Downtown Jewish Community School celebrates 25 years. **Page 14**

No Place Like Home

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Books & Authors

Story of tragic romance set in Stalinist Moscow. **Page 37**

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Wrapped in a happy feeling

These young women celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut last week at an outdoor community rally sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. From left are Gayla Amols, Sammi Chat, Leore Kamen, Taryan Hoffman and Naomi Samuel. ***Please see related story on pages 30 and 31.*** *[Benji Feldman photo]*

Iran may have nuclear know-how in less than nine months: Shalom

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Iran may develop the know-how to make nuclear weapons in six to nine months, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said last Friday. He called on the United Nations to impose sanctions on Iran.

"Iran poses an existential threat, and that's why I think that the entire world understands that it's impossible to give such an extremist regime the possibility of having a nuclear bomb that can essentially threaten the integrity of the world," Shalom said on Friday in an interview with Israel Radio.

The day before, Shalom had warned that Tehran was close to knowing how to make nuclear weapons.

"Iran's announcement of their decision to renew uranium enrichment is, of course, a very dangerous announcement that must be viewed with appropriate concern," he told foreign diplomats at a reception at the president's residence. "Unfortunately, we see that indeed Iran will do everything to reach nuclear capability. The question is not whether Iran will have a nuclear bomb in 2009 or 2011.

Continued on page 35

Silvan Shalom

From Poland to Israel: revelling in nationhood

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — March of the Living participants who landed in Israel last week after being in Poland could not kiss the tarmac as in the past because the gleaming new airport connects aircraft directly to the terminal.

March of the Living

But that mattered little. They were more than content, the consensus seemed to be, to kiss the Western Wall, celebrate Israel's 57th birthday with a May 12 March of the Living parade through Jerusalem, and leave behind Poland's relentless drizzle and nightmarish images of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka and Majdanek for the glorious sunshine of the Jewish state and the sheer sense of empowerment that came with Jews revelling in their own nationhood.

Poland, many participants said, is a nation obviously struggling to come to grips with its past. The ghosts of three million Polish Jews haunt Poland, a country that was a victim of Nazi oppression,

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Behar
Candlelighting: 8:23
Havdallah: 9:28
Greater Toronto Area

Germany's national Shoah memorial opens in Berlin – See page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Groups Praise Budget

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto praised the Ontario government for its budget commitment last week to freeze post-secondary tuition and give more aid to students, as well as for pledging more money for child care and palliative care. But they criticized the Liberals for not helping families with students in non-Catholic faith-based schools. "The injustice that was done when education tax credits were taken away from students in faith-based schools continues to be ignored, and puts enormous pressure on families in our community," said federation president Leslie Gales.

Back to Class

TORONTO — Two *CJN* reporters are among 20 North American journalists who were chosen to take part in this year's Gralla Fellows Program for Journalists in the Jewish Press at Brandeis University. Toronto-based Ron Csillag and Elias Levy, *The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, will attend the July 17-21 program, which is designed to enhance journalists' knowledge of Judaism and trends relevant to religion reporting.

Darfur Action Lauded

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress praised the federal government last week after Ottawa pledged $198 million for humanitarian aid and to support the African Union Mission in Sudan in order to help end the conflict in the country's Darfur region. Nearly 500,000 people have died and two million have been left homeless in a conflict in which a government-backed Arab militia has committed atrocities against the African population in the wake of a rebel uprising in 2003. CJC has been pressuring Ottawa for 18 months to take action.

WORLD

Pollard Petitions Court

JERUSALEM — Jonathan Pollard, claiming he has been tortured in jail, is appealing to the Israeli Supreme Court to be recognized as a "Prisoner of Zion," which would put more pressure on Israel to help him. Pollard, an ex-civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. Navy, was sentenced to life in jail in 1987 for transferring classified U.S. intelligence to Israel. Israeli media reported that Pollard's lawyer has submitted an appeal claiming he was tortured while in U.S. custody. Pollard says he was repeatedly left naked in freezing conditions in solitary confinement and at other times was strapped in chains while guards doused him with ice water.

Citizenship Stripped

MILWAUKEE — A U.S. court revoked the citizenship of a Racine, Wisc., man who was a wartime concentration camp guard in Poland. Josias Kumpf, 80, admitted he stood by a pit in Trawniki containing dead and wounded Jews and was ordered to shoot anyone who tried to escape. He helped in "one of the bloodiest single-day slaughters of the Holocaust, the murder of 8,000 men, women and children," Eli Rosenbaum, head of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations said.

Old Shul Destroyed

MOSCOW — A historic wooden shul near Moscow was destroyed by fire May 10 in what local Jews say could have been arson. The synagogue in the village of Malachovka, 20 kilometres from Moscow, burned down before firefighters could reach the old building. Police said it was too early to blame arson. Rabbi Moshe Tamarin, who serves the small Jewish community, said the shul was burgled two days earlier. Police arrested a local man, but released him on condition he not leave the village. The shul was a key centre of underground Jewish activities in the old Soviet Union.

Columbia Students Back Controversial Prof

NEW YORK — Twenty current and former Columbia University students wrote to school administrators insisting that a professor had not harassed a pro-Israel student.

The students, who say they were in Joseph Massad's class on the day of the alleged incident, sent a letter May 3 to Columbia's president, Lee Bollinger, to other members of the school's administration and to members of a committee that found credible claims that Massad, an assistant professor in Columbia's Middle East and Asian languages and cultures program, threatened to kick a student out of class for holding pro-Israel views. The accusations "are unequivocally false," the letter said.

A report, issued March 31, found that Massad "exceeded commonly accepted bounds" in responding to a pro-Israel student's question about Israeli warnings before military actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Issa Mikel, a third-year law student and a member of Stop McCarthyism at Columbia, which argues that the accusations against Massad are part of an assault on academic freedom at the university, said group members and other students were to meet last week with Bollinger.

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Jewish Book Awards get major donation

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For those outside the literary community, it's sometimes hard to tell the difference between a Trillium, a Giller or a Governor General's Award.

But to writers, publishers and retailers, a literary prize can sometimes determine which books will make their way out of warehouse basements into the marketing channel so that they can finally land in the hands of readers.

In that respect, the bestowal of a Canadian Jewish Book Award (CJBA) can have significant meaning to those authors who have chosen to focus on Jewish content, says Miriam Webb, who is the current chair of the awards.

"Prizes, which range in value between $500 and $1,000, have much more importance than monetary value," says Webb, who is thrilled that a significant donation by Norman Glowinsky and Lillian Vine-Glowinsky will allow the CJBA to promote the importance of the event for years to come.

The awards were recently renamed the

The Canadian Jewish Book Awards were recently renamed the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards in memory of the Vines, above, who were both Holocaust survivors.

Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards, in memory of Lillian's parents who were Holocaust survivors. Lillian's mother, Helen, died 14 years ago, while her father, Stan, died two years ago.

"This donation seemed perfect for my parents because art and literature were so meaningful to them," Vine-Glowinsky said.

"Even though my father wound up spending most of his post-Holocaust life in the business world, he really started out as an academic.

"Before the war, my father studied business and law in Silesia, a part of Germany that later became Poland. But when he arrived in Canada, he was in his 30s and felt that he couldn't go back to school."

He wound up pursuing real estate and property development, Lillian said. Yet, she remembers always having an image of her father with a book in his hand.

Lillian went on to describe her mother as a real romantic.

"She loved art and music," Vine-Glowinsky said, "and from a very early age she instilled me with stories and folk tales.

"One of my earliest memories as a young child is of my parents taking me to the bookmobile. That was a real ritual in our home."

"When my parents moved into their first home, they bought a piano before we got any furniture."

Vine-Glowinsky also recalled taking her children to visit her parents in Florida, where she met Isaac Bashevis Singer several times.

"It was so interesting to see this old and fairly infirm man and know that he had written these passionate books."

And now the mother of four children looks forward to passing her love of the arts on to her children – Lori and Avery Ross, Warren and Courtney Fireman, Lesley Glowinsky and Stefanie Glowinsky, as well as to her granddaughter, Lisa Brooke Fireman.

"I hope that literature will bring them as much joy as it has brought us," Vine-Glowinsky said.

The 17th annual CJBA award ceremony, which takes place on May 30, will celebrate winners in categories as diverse as biblical-rabbinic scholarship, biography, children's literature, Holocaust memoirs, poetry and Yiddish.

Continued on page 20

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Greater Toronto Area

Consul's regret doesn't satisfy Muslim groups

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada's department of foreign affairs has "discussed" the recent controversial remarks of Israel's consul general in Toronto with Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker.

Consul General Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh angered Muslim groups at a May 4 evening of Muslim-Jewish dialogue at Temple Har Zion in Thornhill when he said that while not all Muslims are terrorists, most terrorists are Muslims.

Islamic leaders in Canada asked Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew to investigate the remarks and seek an explanation from Baker.

"Foreign Affairs Canada has discussed the matter with the ambassador of Israel and we understand that the Israeli consul general will soon be meeting with representatives of the Muslim community to clarify the matter," department spokesperson Marie-Christine Lilkoff told *The CJN* last Friday.

Lilkoff said she was "not aware" of any plans by Ottawa to call in the Israeli envoy for a formal explanation.

"We have no doubt that this matter will be resolved quickly and constructively," she added.

Ofir Gendelman of Israel's embassy in Ottawa confirmed that contact had been made between Baker and the foreign affairs department regarding Brosh, but declined to elaborate. He said it was always Brosh's intent to meet with Canadian Muslim groups.

Meanwhile, local Muslims involved in dialogue with Jews say they are not satisfied with a statement of regret issued by Brosh for linking Islam with terrorism, but say they are willing to put the dust-up behind them.

Brosh, Israel's representative in Toronto and western Canada, issued a statement on May 11 addressing concerns raised at the program a week earlier.

Muslim leaders expressed shock and anger after Brosh stated that "the majority of terrorists in the world today are Muslims," and that moderate Muslims today are a minority.

He was also quoted by *The CJN* as saying that the notorious anti-Semitic tract *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is the best-selling book in Arab countries, and that the second most popular name in the post-9/11 Islamic world has been Osama.

The remarks were made at a program featuring Judea Pearl, father of slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, and Akbar Ahmed, an international relations professor based in Washington. Muslim leaders said Brosh's "provocative and hateful" remarks had the potential to hurt relations, and asked for an apology.

In his e-mailed response, Brosh explained that he "spoke as a citizen of a small and embattled country. It was never my intention to offend a group of people who have so fully demonstrated their personal commitment to the principles of dialogue and discussion – principles to which I have dedicated so much of my personal and professional life.

"Regrettably, I believe that my message was wrongly interpreted by some people who attended the event. I deeply regret if those to whom I spoke at the dialogue meeting took any offence from my words."

Farzana Hassan-Shahid, who's active in a local Muslim-Jewish dialogue and is president of Muslims Against Terror, said she "didn't see genuine contrition" in Brosh's statement, "and that's what I was looking for." However, Hassan-Shahid said she considers the matter over, and said she is looking forward to advancing local Muslim-Jewish relations.

Raheel Raza, a writer and leading proponent of better Muslim-Jewish ties, called Brosh's original remarks "very undiplomatic" and said he "skirted" the issue with his explanation.

"He says his message was wrongly interpreted. It wasn't." Raza stressed, however, that Muslims "have to come to terms" with the incident, and move on. "We're not going to bash this to death. We've made our point."

She doesn't think the incident will damage relations.

"Anyone cognizant of interfaith dialogue has to remember that there's a time and a place for politics, and for faith dialogue."

It's the politics that worries Tarek Fatah, a founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress.

"There really is a need to get ambassadors and diplomats out of Muslim-Jewish dialogue," he said. "It mixes politics and religion." Brosh's statement of regret "doesn't help. It further complicates things. It's not [a matter of] rejecting or accepting. I'm just disappointed he didn't get what we were talking about."

While Fatah wants to "get beyond this," he added: "I really think this is an issue for the Canadian Jewish community to take on. I would hope that someone in the Jewish community would sit down with [Brosh] and ask him what his statements about Arabs have to do with Jewish-Muslim relations here."

(In his explanation, Brosh said that "as an Israeli, my earliest experiences are that of being surrounded by countries that do not wish to speak, do not wish to argue, do wish to fight.")

Len Rudner of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress brushed aside the notion that Canadian Jews have a collective responsibility to condemn Brosh's remarks.

He said that when Lebanon's ambassador to Canada, Raymond Baaklini, alleged in 2003 that Zionists control the Canadian media, "at no time did [CJC] suggest that Arabs or Muslims condemn the statement. It had nothing to do with Lebanese Canadians."

From the editor's desk will return next week

SeeJN

COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO MOVE NORTH: Pictured at last Sunday's groundbreaking ceremony for the new northern Jewish community campus in Vaughan, to be called the Lebovic Jewish Community Centre, are, from left, major donors Joseph Lebovic and Wolf Lebovic; Leo Goldhar, chair of the Lebovic campus steering committee, and Susan Kadis, MP.

[Benji Feldman photos]

WHY WE MUST SPEAK OUT

Non-Jewish Business Leaders Stand Up Against Antisemitism in Canada

We are pleased to announce the launch of a vigorous new offensive against antisemitism in Canada, funded and driven by a coalition of non-Jews, many of them leaders in the Canadian business community.

Under the banner of Fighting Antisemitism Together (FAST), this coalition of corporate citizens and business leaders was founded in response to the fact that 2004 was the worst year in more than half a century for vicious anti-Jewish activity in this country, a shocking 857 reported incidents. In the face of this resurgent evil we felt it was time to speak out.

Above all we resolved that we would not allow another generation of Jewish children to grow up feeling fearful and unsafe just because they are Jewish, and wondering if anybody out there really cares.

Well we do care. That's why FAST exists: to honour every Jewish child and promise the Jewish people they are not alone and on their own in Canada in this new century. We are dedicated to the safety and well-being of every Jewish child in this country and we want the whole world to know it.

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of the leaders listed below, FAST is working in partnership with the Jewish community to combat antisemitism in Canada. As we move ahead with this work, we also want to invite and challenge other non-Jews of good will to speak out against the "oldest hatred" in human history.

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Survivors honoured at Queen's Park

Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah was marked auspiciously at Queen's Park, where Premier Dalton McGuinty honoured 14 Holocaust survivors and Monte Kwinter, minister of community safety and correctional services, recited Kaddish in the legislature.

At the annual ceremony, hosted by the Ontario government and sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, the premier presented 14 local Holocaust survivors with specially inscribed certificates in recognition of their "courage, strength and commitment to their communities."

Later, in the legislature, an emotional Kwinter recalled his March trip to Israel with two dozen Ontario police officials and his visit to Yad Vashem, the world-renowned Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem.

"It was here that I found the name of the town where my father was born, Czestochowa, and the town where my mother was born, Sosnowiec," Kwinter told the House.

He called the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem "especially sad. It commemorates the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in Hitler's Final Solution.

"The memorial is carved out of an underground cavern, and memorial candles, the customary Jewish tradition to remember the dead, are reflected infinitely in a dark and sombre space. They reminded me of a million stars. As you stand there, you can hear the names of the murdered children, their ages and countries of origin read in the background."

At Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities, Kwinter said those on the trip laid a wreath and he recited Kaddish, the mourner's prayer. He then asked for the legislature's unanimous consent to recite the prayer in the original Hebrew and Aramaic.

From left, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Bernard Sliwin, Albert Sliwin, Elise Kalles and National Chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, Hank Rosenbaum.

Consent was granted, and Kwinter recited the prayer.

Tory MPP Cam Jackson then rose to offer his support for Yom Hashoah. He went on to call for an amendment to the federal Criminal Code to include Holocaust denial as a hate crime "and for new, stringent legislation to prohibit the publication of hate speech while establishing clear sentencing guidelines for hate crimes.

"It is only by taking such decisive action that we complete the tribute we pay today to the victims of the Holocaust and ensure that 'Never again' becomes a reality."

Liberal MPP Ted Chudleigh, who introduced legislation marking the annual day in the legislature, noted that Ontario was the first jurisdiction outside Israel to recognize Yom Hashoah.

Today, it is marked in seven provinces in Canada and 26 out of 50 U.S. states, he said. "It would be my hope and dream that respect for minorities, respect for individuals, can spread in the same way that Holocaust Memorial Day has spread around the continent and indeed around the world," he added.

NDP leader Howard Hampton stressed the importance of remembering and the need to speak out against anti-Semitism, hate and racism.

"When we reflect, we see that some of these events still happen today, in Rwanda, in Darfur. Our world still remains a violent and oppressive place for too many people. Countries continue to put their own citizens to death and continue to use military violence against their own citizens. People still live in incredible poverty, without access to food and shelter," he said.

The 14 survivors who were honoured were: George Brady, Mordechai (Max) Feig, Aron Gerhard, Nathan Godfrey, Mendel Good, Anne Mandell, Mark Mandell, Israel (Ernie) Marmurek, Joseph Morgan, Philip Rechtsman, Albert Sliwin, Bernard Sliwin, Elise Kalles and Etty Zigler.

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DROR DAGAN: FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE

Jerusalem: January 29, 2004: Terrorist attack on bus #19, kills 10 people, injures 50, and leaves 13 in critical condition.

Bethlehem: February 2, 2004: Israel sends an elite military unit to Bethlehem to capture the terrorists that had caused such devastation.

Dror Dagan, 23, a medic and officer in this unit, entered the terrorist's house where he was met by the wife, who feigned illness by falling to the floor. Concerned for the woman, Dror immediately ran to her aid. This allowed her husband time to organize his attack on Dror. Suddenly, Dror was shot, taking a bullet to his heart, and another to his head which travelled under his right eye and out through his neck.

"I remember lying on the floor and worrying how my family would cope with me dying and how foolish I was to worry about this woman and not my own mother. Then … I was fighting for my country, now … I am fighting for my life.

"I'm confined to a wheelchair and go to Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv 4 times a week. There, I receive physiotherapy, work out in the fitness room, weightlift, swim in the heated Olympic size pool and participate in wheelchair basketball. It's a place where I socialize with my new friends, and where I feel I 'belong'.

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Dry Bones

EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARE RENEWING COOPERATION
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EGYPT HAS BEEN HIT BY AN OUTBREAK OF TERROR ATTACKS!
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Bias masked as boycott

Great Britain's Association of University Teachers (AUT) is scheduled to meet on May 26 for a special session requested by some of its members to hold a "comprehensive debate" of the AUT's decision last month to impose a boycott of Haifa and Bar Ilan universities.

But some university faculties in Britain could not wait until then to distance themselves from the AUT's one-sided, clearly polemical, anti-Israel resolution. The British faculties at Oxford, Warwick and Sussex universities voted last week to reject the boycott. In further protest of the AUT decision, some members, including Shalom Lappin and Jonathan Ginzburg, resigned from the body; others, such as Oxford's Emanuele Ottolenghi, asked "to be added to the boycott blacklist" in solidarity with his colleagues in Israel.

The AUT decided to boycott Bar-Ilan because the university runs the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel, which is in the West Bank. The association decided to boycott the University of Haifa because of the university's reproach of Ilan Pappe for his support of a student who wrote a thesis, subsequently discredited by the student himself, on an alleged massacre at the Arab village of Tantura in 1948.

In Canada, many academics are attempting to persuade the AUT to rescind its decision. The petition they are circulating states in part: "The boycott is counterproductive, racist and bigoted. It was voted on and approved under conditions which guaranteed its outcome without full and proper debate. It singles out the only Jewish state in the world for punishment, yet ignores the numerous despotic, oppressive, tyrannical, fundamentalist, and repressive regimes in the world. It is, for that reason alone, hypocritical, and represents the interests of a small minority of anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic activists only."

The boycott is an odious instrument being wielded in the equally odious campaign to delegitimize Israel. It should be rescinded.

Fax foul-up furor

Some people noticed that the government of Israel did not take part in the V-E Day commemorative ceremonies on May 8 in Ottawa. They wondered out loud, by agitated telephone calls and insistent e-mails to *The CJN,* whether Israel had been snubbed by the federal government or whether, for some reason, Israel had decided to snub the federal government. The reason for Israel's absence at the ceremony, however, was far more prosaic than dubious diplomatic dealing. The government of Israel was indeed invited to take part in the ceremony but did not know it had been invited. The invitations to all the foreign delegations in Ottawa were sent to them by fax machine. But by the coincidence of bad happenstance, on the day the invitations were faxed, the fax machine at the Israeli embassy malfunctioned. Thus, the invitation, though sent, never arrived. The embassay staff were not aware of the invitation and therefore could not respond. Had they known of the invitation to participate in the upcoming ceremonies, *The CJN* was told, they would have participated with full and grateful heart.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Freeze disengagement plan

Marc Gold's argument that the disengagement plan must be executed to uphold democracy is quite disingenuous ("Disengagement and democracy," *CJN,* May 5). If democracy is to be upheld, the disengagement plan must be frozen and new elections should be held for the following reasons:

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's most recent election campaign, in 2003, used the slogan "Nitzanim is like Tel Aviv" (Nitzanim is a Jewish settlement in Gaza). It was his opponent Amram Mitzna who advocated unilateral withdrawal. By switching platforms after the election, Sharon has misused the democratic process and disenfranchised a great part of his electorate.

• The largest, real democratic sounding out of Israeli opinion on this issue was the Likud referendum, in which tens of thousands of Israelis participated. The disengagement plan was voted down, but Sharon ignored the results.

• To achieve a cabinet majority for the plan, Sharon fired ministers opposing the plan even before the vote took place. Other Likud members of the Knesset were threatened that they could either support the plan or be banished to the back benches. Now that's democracy at its best.

• The residents who are affected by the plan were never consulted. (Imagine the Quebec government deciding to leave Canada without consulting Quebec citizens.)

• Sharon refuses to hold a referendum, even though polls indicate that a majority of Israelis support one.

Yaacov Schechter
Thornhill

* * *

The abuses in Bountiful

I am very angry that our provincial government in British Columbia has been so reluctant to stop the abuses occurring in Bountiful ("Free Bountiful's men and women," *CJN,* May 12). Finally bowing to public pressure, B.C. Attorney General Geoff Plant ordered an investigation last June. Since then, we have heard nothing.

I don't understand what can be so difficult about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police interviewing Jane Blackmore, the former midwife at Bountiful, and examining her records. Blackmore states publicly that her ex-husband Winston Blackmore (he of the harem of approximately 30 concubines and 100 children) "married" several 15-year-old children, and that the youngest mother whose baby she birthed was a mere 14 years old. Bountiful's girl children are denied equal education, and "excess" boys are excommunicated and dumped in nearby Creston.

Outraged by the government's inaction, eight women complained to the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal, charging four ministries (attorney general, education, child protection and women's services) with neglecting to uphold the human rights of the women and children of Bountiful. Their complaint was accepted immediately, and the public hearing takes place April 17 to 28, 2006.

There is no place in Canada for concubines, harems, and the cruel contravention of children's rights. What is happening in Bountiful is rape and pedophilia hiding behind the aegis of religion, and the sooner a stop is put to this travesty, the better.

Jancis M. Andrews
Sechelt, B.C.

* * *

Jews and indigenous peoples

As a woman with First Nations ancestry, it was heartening to read Avrum Rosensweig's column "Just Another White Man" (*CJN,* May 5).

There are some interesting parallels between genocidal atrocities directed at Jewish and indigenous peoples. The most glaring is the culture of silence that allows the horrible truth of our histories to remain outside of mainstream consciousness. I was 20 years old before I read about the Holocaust, and I remember having a hard time believing such a horror could be true. What is equally appalling is that I was 30 before I learned of the residential school system, of the Indian Act, and of the horrors of the systemic racism against indigenous people of Canada. I had a hard time believing that, too, but it answered a lot of my questions about my family. It was painful and liberating to know these things.

I sometimes feel discouraged by the lack of awareness regarding aboriginal perspectives on Canadian history. Many First Nations people feel frustrated about having to be the ones to educate people about our history. Some of my friends and I joke about handing a bibliography to people who are ignorant of aboriginal issues and saying, "Read these, then we'll talk!"

Joanne Mitchell
Victoria, B.C.

* * *

Second Harvest

I was interested to read Eli Stutz's article ("Putting food on the table," *CJN,* April 28) about Table to Table, Israel's perishable food recovery program. As the executive director of Second Harvest, I am familiar with Table to Table. Three years ago, Table to Table's executive director, Joseph Gitler, spent a week with us, learning how our operation works. As we have been in operation for 20 years and every day deliver fresh, donated food for about 12,000 meals, we were happy to pass on our knowledge and expertise.

We regularly receive food donations from bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and shivahs, which we deliver throughout the city to 175 social service programs, including shelters, community centres, breakfast and after-school programs.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about Second Harvest or in helping us feed those in need in our community, please call us at 416-408-2594 or visit www.secondharvest.ca.

Zoë Cormack Jones
Executive Director, Second Harvest

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info@cjnews.com

Yom Hazikaron 5765

The following is the text of the remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on the 57th commemoration of Yom Hazikaron, on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem last week.

Since the beginning of the Zionist movement, the Jewish community has faced, as the State of Israel now faces, waves of hostility, war and terror. Harassment, attacks and acts of murder have never ceased through all these years. No one knows better than you how deep the grief is and how profound the pain. However, the march of Zionism did not stop for even one second. In spite of those who hate us, the State of Israel was established, was victorious, grew in strength, and is stronger and more steadfast than ever.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon delivering his remarks. [RNS/Reuters photo]

We have prevailed, but we do not seek war; rather we desire peace. We hope that other families in Israel will never feel the sorrow and pain which you, the bereaved families, experience. In one hand we hold the sword to repel and eliminate any plot against the State of Israel and its citizens. Our other hand, at the same time, is extended in peace, friendship and neighbourliness. This year, the hope is more real, but the path is still long and strewn with obstacles.

We will proceed cautiously and determinedly. We will not compromise on our security, but we also will not forgo peace. We will not wait for the hour to arrive; rather we will make every effort to bring it closer.

The revival of the State of Israel and the building of Jerusalem – united eternally – in our time are the realization of a generations-long dream, of the vision of prophets, of prayer and our hearts' desire. We will give thanks tonight that we were fortunate to envision, and take part in, the return to Zion, the settlement of the land, the revival of Israel and the victory over our enemies.

However, we do not approach Independence Day on a secular note. We approach it only after the purification of the soul which comes with the Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and the victims of terror. We approach it with a combined feeling of shared remembrance and unity. We approach it while mentioning on this festive occasion the cost of liberty – liberty bought for us with the blood of the fighters in Israel's battles and of the victims of terror who fell at the hands of killers crazed with hatred. We approach the gates of Independence Day today united and arm-in-arm, and with us are the families who lost their loved ones in our joint struggle for existence, security and peace.

Dear families, when the shadows of evening begin to fall, together we will cross the threshold between Memorial Day and Independence Day. We will remember the fallen with love and we will strengthen you with our compassion.

Together, with pride and courage, we will raise the blue and white flag high on the flagpole. The strength to wipe the tears of our sorrow and carry the torch onward is our ultimate answer to all foes and enemies.

May the souls of your loved ones – our loved ones – be forever bound to the life of Israel. May their memories be blessed.

The following is the text of Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon's Order of the Day for Yom Hazikaron, last week.

IDF soldiers and commanders: On the Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, the entire nation communes in sorrow and grief with the memory of its sons and daughters, soldiers of the Israel Defence Forces, who sacrificed their lives in the ongoing battle over Israel's existence.

Generation after generation, we are forced to escort our finest to their final resting place. Young, talented people just starting to weave the fabric of their lives.

We are all one living human being. Whenever one of us dies, he or she leaves a void in the hearts of families, friends, commanders and the nation as a whole. Time cannot dull the pain. It only deepens our understanding of the magnitude and extent of our loss.

IDF Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon comforting a grieving mother. [Israel Sun photo]

The absence of the fallen is felt by all: relatives, whose longing for their loved ones can never be fulfilled; soldiers of the IDF, whose hearts ache in memory of lost friends; and the entire Israeli people, who observe this grave loss in every walk of life.

The reflection of the fallen – their never-aging faces, the story of their life and death – will forever linger in our hearts. They walk with us wherever we go, in every step and thought. They constantly remind us of the great responsibility that rests upon our shoulders – to ensure life, security and well-being in the State of Israel and build a society, way of life and culture that are worthy of such sacrifice. Even after 57 years of independence, we are still forced to fight for the continued existence of an independent Jewish state in this land. Death and bereavement have plagued us once again this year. The memory of fallen brothers and sisters is a legacy for us to follow.

The commanders and soldiers of the IDF will continue to relentlessly fight our most justified battle for the existence of an Israeli nation in its land.

On this Day of Remembrance, the Israeli Defence Forces fly the flag at half-mast in love and pain, honour the memory of fallen comrades, warmly embrace the bereaved families, and join them in praying that no more names will be added to this long line of fallen soldiers.

Blessed be the memory of the fallen.

'We will remember the fallen with love and we will strengthen you with our compassion'

Identity and belonging

Julia Kristeva, the French academic and psychoanalyst, has written: "Subjectively, the issue of 'national' identity is that indistinct domain of psychic and historical experience which transforms identity into belonging." Israel has done precisely that for the Jewish people. It has radically transformed us all.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

As long as Jews lived in the ghetto, identity and belonging were one and the same, for Jews could only be at home in their own enclave. With emancipation, Jewish existence, for all its countless blessings, became more problematic. Could one be integrated into the surrounding society and yet be at home in the Jewish world?

Jewish identity remained almost indelible. Emancipated Jews who tried to obliterate it were usually frustrated by the refusal of non-Jews to accept their desire to assimilate. But many did their best to camouflage their identity as much as possible.

For the same reasons, belonging remained elusive. Whether they like it or not, Jews in the Diaspora, however seemingly integrated, are usually socially marginal. This can be creative and wholesome, as many writers and thinkers have demonstrated, but it is often also quite burdensome to be inside and outside at the same time.

In Israel, on the other hand, Jews have to work hard not to belong. The fact that many also have a secondary identity – e.g., as Ashkenazim or Sephardim, Anglo-Saxons or Russians – in no way impinges on their belonging to the Jewish people.

That is probably why, despite risks and hardships, Jews usually feel much more secure in Israel than elsewhere in the world. Even if anti-Semitism in the Diaspora may turn out to be less of a danger than it seems at present, it is nevertheless very much more difficult to feel at home there than it is in Israel. The feeling is, of course, subjective (as Kristeva pointed out), but it is very real.

If they are so much at home in Israel, why do so many Israelis travel abroad so often? Because belonging inevitably carries with it a large dose of provincialism. Being at home does not exclude the sense of being confined, ghettoized. Though they see Israel as their true place in the world, Israelis also need to occupy space elsewhere, at least periodically, to breathe more deeply.

Personally, I find this wholesome. It enables me to preserve my Jewish neurotic Diaspora identity (as the Israeli novelist A.B. Yehoshua has called it) and, at the same time, be committed to Israel where I am at home with my people, even if my neighbours call me an Anglo-Saxon.

Hence my advocacy of a mutual and symmetrical relationship between Israel and the Diaspora. The one needs the other. I feel truly privileged to live in both worlds.

It may be cliché, but I'm off to Europe

"That was a great column last month Jo – except it was a little bit too deep." Yes, when you're caught up in academic life, in term papers and seminars, it's easy to be consumed by academic material. Now, however, the school year has come to an end, my books are all packed away in boxes and philosophy is the furthest thing from my mind.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

In fact, I have come to accept that the very moment my last paper gets handed in, my brain takes a hiatus. While most people can't wait to sink their teeth into a great novel at the end of the semester, I can make no such endeavour. In fact, reading of just about any kind is impossible in the weeks following crunch time at the end of school.

This year, the problem seems more acute. In the past, the summer was simply a four-month break before another eight months of the predictable grind. But graduation and the end of my arts degree mark the end of the predictable and the known, leaving me to confront whatever law school brings.

It is hard to imagine not going back to Halifax – not walking the same tree-lined route to school, not running into the same familiar faces and not frequenting the same familiar hangouts. Actually, I just can't believe that four years have passed, and that, although I still see myself as someone who could be in high school, I will soon be entering professional school, my last gasp of student life before – perish the thought – I have to get a job in the "real world."

So, in keeping with the change motif, I have opted for a summer adventure that is anything but predictable. In order to improve my French before embarking on my studies at McGill University, I am going to spend three weeks in Paris in an intensive French program. By living with a Parisian family, I hope to become immersed in Parisian culture and take advantage of all that one of the world's greatest cities has to offer. After that, the graduation cliché will be mine – I am strapping on a backpack and heading to Italy, Spain and London.

Everyone is surprised to hear that I am taking this journey on my own, but, in typical Joanna fashion, once I got the idea in my mind, I had to pursue it. After considering my options for the summer, and quickly rejecting the monotony of most any job that I could get as a summer student, I decided it was time to travel. So when none of my friends had the same desire, I booked my ticket anyway.

Since that fateful day at Travel Cuts, I have given the same response to anyone who ask about my thoughts on travelling alone – I am partly thrilled and partly terrified. But to be honest (and further extend the post-graduation cliché), it's time for me to figure stuff out, to spend some time on my own without familiar faces and supporting hands.

The shock of graduation – the idea that I am actually graduating from university – has hammered home just how fast time flies. And knowing how fast these four years in Halifax whizzed by, I can't even begin to imagine how crazy the next three in Montreal will be. So I am taking the summer to explore – to explore Europe and to explore myself, and to attempt to revive my brain from its end-of-year strike.

For now, though, as I enjoy just being at home before travelling back to Halifax for graduation, I can enjoy a leisurely life of visiting friends and family, watching mindless television and making numerous trips to Ikea to make plans for my new apartment in Montreal.

While this brief period of relaxation isn't full of excitement and thrills, the coming months should offer more than enough of both.

Newspeak comes to the university campus

Guest Voice

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the 19th-century American poet and essayist, once said, "What you do speaks so loud, I can't hear what you say."

Unfortunately, on Canadian university campuses we are witnessing a reverse: through our speech, we can obscure public perception of our core beliefs.

Howie Fremeth in Vancouver

In George Orwell's *1984*, the ability to transform speech so that meanings completely confuse society is epitomized by the Ministry of Truth's so-called Newspeak, a form of language that works by connecting diametrically opposed concepts: War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength.

Newspeak is now a common form of discourse for some campus politics, and Jewish students are often the targets. Two recent examples are "abortion is genocide" and "Israel is an apartheid state." But the long-term harm of these claims is that such spurious use of speech drains meaning from language.

"The Genocide Awareness Project" (GAP) is an exhibit organized by The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, a Christian anti-abortion group that promotes its cause on billboards on university campuses using graphic images of violent historical events counterposed beside pictures of abortions.

One of its billboards includes three photos: on the left are emaciated victims of the Holocaust, with the caption "religious choice;" in the middle is a lynched black man, with the caption "racial choice;" and on the right is an aborted fetus, with the caption "reproductive choice."

The obvious intention is for the viewer to somehow agree that these images are all related.

Why does GAP engage in such a provocative form of advocacy? Is it to educate or influence? No. Such simple propaganda is too easily deconstructed. I believe their purpose is to inflame and anger, and that they also do this as a last-ditch effort. They see that the appeal of their anti-abortion cause is weak, especially among university students.

Fortunately, at some campuses, students involved in women's rights advocacy have ingeniously criticized GAP by spoofing their billboards. One example I saw at Simon Fraser University was a billboard that included a picture of open-heart surgery and the claim: "This is the grim reality of open-heart surgery. Ban it!" The message was clear – just because you associate an image of something that is generally accepted as evil with another image does not make them equal. Abortion is not the Holocaust.

Despite such criticism, the long-term effects of the GAP display are dangerous. It leads to a loss of understanding of the events it associates itself with, including the Holocaust. This is part of a larger trend. The meaning of the Holocaust is being obscured to the point of threatening all efforts to remember this dark period of human history. When attached to so many unrelated causes, the Shoah becomes a cliché.

Anti-Israel advocates who sometimes veil their cause with slogans that imply peace, equality and justice disseminate the second form of Newspeak on campus in their claims that the Israeli security barrier is an "apartheid wall" and the implication that "Israel is an apartheid state."

The best way to respond to these advocates is by asking them if they have actually seen the "wall." Better yet, show them a picture and tell them to notice one striking feature. There are two large holes at the bottom of each segment of the concrete part of the wall – most of the so-called wall is actually a fence. The purpose of the holes is clear. As soon as there is an end to hostilities against Israelis, a forklift can easily move in and dismantle the "wall." Contrary to the claims of some, the wall's purpose is to ensure security for not only Israel's Jewish citizens, but also its Arab, Muslim, Christian, Druze and other citizens.

There is very little depth to these language games. The words look good on signs and they get people's attention, but they are without power. The attempt to associate a weak cause with something powerful and meaningful is ultimately doomed to failure. It merely demonstrates a political group's inability to articulate its own cause.

But when our campuses are inundated with these false claims, we may lose our ability to have real communication and dialogue. When society actually needs terms like genocide or apartheid, they will no longer have any meaning. The only way to turn the tide is by adhering to Emerson's lesson and judging people by their actions and not their words.

Howie Fremeth is a student at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

The Kirshner File

Letter from Hannover

On a clear day in Hannover – an early Hanseatic trading city in Lower Saxony whose industrial fair is commonly rated as the world's largest – the mid-19th century neo-Classical opera house gleams in the sunshine.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

A citadel of high German culture, the ornate building, draped with a banner advertising Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, stands adjacent to the Holocaust monument, known as The Jewish Memorial. Its close proximity to the opera house, a shattering juxtaposition, speaks volumes about the startling twists of German history and Germany's mercurial relationship with Jews.

Jews arrived in German lands with Roman legions. By turns tolerated, accepted and persecuted, they could never be certain of what the future would bring. And in Hannover, this was the case as well. Jews were comfortably settled in Hannover, a seat of Jewish learning, by the 13th century. But during the Black Plague, Jews were driven out. Although they were readmitted some years later, Hannover's Jewish residents experienced bouts of instability in the 16th and 17th centuries. They were forced out of the old city and then subjected to expulsion orders that were either cancelled or not carried out.

Jews acquired equal civil rights in 1808, but they were withdrawn in 1815. In 1866, when Hannover was incorporated into Prussia, the pendulum swung yet again and Jews were emancipated. The formation of a united German state in 1871, following the Franco-Prussian War, ushered in a golden age of virtual equality for German Jewry.

The Jewish Memorial (foreground) and the opera house [Sheldon Kirshner photos]

By 1933, when Adolf Hitler was appointed Germany's chancellor, almost 5,000 Jews, representing little more than one per cent of its overall population, lived in Hannover.

Among its Jewish inhabitants were Isaac and Rebecca Maissner, the parents of Benjamin Maissner, the cantor and music director of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple and the founder of Lachan, the Toronto Jewish Chamber Choir.

As he tells it, his family immigrated to Germany around 1917 from Poland. They left Hannover in 1936 after his father, a furrier, was beaten by the Gestapo while on a stroll with his wife. He was attacked because the Gestapo mistook his blonde wife for an Aryan, said Maissner, who was recently in Hannover to perform at a concert marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Traumatized by this incident, Isaac and Rebecca settled in Tel Aviv. And there, in 1944, Cantor Maissner was born.

The cantor's uncle, Israel Alter, a famous cantor, was a resident of Hannover from 1925 to 1935. Alter's last year there coincided with the passage of the infamous Nuremberg laws, which relegated Jews to second class citizenship and ignominy. Alter – whose stirring Hebrew-language recordings Maissner hopes to reissue in digital form – emigrated from Germany. Subsequently, he lived in South Africa and the United States.

Maissner's grandfather, Bernard, however, was not as fortunate. Arrested by the Nazis in Trieste in 1942 or 1943, he was shipped to the Lodz ghetto in Poland. There he died of typhus.

For the Jews of Hannover, the destruction of the main synagogue on Rote Reihestrasse was a turning point. Built in 1870 and expanded in 1900, the Moorish-style shul was destroyed on Nov. 9, 1938, during Kristallnacht, when scores of shuls across Germany were desecrated and burned in an orgy of anti-Semitic violence.

Not a trace of the synagogue remains today. But a plain monument, with a simple Star of David and slashes cut into one of its slabs, attests to its existence. There is also a representation of the synagogue in a scale model of Hannover in the impressive Neo-Baroque and Neo-Renaissance New Town Hall.

Though Kristallnacht marked the beginning of the end for the Jews of Hannover, they were subjected to a series of anti-Jewish edicts prior to its eruption. The most important of these occurred on Oct. 28, 1938, when Jews of Polish nationality were forced out of Germany. It was a chilling prelude to further deportations,

The next deportation took place in December 1941, when Jews were sent to Riga, Latvia. A succession of deportations followed – March 1942 to Warsaw, July 1942 to Thererienstadt and March 1943 to Auschwitz and Thererienstadt. Additional deportations to Thererienstadt occurred in June 1943, January 1944 and February 1945.

The names of the 6,800 deportees from Hannover are inscribed on The Jewish Memorial, a low, unobtrusive stone monument inaugurated on Oct. 9, 1994, 49 years after the the last batch of Jews were dispatched to a concentration camp by the Nazis. I jotted the names of several of the victims in my notepad: Arthur Eichmann, Giedon Ehrlicht, Margot Cygler, Ingebord Brand, Oskar Blumenthal, Lilly Block and Leopold Bergmann.

After the war, a handful of Jews returned to Hannover, and in 1963, a new synagogue, featuring beautiful stained glass windows, was opened. Situated in a leafy, affluent part of town, the shul serves congregants mainly from the former Soviet Union. The president, a man in his mid-40s, said that Hannover is home to 6,000 to 7,000 Jews today. My guide, Helga Menzel, put the number at some 4,000.

During a two-hour tour of Hannover, Menzel told me that approximately 7,000 civilians and soldiers were killed by Allied bombing raids in the autumn of 1943. Hannover was targeted because it was a railway hub, the site of oil refineries and a centre of tank production.

The bombings eradicated 80 per cent of the city centre and levelled all but 40 of its 1,600 historic half-timbered buildings. With Nazi Germany's defeat, the reconstruction of Hannover began. The new city, which has a population of 500,000, was built for vehicular traffic. The medieval city, of which there is a scale model in the marbelled lobby of the New Town Hall, was rebuilt with loving care and attention to detail.

Burgstrasse, with its half-timbered houses and cobblestone streets, is a facsimile of pre-war Hannover. One of the nicest buildings in the vicinity, the Neo-Renaissance Leibnitz House, was restored by Polish craftsmen in the 1980s. It is now a University of Hannover facility.

A model of Hannover's pre-war synagogue, destroyed in November 1938

No less striking is the 14th century Market Protestant church and the Old Town Hall, a Gothic structure that developers converted into a stylish shopping centre with smart shops and cafes. Nearby is Germany's first pedestrian mall, the Grupenstrasse, which opened in 1954. Hannover's liveliest street, Georgestrasse, leads to the legendary Kropcke Cafe and The Jewish Memorial.

Celle, a town of 75,000 about 30 minutes away by bus from Hannover, is a showplace of original 16th century half-timbered buildings. It is also the locale of Lower Saxony's oldest synagogue (1740).

On April 8, 1945, a month before Germany surrendered, Allied bombers struck a train carrying Jewish concentration camp prisoners. In what is now shamefully referred to as the "rabbit hunt," townspeople killed the survivors.

In the aftermath of World War II, 3,000 Jewish refugees, largely from Bergen-Belsen, crowded into Celle, briefly making it the biggest Jewish populated town in Germany. But today, no more than a few dozen Jews, some from Israel, live in Celle and its suburbs.

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Shul to house Cantor Danto's music collection

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

On his 50th anniversary as a cantor, Louis Danto's dream of having his extensive music collection put to good use is coming true.

The cantor emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue is proud to have his collection of sheet music, records, tapes, CDs and books housed at the synagogue, where it will be available to the congregation and the community at large.

The congregation is celebrating the acquisition of the collection at its Golden Jubilee concert on June 8, featuring the Sons of Sepharad.

Lorie Goldfinger, chair of the collection committee, said that for now, a small sampling of the collection will be on display in the synagogue library, but they eventually hope to find a larger space.

Currently, he said, along with the cantor and his wife, Rouchama, and committee members Ben and Connie Kachuck and Andrea and David Kirshenblatt, they are in the midst of cataloguing it into categories that include cantorial, Yiddish, Hebrew, classical, arias, choir and solo, Italian, Russian, French, and school programs.

"It's a big job, but we're looking at how the community will benefit from this. We want the collection to be living and interactive."

Cantor Louis Danto and his wife Rouchama with Prime Minister Paul Martin at the Yom Hashoah commemoration in Ottawa last week.

In an interview at their home close to the synagogue, Rouchama Danto says that she and her husband view the collection as a treasure.

"It takes over the bulk of our house, but it is a lifetime collection. Many pieces were given to [my husband] by composers or cantors on their deathbed, and other pieces were composed specifically for him. It is truly unique.

"We continue to be amazed by what we have. We had no idea what was here until we started cataloguing. Every time we pick up a piece, we take time to study it. We've catalogued and sub-catalogued and cross-referenced. It is a labour of love."

A list of pieces in the collection "is very, very basic," said Rouchama. "There is just so much more. It's overwhelming. If you don't see it, you cannot imagine what it's all about. We can't count it, but [I'm sure] it has to be at least 20,000 or 30,000 pieces."

Boxes and file cabinets are loaded with material, she said. "Each piece tells a story. Some are inscribed by the composer, some were written specifically for [my husband]."

Her father, Dov Arieh Lebel, was a teacher of chazzanim in Israel, she said, and some of his pieces are in the collection. "He gave Louis a lot of works, including some that survived a flood in Tel Aviv.

Danto, who began singing as a child in Poland, was cantor at Beth Emeth for more than 25 years, before he retired in 1998.

When he was a child during the war, he escaped to Minsk, where he studied in the conservatory, and was later moved to Russia with a group of children. He studied cello and voice in Russia.

Over the years, he has performed worldwide. He toured eastern Europe, with stops in Moscow, Leningrad, Odessa, Kiev and Budapest. He also sang for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip at Maple Leaf Gardens.

It was on that tour that he discovered manuscripts of many classic Jewish songs, some of which he recorded. "Many of our congregants are of east European background, so they will appreciate this music," said Danto.

Rouchama said the work they are doing "is all about my husband's love of music. He eats, sleeps and breathes it. Music is a language that expresses whatever is in a person's heart. It is a tremendous tool. People who don't talk [about their feelings] can express them through song.

"We want people to discover this. We want people to see the tremendous variety of material, and we want them to put it to use."

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Children's opera honours Holocaust survivors

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

When Dagmar Lieblova was a concentration camp prisoner at age 13, she took part in an opera and sang songs that offered messages of determination and hope during a very uncertain time.

More than 60 years later, her daughter Rita McLeod is determined to share the story with her community to honour her mother, who survived, and the hundreds of thousands of children who were victims of the Holocaust.

Brundibar, an opera that was composed by Hans Krasa in 1938 to give orphans in Czechoslovakia hope, or at least provide them with a much-needed distraction, opened in Saskatoon last week.

When Krasa was sent to the Terezin concentration camp (also known as Theresienstadt), northwest of Prague, in 1943, he secretly organized rehearsals for the opera.

Lieblova told the *Globe and Mail* that the Nazis eventually discovered the underground opera but tolerated it because they realized they'd be able to use it as a propaganda tool.

Lieblova is the inspiration behind the production, as she was one of the original cast members of the all-children opera, which was always in need of new performers as young Jews were being deported to Auschwitz.

The opera tells a story of a brother and sister who were on a mission to buy milk for their sick mother, but had to figure out a way to make some money.

Taking a cue from an organ grinder, the children sang in the hope that people would give them money to buy the milk, but the mean organ grinder shooed them away.

Eventually, the children came back with help from a dog, a cat and a bird and they were able to overpower the bully.

"It's a children's story about friendship with a message that if we band together, we can overcome evil," McLeod told *The CJN* by phone from Saskatoon.

Under the surface, however, the context of the play gives it a whole new meaning.

A song featured in the production sounds as if it was initially intended to empower the victims of the Holocaust to unite and stand up to Hitler and his Nazis.

"We are joining them in song/ Add your talents to our efforts, voice to voice and we'll be strong/ Pull together with our fold, right and justice we'll unfold/ Dictator, he'll be defeated, united we'll win our stand/ We shall give a good example to all people in this land."

It's the first time producing the opera for McLeod, who said that while there is a heavy underlying message in the children's story, it is a beautiful piece of music that speaks to people of all ages.

"This play will teach people about the historical context and that there is beauty in the face of adversity, evil, death and misery."

She added that contributing to the community with this play is "a small thing to do, but it is important."

Since February of last year, McLeod has been working to produce the opera, which she said would not have come together without the services of the Saskatoon Children's Choir sponsored by the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association.

"They're a professional group of actors that perform on a professional level," she said. "They also have a moral and social conscience. Last year they had a concert to raise money for a landmine treaty."

McLeod added that this play was "right up [the choir's] alley" in terms of participating in something with an important message behind it.

"They got right into it. They see singing as a way of connecting people and teaching them about important issues," she said.

What impressed McLeod was the enthusiasm of everyone who offered to help, regardless of whether or not they were Jewish.

Beside her, there is only one other Jew involved in the opera's production, but she emphasized that this is a story that applies to people of all religions.

"This is not a Jewish story. It's a story that involves everyone," she said.

That may be why people in the community were so eager to help.

"People were excited about the project. Anyone I asked for help jumped on the bandwagon. There were no real problems putting the opera together.

"I'm very excited about the play. It's exciting to see how people got together and donated their services. It was a community effort. It was a project that was meant to be," she said.

With several shows scheduled for this month in Saskatoon and Regina, McLeod said she would love to take the opera on the road, but travelling with a large cast of school-aged children could prove to be difficult and costly.

"We hope to go to Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary. We would be happy to go anywhere they invite us."

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Downtown school going strong after 25 years

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

The Downtown Jewish Community School is throwing a big bash to mark its silver anniversary.

The gala, an evening of comedy and live music, will be held at 7 p.m., May 26, at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, the school's home for the past 25 years.

"We've planned a great evening of comedy and music and there's going to be a fabulous silent auction," said gala chair Ted Winick. "We're inviting the whole Jewish community to come out and celebrate with us."

For people who love silent auctions, "there's some great items from trips to services to art and merchandise of all kind. Our roster of entertainers – they are basically donating their time – is very impressive," Winick said.

"Our featured performer, Steve Brinder, is one of the best stand-up comics in the country. He had his own CBC comedy special. Briane Nasimok, our MC, was one of the original comics featured at Yuk Yuks.

"And we've got some amazing musicians, who just so happen to be DJCS parents or parent alumnae. Bass player Richard Maslove, the music arranger for *Canadian Idol*, jazz guitarist and music professor Howard Spring, and pianist and band leader Jack Gelbloom are all coming out to support the DJCS.

"Their generosity is indicative of how much the downtown community has valued the school in the course of its 25-year history."

Joan Schoenfeld, the school's founding principal and a founding parent, recounted the events that led up to the establishment of the DJCS: In 1978, Jewish Family & Child Service did a survey to determine the size and needs of the downtown Jewish population. At the time, there were no holiday or cultural programs for families downtown, she noted.

Schoenfeld, who chaired the JF&SC downtown education committee, went on to start the school, which began its first academic year in 1979 with 45 children. Today, it has close to 200.

The school grew as more Jewish people moved to the downtown core or south of St Clair, she said.

DJCS gala set for May 26

In those early years, the DJCS ran holiday programs for the whole downtown Jewish community, because the JCC at the time did not run separate programs. Although both institutions are independent of each other today, they still continue to share many cultural and holiday programs, such as the annual Purim and Chanukah parties and an Israel fair.

"We've been in this building continuously for 25 years. We were here throughout the renovations," Schoenfeld said. "We made a commitment to the building as the centre of the downtown Jewish community years ago."

She recalled the days of the DJCS before the JCC was renovated.

"The building was pretty unattractive, but nobody cared. The tiny classrooms, the dilapidated hallways and facilities, that was all part of the panache. It's nice after all these years to enjoy a beautiful facility."

According to Schoenfeld, the goal of the school is to teach children how to live a Jewish life in a pluralistic environment through the study of Shabbat and holidays, prayer and Torah, and history and current events.

"The school is egalitarian. It does not make distinctions in religious practice between boys and girls."

The school offers classes from junior kindergarten up to Grade 10. Students from JK to Grade 7 meet Sunday mornings for 2½ hours of Jewish studies. Grade 2 students and older also study an hour of Hebrew on Sundays and have the option to study Hebrew for an additional 1½ hours on Wednesdays after school. Classes for students in Grade 8 and up meet Wednesday evenings.

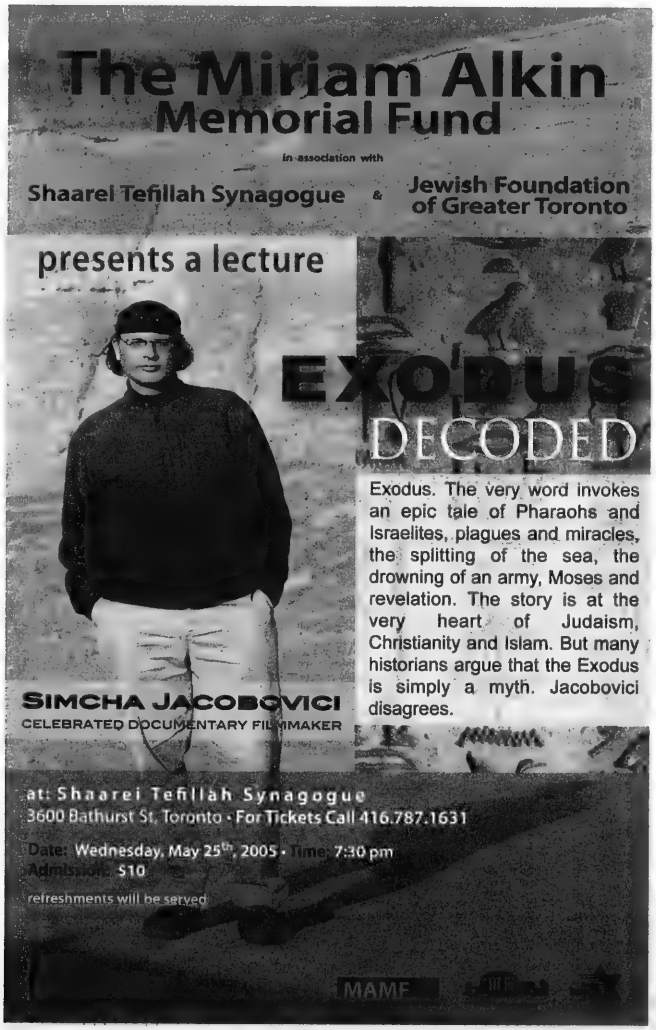
Schoenfeld said the DJCS' challenge to make learning enjoyable, so children will want to attend. "We try to involve them by making the classes personal and meaningful."

She said the response to the 25th anniversary gala from alumnae parents has been very good. "We involved every past president in our celebration. Even Robert Matas, who lives in Vancouver was in touch with us.

"I'm very much looking forward to seeing the founders and reminiscing when we were all working intensely to get an innovative education experience off the ground.

"Here we are, 25 years later, and we're still going strong."

For more information about the gala call 416-934-6211, ext. 112.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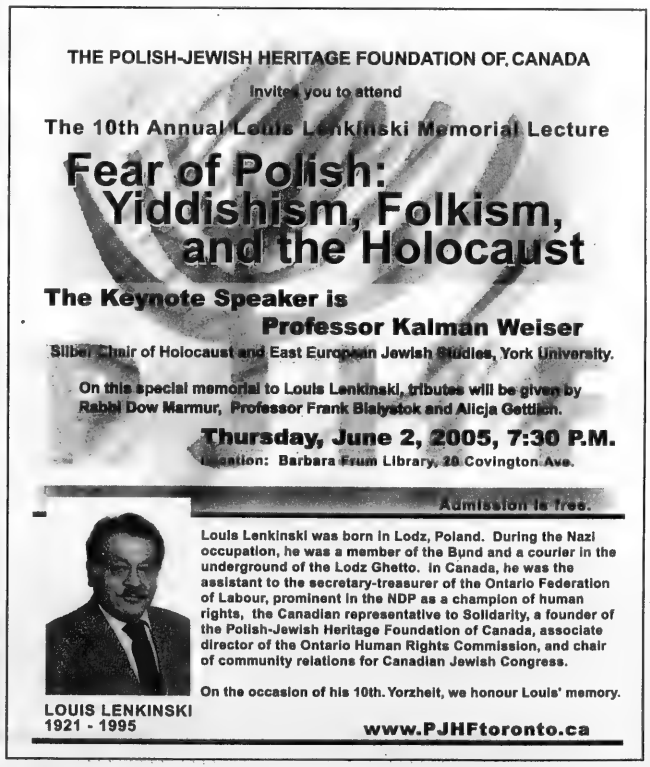
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Louis Lenkinski was born in Lodz, Poland. During the Nazi occupation, he was a member of the Bund and a courier in the underground of the Lodz Ghetto. In Canada, he was the assistant to the secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour, prominent in the NDP as a champion of human rights, the Canadian representative to Solidarity, a founder of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, associate director of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and chair of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress.
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E-mail entries must be received before 8:00 p.m. (ET) on June 30, 2005.

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Jewish Life

Jerusalem's newest institute

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

A group of eminent Jewish genealogists recently announced the formation of a new facility, the International Institute of Jewish Genealogy, that will be housed in the Jewish National and University Library of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Although still in an early stage of development, the institute's board expects it to become a major force in the world of Jewish genealogy within five years. They envision a foremost international research centre that will work co-operatively with existing facilities such as JewishGen, Yad Vashem, the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People and the New York-based Center for Jewish History.

Until now, the burgeoning field of Jewish genealogy has been a populist endeavour, but the institute's proponents say it is time to bring it into the academy.

"We want to lift Jewish genealogy to new heights," said its founding director, Dr. Yosef (Neville) Lamdan. "We want to put it into the general framework of Jewish studies at a university level."

A fellow of the Truman Institute at Hebrew U, Lamdan is an Oxford-trained historian as well as a seasoned genealogist and a career diplomat who retired last year as Israel's ambassador to the Vatican.

Many in the genealogical world readily embraced his idea for the institute, and staff at the National Library were also highly receptive, he said.

"They were happy to welcome us, because they know they have collections of Jewish historical documents that really should be looked at again through the prism of Jewish genealogy."

Roots & Remembrance

Although there are now some 45 university departments of Jewish studies across North America, few if any have ever offered a course on Jewish genealogy, Lamdan noted, adding that the International Institute of Jewish Genealogy would eventually produce graduates holding bachelor's or master's degrees in Jewish genealogy. "We're hoping to open our doors for the academic year 2005-2006," he said.

One of the institute's early goals is to conduct a comprehensive global survey of all available Jewish genealogical resources. It also intends to host an early scholarly conference, establish standards of genealogical evidence, and locate new genealogical resources and make them available to researchers, both on site and via the internet.

The institute could help people doing DNA research to find families with certain genetic profiles, Lamdan said. Or it might index important collections such as the National Library's Paul Jacobi papers, an underutilized compilation of some 400 German rabbinic family trees.

It would also patriate certain Jewish collections to Israel if the opportunity arose. "Our purpose is to try and take an overview and tell genealogists where all the collections are. If we can also unearth collections that so far have not been found, so much the better. We'd be very happy if the institute could bring them in. Being situated in a library, we'd have a place to store them."

Institute researchers would clarify common misconceptions about Jewish life. For example, not all Pale of Settlement Jews were part of organized Jewish communities in cities or shtetls: at least half lived intensely Jewish lives in villages with no rabbis, synagogues, yeshivas, mikvahs or kosher meat, for which they were dependent upon neighbouring towns. "This is just one of a whole series of things that could be researched at a very serious level," Lamdan said.

Institute researchers would build on some of the fine work accomplished by JewishGen and other organizations, Lamdan said.

"JewishGen has done a fantastic job, but they're not a research institute and they don't operate at an academic level," he said. "We hope we would complement their work. I haven't got enough praise for JewishGen, but we will hopefully be working in a completely different area."

A beautiful tree grows out of a sapling

By RABBI YEHIEL BENAYON

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Sephardi community in Canada and this article is part of a series chronicling the beginnings of the Sephardi community in Toronto.

Through A Sephardi Window

The Moroccan Jewish community's adoption of the North American congregational model for its synagogues was not easy. The concept of a synagogue being managed and maintained by its members was completely foreign to the Moroccan immigrants. As in the shtiebl system of eastern Europe, in Morocco, a family or individual would donate or bequeath a synagogue and then continue to virtually finance it on their own. Membership and democratic vote, as we know it, was unheard of. It was very difficult indeed for the Moroccans to swallow the concept of "pay to pray."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Spanish Moroccans would gather for prayer in space at the Eitz Chaim Talmud Torah on D'Arcy Street. When this arrangement didn't work out, they moved to another synagogue basement, this time at Shomrai Shaboth just south of Bloor Street on Brunswick Avenue. When this synagogue on Brunswick was considering a move north, the Moroccans saw an opportunity to buy the building.

A delegation approached Barney Goldhar, the then-president of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society. They had little with them, only a dream. Goldhar not only approached the Toronto Hebrew Free Loan Society, he also personally guaranteed the money for the purchase. The cost was some $20,000, a small fortune for the newcomers.

With the further help of lawyer Wolfe Goodman of Goodman and Carr, funds were raised. Small repayments of the loan were made almost on a weekly basis. As these funds were turned over to Goldhar, he would issue immediate receipts and consistently include notes of encouragements. Through Goodman's interest in the project and by him bringing his many associates into the endeavour, the building was soon paid for.

The legal work, as well as much-needed legal advice, was provided by the Botnicks of Botnick and Botnick. They took great personal interest in the synagogue – they refused any payment and indeed made the Moroccans feel that they were a high priority for their prestigious firm.

Petah Tikva, the first Sephardi synagogue in Ontario, became more than a place of worship. It was the address of all Sephardi activity in Toronto. It was a de facto absorption centre. For newcomers, it was the place to meet and greet and hang around. And countless lifecycle events took place within those walls on Brunswick Avenue, including my own bar mitzvah.

From that small sapling planted on Brunswick, many branches of the community exist today. Presently, this same congregation is located on Danby Avenue.

One has to be forever grateful for these generous souls, for truly, without the likes of the Goodmans, the Goldhars and the Botnicks and their involvement in our community's inception, nothing of what we have today would have been realized.

Jewish Life

About life and death

In memory of Marjorie Baskin, 1927-2005

Death is a loss unlike any other because it embraces everything. When we die, we lose all the earthly things we know: music and mountains, family and books, food and wine, walks and sunsets, newspapers, sports and movies, and friends and loving relationships.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Death reminds us also of other losses. We mourn for a time that is gone, places once visited, adventures shared. The world rarely steals away but one thing at a time.

Every love story has an unhappy ending, and the greater the love, the greater the unhappiness when it ends. Whenever we love someone, we give a hostage to fortune. Whenever we permit someone to become very dear to us, we become vulnerable to disappointment and heartbreak.

What, then, is our choice? Never permit ourselves to love anyone? Never permit anyone to matter to us?

If loving is expensive, being unloved and unloving costs even more. Even in our grief, we can still agree with the sentiment of a contemporary writer: "To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides."

There is a legend of a sorrowing woman who came to a wise man with the heartrending plea that he return to her the son she had just lost. He told her that he could comply with her request on one condition. She would have to bring to him a mustard seed taken from a home entirely free from sorrow. The woman set out on her quest. A year elapsed and she did not return.

One day the wise man chanced upon her. He asked, "Why didn't you keep our appointment?"

She replied, "In search of the mustard seed, I came into homes burdened with sorrow and trouble. Who better than I could understand how heavy was the burden they bore? Who better than I could offer them the sympathy they needed? So I stayed on in each home as a prisoner devoted to service – and so the years passed."

Our sorrow can bring compassion as well as pain. The needs of others hitherto unnoticed, the anxieties of neighbours never before realized, now enter the ken of our experience. A bereavement that brings us into the lives of others writes a fitting epilogue to a love that had taught us kindliness and forbearance.

That is the message in Robert Browning's short poem *Along the Road*:

I walked a mile with pleasure,
She chattered all the way,
And left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.
I walked a mile with sorrow,
And not a word said she:
But, oh, the things I learned from her
When sorrow walked with me!

Perhaps the most compelling attempt to ease the loss attendant upon death is the belief that we will live on. Believing in another world makes the losses of this world less enduring and more bearable.

The philosopher Santayana called this hope "the soul's invincible surmise." But if it is a "surmise," it is one of mankind's most persistent surmises. From ancient man in his primitive beliefs down through the long corridors of time stretching into the present, most sophisticated faiths and men and women have held the human soul indestructible. Nor has this belief been limited to religious thinkers alone. Many philosophers, poets, physicians, scientists, answer "present" when the roll is called among the believers that death is not the end.

How the soul survives is, of course, a mystery. It is no less a mystery, however, than how the soul arrives. It originates with the source of all life and flows back to its origin. This source that Isaiah promises "will swallow up death and wipe the tears from every cheek."

Eurovision: hits of the present

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

This week, singers from 39 countries are competing in Kiev, Ukraine, hoping to do their countries proud by winning the Eurovision Song Contest. The contest has fostered the careers of such international stars as ABBA, Olivia Newton-John and Celine Dion and of Israelis Shlomo Artzi, Avi Toldeno and Ofra Haza. Israel has won the competition three times and Shiri Maimon hopes to be the fourth winner this year.

The 23-year-old from Tel Aviv will perform the ballad *Hasheket Shenishar* (*The Silence That Remains*). Here's a translation of one verse:

I was blinded by the day's light
There was no more room for reason
Trembling at your side
My breathlessness has not finished
I breath you and the taste is bitter
[http://tinyurl.com/drzou]

Maimon has put together quite an elaborate website with a biography and a video gallery. **[http://euro.shiri-maimon.co.il/]**

Although Israel is not a European country, it has participated in the Eurovision competition for decades. Another Middle Eastern country, Lebanon, was set to make its debut this year. But those plans went off the rails when Lebanese television decided it could not abide by the Eurovision rules that state all entries must be broadcast in full by all member countries. The head of Lebanon's broadcast authority, Ibrahim Khoury, explained his withdrawal to the Associated Press. "Lebanon is in a state of war with Israel. If the Israeli contestant wins, we would have to show the celebrations. I cannot do this." **[www.arutzsheva.com/news.php3?id=78739]**

Actually, there will be two Israel singers competing at this year's Eurovision. The Israeli-born singer Ortal moved to France as a child. **[http://tinyurl.com/cxgjy]** She will be representing France and will perform *Chacun Pense à Soi* (*Everyone Thinks of Themselves*). You can check out Ortal's performance online. **[http://tinyurl.com/ atu74]**

There's one more (slightly bizarre) Jewish influence at this year's competition. The Hungarian entry, *Spin the World*, by the folk group Nox is a lively number that draws on a number of influences, including Hungarian, Georgian, Argentinian and Jewish folk music. **[www.esctoday.com/specials/read/416]** When you watch the video, you can see those various styles whiz by and then about two minutes into the song, the Jewish influence appears: a mass of stylized chassidic dancers, payes and all, dancing around a mini-skirted lead singer! **[http://tinyurl.com/dtuzm]**

Truth be told, not everybody is a fan of Eurovision. Writing recently in *Ha'aretz*, Sara Miller makes her feelings clear. "For those who are not subjected to this annual aural punishment, the Eurovision Song Contest allows the European nations (and Israel and Lebanon) to showcase a marathon of kitsch rubbish masquerading as singing and dancing." Miller took the opportunity to slag Eurovision because she was reporting on a strange sighting in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square. Someone has deposited a massive heart-shaped bouquet of red, blue and yellow roses in the square accompanied by a cryptic message that says: "Eurovision 2005/Angelica Agurbash/ From Belarus with Love."

As Miller discovered, Angelica Agurbash really is this year's Eurovision contestant from Belarus. But you'll having to read Miller's musings to discern Israel's connection to the Belarusian singer and find out why Angelica felt Tel Aviv should be graced with her floral favour. **[http://tinyurl.com/aqzvr]**

Alas, Israel has not fared all that well since its last Eurovision win in 1998. Although people are saying kind words about Maimon, the buzz is that Israel won't be bringing home its fourth Eurovision victory just yet. Eurovision music maven Graham Soult has this to say about this year's Israeli entry: "Shiri has a lovely voice, and it's a pleasant enough ballad… but I fear it simply isn't memorable enough to beat off the competition." **[www.soult.com/eurovision/2005/israel.shtml]**

Well, what does Soult know anyway? If you have a special feeling about Maimon, and if you want to put your money where your mouth is, the bookies will be more than happy to take your cash. Right now, the odds are sitting at about 40 to 1. **[http://tinyurl.com/83j6c]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers. com.

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Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre names new executive director

Ellen Cole takes the reins

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (MNJCC) is an institution steeped in history and tradition, and the cornerstone of the downtown Jewish community. With the completion of extensive renovations to the structure this year, Ellen Cole has been named the new executive director of the Centre, where she will strive to bring the MNJCC into a new era that is respectful of the past and conscious of the future.

Cole has been working in communications and marketing for the past 21 years, most recently as the director of Communications for TV Ontario.

"This position at the MNJCC is an absolutely perfect confluence of what I have been doing and what I want to be," Cole explains. "Everything has come together for me."

Cole is also equally familiar with Jewish community life, volunteerism and the ways in which these two come together at the MNJCC. She is currently a regional officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and, for three years until 2004, was the Ontario regional chair of the Community Relations Committee at CJC. Cole says her background in Jewish community work has given her the sensitivity needed to direct a centre which caters to all ages and to all affiliations.

"During the selection process for this position, I had the opportunity to meet a cross section of the community that calls MNJCC home," Cole says. "Hearing how important this institution is, from the 90-year-old grandmother to the youngest child, was essential. This Centre is integral to the downtown Jewish community and I am very mindful of that."

MNJCC boasts a new state-of-the-art fitness centre.

The MNJCC offers a myriad of programs for children and adults, families and singles. It boasts a newly-opened state-of-the-art fitness centre and offers cultural arts events in addition to programming surrounding Jewish life cycles, holidays and Israel.

"As we look to the future, Ellen will help to promote our fitness centre, and steer the cultural and educational programming components of the MNJCC," says MNJCC president, Jacque Freidland. "This will make the facility the heart of the downtown Jewish community."

"Now is the moment for new beginnings," Cole emphasizes. "It is an opportunity for new relationships and a time for the MNJCC to create closer partnerships with not only the Jewish community but the Toronto community-at-large."

MNJCC offers a myriad of programs for families with children.

Ellen Cole

Israeli college caters to unique students

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

In Israel, Elias Imbram represents a minority within a minority. He's one of approximately 105,000 Ethiopians living in a country of six million people, but he's also among only 75 Ethiopian law students.

Imbram's legal training is taking place at Ono Academic College (OAC) - a unique post-secondary institution supported, in part, by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner.

OAC is unique because it specializes in students who are not always associated with campus life - Ethiopians who are working toward high-end degrees and *haredim* representing Israel's fervently Orthodox sector, for which higher secular education is not always a priority.

Founded in 1995 by director Ra'anan Hartman, OAC, with 4,000 students is, he says, "the fastest growing college in Israel, with the largest law school."

Hartman is especially proud of the school's outreach to non-traditional campus populations. One thousand *haredim* study there - there are separate classes for men and women - along with 71 Ethiopian law students.

"Of 30,000 active lawyers in Israel, only four are Ethiopian," notes Hartman. "A year from now, there will be 150."

With tuition fees set at about $6,000 U.S., Ethiopian students at Ono Academic College are heavily subsidized, paying only $200 a year. The balance is made up by both the Jewish Agency and the college itself. But Hartman considers this heavy financial obligation a necessity in order to help create a better Israeli society.

"To build leaders, we need to act in a leadership capacity," he says.

As for Imbram, he, too, has his eye on personal leadership. "I have a commitment to the Jewish people," he says. "If I want to lead, I need to be trained to do so."

Students at Ono Academic College (l to r) Michal Halperin, Geula Mengistu, Elias Imbram, Rony Paloch and Zion Shenkor.

Photo by Dvora Wilshanksy

A Ride to Remember

Forty Jewish motorcyclists from Toronto joined Jewish motorcycle clubs from across North America recently for a simultaneous ride to Washington's National Holocaust Museum in honour of Yom Hashoah, the worldwide day of Holocaust remembrance.

Toronto's contingent - "Yidden on Wheels" - which was sponsored by UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre, made the grueling 630 km. sojourn following a departure ceremony at Earl Bales Park. (Pictured) Bikers from Toronto, Florida and Chicago take a break on Washington's Independence Avenue, just across from the Holocaust museum.

(Photo by Marvin Talsky)

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Groundbreaking for Lebovic Jewish Community Centre

Campus will become internationally celebrated centre of Jewish life

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

As the first shovel full of earth was hoisted on Sunday at the groundbreaking of what will become the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, a new chapter in Jewish life was underway.

Located at the corner of Bathurst and Weldrick in Vaughan, the 50 acre state-of-the-art campus - the first of its kind in Canada - will become an internationally celebrated centre of Jewish life, highlighted by CHAT, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, up to four elementary schools and countless other services for York Regions Jewish population of 60,000. Upon completion, the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus will be the world's largest location of Jewish day school students outside of Israel.

Joe Lebovic (left) and his brother Wolf (right) present a cheque for the new Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Community Campus in Vaughan to Leo Goldhar, Chair, Vaughan Steering Committee and Leslie Gales, Chair of the UJA Federation Board. The official cheque-signing ceremony took place at the Lipa Green Building. (Photo by Nestor Ponce)

The campus - part of UJA Federation's $250 million Tomorrow Campaign, chaired by Gerry Schwartz and Larry Tanenbaum - will also feature a diverse range of family and social services, fitness and health programs, camping, child care, sports and conference facilities.

"Jewish education is critical to the continuance of Jewish life. It's something that the entire religion is based upon," said Joseph Lebovic, who, along with his brother Wolf, provided the generous lead gift which has allowed this project to become a reality. "Jewish education has always been a top priority of ours; it's something that is essential not only to us as a people, but also for our continuing impact in the world at large."

The Lebovic brothers, long active with UJA Federation, are philanthropic leaders in the community with an outstanding history of helping universities, hospitals, special-needs children, sports teams, and many other organizations.

"If you ask me what vision I have of this new community campus in five years, I would hope to see a community that is flourishing in every regard, strengthened by the programs and services offered there," said Joseph Lebovic. "I see it as a warm, welcoming place for Jewish families to excel and transmit Jewish values for generations to come."

Vaughan location of choice

The first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, John Graves Simcoe had a difficult time developing Thornhill-Vaughan in 1792. As an incentive to cultivate the area, Simcoe offered settlers 200 acres of free land. In 2005, incentives are no longer needed. In fact, for the Jewish community, Vaughan has become the location of choice. Fifty-eight per cent of Vaughan residents are Jewish, making it the most sought out area for young Jewish families in Canada today.

As smaller Jewish communities across the country deal with population decreases, Vaughan's Jewish community is flourishing and continuing to grow. Part of the reason is that the general economic development of the area is attracting business and creating jobs.

"The general economic stability of Vaughan is a definite attraction," Patricia Tolkin Eppel, director of Community Planning, York Region at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto explained. "Coupled with the exorbitantly high cost of housing in the city, young couples are looking for options and finding those options up north."

Yet cheaper housing is not the only impetus to attract the Jewish community in such large numbers. Young Jewish families also look for an infrastructure that will enrich their lives and enhance their Jewish experience.

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto (BAYT), an Orthodox synagogue that was established in 1981, was the focal point for an earlier generation of young Jews looking north to establish their homes. Twenty-four years later, BAYT acts as a beacon for other Jewish institutions, turning what was once farm land into a rich community that now boasts several synagogues, Jewish day schools, restaurants and shopping centers.

Jewish life north of Steeles is thriving.

"Joseph Tanenbaum had a vision for the area," explained Jack Feintuch, past president of BAYT. "He wanted to attract young people with a pioneering spirit and build a community not just a synagogue," he continued.

Temple Har Zion, a Reform shul currently boasting a membership of close to 600 families, has witnessed firsthand the growth of a Jewish presence north of Steeles Avenue.

"Temple Har Zion began 34 years ago with a membership of about seven families," said Karen Grimm, the synagogue's executive director. "Back then, we purchased the same piece of land we stand on today, on Bayview Avenue, which included a house. As the area began to grow in terms of Jewish families, so too did we. We're a vibrant and active Reform synagogue, and, in fact, we're still growing today."

Another York Region synagogue which has grown rapidly is Richmond Hill's Beit Rayim, an Egalitarian Conservative shul located at Bayview and Weldrick for the past 12 years.

"We've grown tremendously in the past decade after starting with only a handful of families as members," said Ronda Goldberg, immediate past president, Beit Rayim. "Today we have over 250 families aboard, mostly younger families. Our congregation loves it here because of the warm, *Hamish* atmosphere we offer. Everyone - regardless of background - is encouraged to participate."

The future looks bright for Jewish York Region

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

For over 100 years the Toronto Jewish community has migrated north creating major Jewish enclaves along the Bathurst corridor. Having already cultivated Thornhill, the Jewish community is now turning its gaze further north beyond Highway 7 where a new generation is deciding to set down roots and establish their homes.

By 2011, an estimated 86,000 Jews will populate York Region, which is already the third largest Jewish community in Canada behind Toronto and Montreal. Though York Region's Jewish community is large, it is not homogeneous, with individuals coming from diverse backgrounds and varying affiliations.

"This new generation of Jews, making the historical trip north, is a continuation of the progression of Jews northward that has been happening for the last 100 years," explained Lou Greenbaum of the Vogue Development Group, who was instrumental in the development of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus and its steering committee, chaired by Leo Goldhar. "Yet, simultaneously Canada is also seeing an influx of immigrants from Russia, Israel and Argentina and many of them are finding homes in Vaughan," he continued.

The Atrium of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus will serve as a welcoming gateway for the Vaughan Jewish community.

Greenbaum, whose belief in the Region is demonstrated by the fact that he is now developing the area, also has huge faith in the Jewish community and its desire to see a strong future there. As the chair of the Land Development Committee for the Lebovic Campus, Greenbaum has worked hard to create strategic relationships in the area.

"People are really beginning to become aware of what the Jewish community is doing with the new campus," Greenbaum explained. "I think young Jewish families are now considering this area because of what we are doing and how fantastic this Centre will be."

The new campus will include a recreation and fitness centre, banquet halls, a health and wellness centre, CHAT (the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto) and other social service facilities.

"I've lived up north my whole life and now my husband and I have decided to have a family and build our home here as well," said Heather Greenbaum, Lou's daughter. "Part of my decision to make my home here was based on this vibrant and dynamic community centre. It will be amazing to see how this whole thing evolves."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Greater Toronto Area

Canadians participating in Haifa conferences

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Hundreds of scientists, medical professionals, bioethicists and educators from around the world – including at least six from Canada – are expected at a five-day conference on medical, scientific and legal ethics in Haifa this month that will focus in part on the ugly legacy of Nazi doctors who performed scientific experiments on human subjects.

Timed to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, the International Conference on Science, Law and Ethics takes place at the University of Haifa from May 29 to June 2. It is being presented in English under the auspices of UNESCO, the World Medical Association and other international organizations.

Bernard Dickens, a professor emeritus of health, law and policy at the University of Toronto, is one of six Canadians on the conference's international scientific committee. "It's an important conference – some of the leading lights in the field are going to be attending," he said.

In the latter years of the Third Reich, Nazi doctors such as Josef Mengele used human beings as guinea pigs for a range of medical experiments.

Although various national and international models of bioethics and jurisprudence arose in the immediate postwar era, those measures "are no longer relevant to the requirements of modern scientific realities," according to Haifa Professor Amnon Carmi, the conference chair.

Conference proceedings are structured around three time periods: the war era, the subsequent 60 years, and the future. Subject areas include The Nazi Doctor, Experimentation in Nazi Germany, Euthanasia and the Hippocratic Oath, Research and Ethics in Russia and the Former Soviet Union, and Genetic Research.

"It's a very rich program," Dickens commented. "It focuses on where we have progressed, and on the progress we have yet to make on the values embodied in the Nuremberg code on research with human subjects."

A second conference, "World War II and Its Impact on the Law, 60 Years Later," is unfolding simultaneously at the university, and will examine historic injustices and legal claims related to the Holocaust. At least one Canadian, University of Toronto law professor Ed Morgan, who is also national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, is slated to participate.

USCJ to honour three rabbis

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, is honouring three Toronto rabbis emeritus with its fifth annual Ateret Kavod award.

"The community is very fortunate to have rabbis emeritus of this stature," said Paul Kochberg, regional president, referring to honorees Rabbi Avraham Feder, Rabbi Joseph Kelman and Rabbi Erwin Schild. "We thought the award was an excellent way of showing affection and respect."

The awards will be presented at a celebratory evening June 1 at Beth Tikvah Congregation. Funds raised support USCJ's youth programs in the Canadian region.

Ateret Kavod awards honour people who have made "significant contributions to the Conservative movement and the Jewish community at large," said Kochberg.

Rabbi Feder, who made aliyah in 1981, served Beth Tikvah for 14 years and is active in supporting the Masorti movement in Israel.

Rabbi Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue where he served for 38 years, has been involved in various Jewish initiatives for special needs children and adults. Among them, he founded the Kadima School in 1961, and was founding president of She'arim Hebrew Day School.

Rabbi Schild has served Adath Israel Congregation since 1947. For more than 20 years he has travelled regularly to Germany to speak to local Christians. He has been honoured by the governments of both Canada and Germany for his interfaith work.

Approach to Holocaust writing changed

Continued from page 3

This year's winners include David Bezmozgis for his book *Natasha and Other Stories*, Martin Lockshin for *Rashbam's Commentary on Deuteronomy* and Anne Dublin for *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything.*

"If you trace the books that came in at the beginning of our history and the ones that are coming in now, you will find an incredible evolution in Jewish themes," Webb said.

"And they're not necessarily written by Jewish writers."

Another change Webb describes is in the approach to Holocaust writing.

"Holocaust survivors are getting older and almost not writing anymore… now we get second-generation writers."

In addition, Webb pointed out that many of the books coming in this year have dealt with Canadian and world anti-Semitism.

"It's so important to encourage writers and publishers to deal with Jewish issues," she said.

The Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards take place May 30, 8 p.m., at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4599 Bathurst St. For more information, call Janet Mador, 416-636-1880, ext. 352.

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Coast to Coast

New religions course mandatory

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Jewish day schools, like all other private and public schools in the province, will be required to teach a new course on major religions from a cultural perspective starting in the fall of 2008 or they will lose their government funding.

Charley Levy, executive director of the Association of Jewish Day Schools (AJDS), said he could see such a course being problematic, particularly for Orthodox schools. "It all depends on what the content will be and what kind of latitude will be give on the components that have to be taught," he said.

Another concern is how the Jewish schools are going to fit the course into an already heavy schedule, he said.

Levy said last week he had no other information about the course, other than what has been posted on the education ministry's website. He said he will be seeking more details and plans to call a meeting of the schools in the next few weeks to study the matter.

The AJDS represents 15 school corporations on 23 campuses, about 10 of which Levy described as Orthodox.

Rabbi Mendel Marasow, executive director of Beth Rivkah Academy, said he was not aware of the planned curriculum change but said he did not believe it would be feasible for his Orthodox school for girls to teach such a course.

"I don't think it will ever happen… We are not going to teach Catholicism, Hinduism and Islam here. Jews have given their lives in dictatorships not to have to teach [another religion]," he said.

Rabbi Marasow said he is confident the government will allow the course to be "adapted to fit the school's philosophy. It's common sense. They can't just dictate."

Education Minister Jean-Marc Fournier announced earlier this month that a compulsory course called "ethics and religious culture" will be introduced into all elementary and high schools to replace the current choices of Catholic, Protestant or neutral moral instruction. He was firm that even schools serving cultural communities must also teach the course.

Quebec has decided to re-invoke the notwithstanding clause of the Canadian Human Rights Charter to enable the current denominational classes to continue in public schools for another three years. The application of the clause was up for review in July, as is required every five years.

Fournier said the goal is to have all students following the same course curriculum so they can get to know and respect other religions. An outline of the course stresses that teachers must be careful to respect the individual beliefs of students and to treat the religions equitably.

The elimination of confessional instruction and the move to an academic study of ethics and religion is part of the long-underway process of secularizing the province's public school system.

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נתן יונתן הוא המשורר שאחראי לשירים נפלאים כמו "חופים הם לפעמים" ו"שיר ישן על אניטה וחואן". לאחר מותו לפני שנה נשאר פרוייקט בלתי גמור של שיריו המתורגמים לאנגלית. ספר זה יצא לאור ממש בימים אלה, כשעל כל דף מופיע בצד אחד התרגום לאנגלית ובצד השני המקור בעברית. על התרגומים אחראית המשוררת הישראלית ילידת בוסטון ג'ניס רביבו סילברמן.

לטפר צורף גם תקליטור עם שיריו המולחנים של נתן יונתן בביצוע להקת "האחים והאחיות". הלהקה התקיימה בסיבוב הראשון בין השנים 1971 ו 1982 . בשנה שעברה התאחדו האחים והאחיות ביוזמת הטלביזיה ובלחץ קהל אוהדים מסור. הופעותיהם המחודשות מתקבלות בחום רב בארץ. לחגוג את יציאת הספר/ תקליטור יופיעו האחים והאחיות בטורונטו במוצאי שבת ה-4 ביוני שהוא "יום ירושלים". ההופעה תכלול את מיטב להיטיהם הטובים וכמובן שירים מהתקליטור החדש. כמו כן יוקרנו קטעי ראיונות עם המשורר עצמו, כפי ששודרו בטלביזיה הישראלית. וכמעט ששכחתי: שירה בציבור עם שיריו של נתן יונתן("דוגית נוסעת", "על ענפי שיטה").

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Anti-racism conference draws variety of groups

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A grassroots effort to stop racism and hate in Canada brought local and federal politicians together with representatives of a wide array of religious and ethnic groups earlier this month.

"Towards Understanding and Harmony: a Conference on Hate and Racial Discrimination" was "a conference whose title reflects both what we are striving for and what we are hoping to prevent," said its chair Alti Rodal as she opened the event, held May 8 and 9 in Ottawa and attended by more than 100 people.

Rodal thanked the City of Ottawa for providing seed money for the conference, and she announced that the federal Department of Multiculturism would be funding its second phase, which will involve writing up and implementing some of its recommendations.

Elder William Commanda of Maniwaki First Nation in Quebec blessed the gathering with the burnt sage ceremony and a prayer in three languages as he welcomed participants to Algonquin land.

Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli, the honorary conference chair, and Police Chief Vince Bevan both attended the opening event at Ben Franklin Place.

"I believe that our community has the capacity and the commitment and the leadership to take it one step further and that is to take a significant step toward reconciliation," Chiarelli said.

Bevan noted that the Ottawa police force established the first hate crimes unit in Canada in 1993 and that it still works diligently to fight hate crime.

"It is our belief that a hate crime against any one of us is a crime against our entire community," he said. "We must remember that our work in this area is a constant, constant voyage."

Messages of support were read and delivered by representatives of many faith communities, followed by a panel discussion setting the context for deliberations.

The conference continued on Monday at Saint Paul University, a Catholic school affiliated with the University of Ottawa, with a number of roundtable discussions and a keynote address by Justice Minister Irwin Cotler.

"The message of our democracies, the message of our governments, whoever is the party in power, the message must be clear that we envisage a state and a society in which there is no sanctuary for hate and no refuge for bigotry," Cotler said.

"The awareness of this substantial harm, the dangers caused by racism, hate speech and the need for a justice initiative to combat is the first and most important of the lessons learned and the actions to be taken."

Statistically, the two groups most targeted by hate in Canada are Jews and Muslims, he said.

"We need an approach where Jews speak up on behalf of Muslims when Muslims are attacked, and Muslims speak up on behalf of Jews when Jews are attacked, [and] when Jews and Muslims, in concert with others, speak up when any minority, any identifiable group, is attacked," Cotler said.

"That's what it means to have a notion of shared citizenship. That's what it means to have a common front against racism. That's what it means to mobilize a constituency of conscience in terms of both in all of the identifiable groups in our society."

He noted that the government's national action plan against racism, unveiled more than six weeks ago, has been been overshadowed in media coverage by the Gomery inquiry, but he outlined its 13 key points, as well as some of the steps the government is taking to fight racism, including a national tip line for reporting Internet hate and a national strategy to combat online hat.

CLARIFICATION

An article that appeared in the May 5 issue of *The CJN* ("Hamilton police chief faces complaints over Israel trip") quoted *Hamilton Spectator* columnist Bill Dunphy as follows:

"He [Dunphy] said, however, that the board routinely handles complaints in camera."

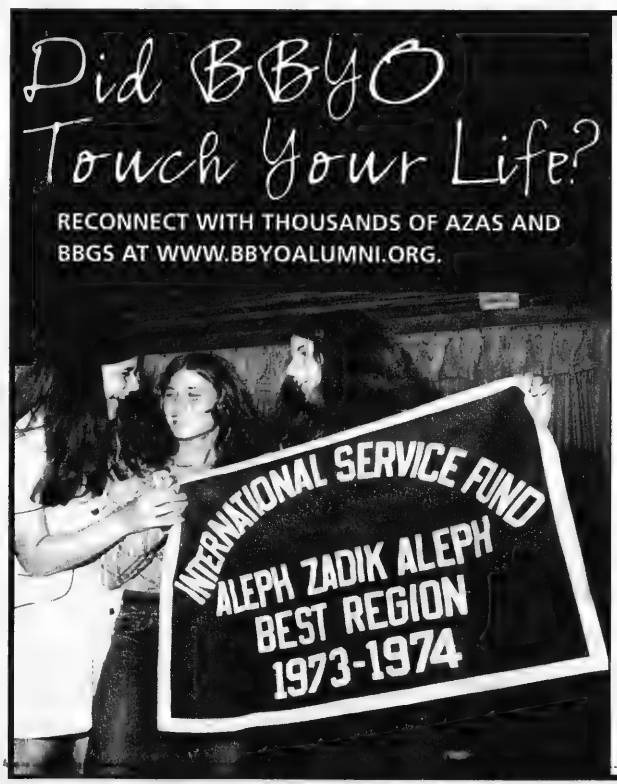
In a letter to *The CJN*, Dunphy denies having said this to our reporter Ron Csillag. "I never said the Hamilton Police Services Board handles complaints in camera routinely – I have no idea what their normal complaint handling process involves. I told Csillag that the board routinely goes in camera, that they deal with so many issues in camera that there were secret sessions at every regularly scheduled meeting."

Dunphy also said *The CJN* inaccurately quoted from a letter to the editor of the *Spectator* from Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber.

The CJN stated that Farber's letter accused Dunphy of failing to mention that the Ontario police chiefs who were visiting Israel also met with Palestinian leaders. Dunphy did mention the meeting with Palestinian officials in his original story and said, moreover, in his letter to *The CJN* that "Farber accused me [Dunphy] of 'glossing over' the visit. A very different allegation."

In this, both *The CJN* and Dunphy erred. Farber's letter said Dunphy gave "short shrift" to the meeting between the chiefs and Palestinian leaders.

The CJN regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.



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Coast to Coast

Multifaith body provides affordable housing

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Multifaith Housing Initiative has purchased a five-unit apartment building as a step toward providing affordable housing in the city.

At the organization's recent annual general meeting, a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the purchase of what is hoped will be the first of many such small buildings.

The Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is a group of representatives of faith communities and individuals who are dedicated to alleviating the problem of the lack of affordable housing in the Ottawa area. The group got together five years ago for an informal discussion and has managed to achieve one of its goals – to purchase a building.

MHI did not receive any government funding for the purchase of the building. People who are interested in ethical investments and are concerned about the city's lack of affordable housing made low/no-interest loans that went toward the purchase while others donated money.

The Jewish Community Council of Ottawa is a member of MHI, as is Temple Israel and Congregation Adath Shalom. Rabbi Arnold Fine of Agudath Israel Congregation is one of the organization's patrons. Rubin Friedman, a member of MHI's faith advisory committee and chair of the fundraising committee, represents the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa.

Friedman said he has been talking to the fundraising committee "about the Jewish approach to charity as justice – not just charity – which is not just being nice, but fulfilling fundamental obligations of justice."

He said he has found that the Jewish approach to charity is similar to that of Islam and he has learned a great deal about other faith groups by working closely with them.

MHI board meetings have taken place at various locations, including a Presbyterian church, a mosque and Temple Israel.

"What we would like to do is to expand the number of people who participate directly with us… We think we are providing a really important service to the community that everyone will benefit from," said Friedman.

In addition to purchasing and maintaining buildings, MHI is looking at other ways to alleviate the housing shortage, including finding secondary dwelling units in existing homes or operating a service for people who have extra room in their homes and are looking for tenants.

At the meeting, Ed Broadbent, the New Democratic Party member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre, where MHI's apartment building is located, commended MHI for its dedication to providing affordable housing, and criticized the federal government for not putting resources into housing.

"The voluntary sector has moved in to fill the gap. This is a needed, terrific example of what we can do for our fellow citizens, but it is important for the government to ensure that this gap doesn't exist," he said.

Broadbent stressed that Canada needs a national housing strategy. "There is no G7 country, except Canada, that has no national housing policy." he said.

HELPING THE HOMELESS: A group of eight-year-olds at Leo Baeck Day School put together almost 100 snack packs to be distributed to Toronto's homeless by Ve'ahavta. Not only did the kids assemble the bags, they obtained the donations and wrote notes to the program's clients. Pictured, back row from left, are Eva Kay and Marleine Kay of Ve'ahavta's Vaughan chapter; and teacher Tova Nathanson. Pictured front row from left are Samantha Shore, Sydney Mulpea, Emily Stone, Sarah Prut and Oscar Bernard. (Not pictured are Julietta Stnigu and Morgan Bucknek).

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ADULT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

invites the community to a lecture by

DR. AVIVAH ZORNBERG
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Dr. Zornberg, a pre-eminent female Torah scholar, is a world famous teacher, author and lecturer.

Monday, May 30, 2005

8:00 P.M.

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
470 Glencairn Avenue

Lecture Topic: What if Joseph Hates Us – Closing the Book

Cost: $18.00

This community event is generously co- sponsored by
Shaarei Shomayim's Sisterhood.

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Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Cash-Kazman – It is with pride, pleasure and love that **Carrie & Martin Cash** and **Carol & Steven Kazman** announce the engagement of their children **Sandra** and **Efram**. Proud grandparents are Leo and the late Joy Orzy, Lil and the late Tom Cash, Myrna Wallace, Rose and the late Morris Kazman, Milton Wallace. Dustin, Julie and Jody are also thrilled for you. Mazel Tov.

Mazel tov to Jeff & Dayna Switzer on the birth of Leah Beth. A sister for Jacob. Love from grandparents and Great-grandparents.

Mazel tov Stewart & Elana Lyons on the birth of Joshua William. Grandparents Wayne & Ann Caplan, Jeff & Sandy Lyons. Great-grandparents Paul & Phyllis Rosengarten.

Mazel tov to Lyla Celeste Dantowitz on her first birthday May 1 in Boston. We all love you. The Melnicks, Shumaks, Tators and Warfe families.

Andrea Bergman, you did it! You earned your JD and your LLB on both sides of the border. Mazel tov from your proud and loving family.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Thursday, May 19, is the deadline for June 2 and Monday, May 30, is the deadline for the June 9 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 19

ZIONISM: THE PRESENT

Beth David Synagogue continues the series Zionism: Past, Present And Future with a lecture by **Mordechai Ben-Dat**, editor of the Canadian Jewish News, on "Zionism: The Present." 7:30 p.m. 416-633-5500.

DARFUR: WHAT WE CAN DO

Dr. Norman Epstein, founder of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan, and **Dr. Acol Dor**, a south Sudanese survivor, will speak about the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan at the Narayever Congregation, 7:30 p.m. at 187 Brunswick Ave. 416-927-3733.

SURVIVAL SEMINAR

The Jews for Judaism begins a six-week series to give participants an understanding of Judaism's responses to missionary claims. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Free, registration is required. Call 905-761-0040.

Saturday, May 21

SHABBAT SERVICES

Kol Yisroel Congregation holds weekly Shabbat services at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. at 9:30 a.m. 416-630-9444.

JERUSALEM EXAMINED

Rabbi David Golinkin, president and professor at the Schecter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, will be the scholar-in-residence at Beth Emeth Synagogue. Golinkin's Shabbat morning sermon will be "Heavenly or Earthly: Will the Real Jerusalem Please Stand Up?" At Shabbat lunch, he lectures on "Jerusalem in Jewish Law and Custom." A malaveh malka, "A History of Jerusalem in Song," a musical program, takes place at 9:45 p.m. 416-633-3838.

Sunday, May 22

THE MESSIAH MYSTERY

Rabbi Yosef Gansburg continues his course on "The Messiah Mystery: Toward a Perfect World." 10-11:30 a.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue through June 19. Fee. 416-661-2937.

ORENSTEIN ON ASEH

The Yiddish Cultural Council of Toronto marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of **Sholem Aseh** with a lecture by **Prof. Eugene Orenstein**, of McGill University, on Ash. 2 p.m. at 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $5.

BBYO CAR WASH

B'nai Brith Youth will be holding a fundraising car wash, noon- 4 p.m. in the parking lot at 4700 Bathurst St. 416-398-2004.

ROSENZWEIG LECTURE

Rebecca Feldbaum, author of *If There's Anything I Can Do* will speak about "How To Effectively Help Others in Times of Need," at the third annual Rosenzweig Memorial Lecture. 8 p.m. at Baycrest Terrace. Vendor boutique 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24

LUNCH AND LEARN

Beth Tikvah Lunch and Learn Tuesday presents "Jews and Christians in Islamic Countries," with **Rev. Majed El-Shafie** and **Dr. Sarah Taib-Carlen**. Lunch 12:15, program 1 p.m. $8. Reserve for lunch at 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Reviving Eden presents a Jewish-Muslim interfaith dialogue for those in their 20s with **Rabbi Michael Stroh** and **Imam Hussein Khimjee** over a Middle Eastern vegetarian dinner. 7 p.m. $3 includes dinner. Pre-registration required. 416-485-7007, ext. 321.

JWI THEATRE NIGHT

The Golda Meir chapter of Jewish Women International present *Comedy, Jutters*, a fundraising theatre night at the Curtain Club. $18. For tickets, call **Gail** 416-630-6428.

Continued on page 27

The Adath Israel Adult Study Committee

is please to present

The Annual Dr. Dorothy & Abby J. Sone Memorial Lecture

When Israel is One, God Is One

featuring guest lecturer

Professor James A. Diamond
Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies, University of Waterloo

When tribal identity became a means of excluding others, the Rabbis considered God's very unity to be shattered. Yet this is precisely what the Israelites risked when they divided themselves into families, tribes and camps in the wilderness of Sinai.

Monday, May 30, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.

We welcome your attendance. Free admission!

Refreshments following.

In celebration of our Golden Jubilee,
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
presents
the **Sons of Sepharad**
In Concert

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Aaron Bensoussan
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George Mgrdichian
Alberto Mizrahi

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Golden Jubilee

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Prices: Patrons $136 • Sponsor $54 • General Admission $36
www.beby.org • *Patrons & Sponsor—Reserved seating with reception*
100 Elder Street, Toronto, Ontario

Continued from page 26

Wednesday, May 25

SINGLE MOMS GROUP

Single mothers are invited to join a group that meets for fun and support on Wednesday nights beginning tonight. For information, call **Sharyn**, 905-762-9044.

BOOK LAUNCH

Holy Blossom Temple presents the launch of *Daughters of the Ark*, with author **Anna Morgan** and a heroine from the book, **Shula Mola**, former director of the Israel Association of Ethiopian Jewry. 7 p.m.

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meet the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information, call **Irv**, 416-661-2541.

IS IT GOOD FOR YOU?

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood presents holistic nutritionist **Merle Gould**, on "Why Eating Our Traditional Diet Is Good for the Jews," how returning to our dietary roots will improve our appearance, vitality and health. 7:30 p.m. Admission is a kosher-food item for the food bank. 416-781-3511.

CANCER AWARENESS

Nutritionist **Barbara Casselman** speaks about "The Role of Nutrition," at the prostate cancer awareness meeting, 7:30 p.m. at 1300 Leslie St. 416-932-8820.

IMPACT OF THE 6-DAY WAR

Prof. Harold Tropper's topic is "Israel's Six Day War and How It Changed Our World Forever," at Kehillat Shaarei Torah's mature adult get-together group. 8 p.m. All welcome. 416-229-2600.

Other news

TORAH AND THE JEWS

Temple Har Zion hosts **Rabbi Arnold Wolf**, of Chicago, as scholar-in-residence the weekend of May 28-29. The program, "Torah and the Jews," begins Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Sunday breakfast $8 for non-members. 905-889-2252.

TRAGEDY AND BLESSING

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum and **Loretta Tanenbaum** will lead a study group on "Tragedy and Blessing: A New Perspective" at Congregation B'nai Shalom of Halton-Peel on May 29 at 2 p.m. 905-469-4344.

EMUNAH CONFERENCE

Emunah Women of Canada will hold a day-long conference in Kingston on Tuesday, May 31. All members are welcome. $50 includes transportation, food and programming. To reserve, contact **Janice** at 416-636-0036 or emunah@kwik.net.

YOU & YOUR ADOLESCENT

Jewish Family and Child Service presents **Joe Rich**, parenting expert, speaking on the topic "You and Your Adolescent" at CHAT, 200 Wilmington Ave. Tuesday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. $10. 416-638-7800.

WALK WITH ISRAEL

On Sunday, May 29, join UJA Federation and the whole Toronto Jewish community for the world's largest solidarity walk on Israel's behalf. Registration 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park. 416-631-5700 or www.ujawalkwithisrael.com.

SINGLES SHABBATON

Jewish Futures and SEC are holding a kosher Northland Experience Shabbaton for young adults 22-32, June 3-5. Cost including transportation $200, $150 before May 23. 905-882-6755 or jfutures@rogers.com.

ICRF GALA

Join the Israel Cancer Research Fund on Sunday, June 5, for its gala event with performances by **Carol Welsman** and **Boris Brott** at the Sheraton Centre. For tickets, call 416-487-5246.

MATTI CASPI CONCERT

Na'amat Canada and Habonim Dror present **Matti Caspi** in concert, Monday, June 6, at Holy Blossom Temple. 7:30 p.m. $40. 416-635-5425.

BAYCREST YOUTH PROGRAM

If you are between the ages of 13 and 24, consider volunteering at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care this summer. Meet new friends and assist in a variety of activities with the elderly, including working with computers and helping in the gift shop. Call the volunteer services department at 416-785-2500, ext. 2572.

PRE-NURSERY PROGRAM

Adath Israel Synagogue will be starting a pre-nursery program for children aged 2½ in September 2005. The program will run for 2 hours a day with an option of 2, 3 or 5 days a week. For information and registration, call **Rachel** at 416 635-5340.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 215.

Happiest Baby On the Block: A workshop for parents of newborns and infants, based on the principles of **Dr. Harvey Karp,** to learn to calm your baby. Thursday, May 19, 7-9 p.m. at the Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall. Registration required.

One Family, Two Homes: A three-session series for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age appropriate groups. Topics for parents include tips for keeping the kids out of the conflict, trends in family law and the impact of separation and divorce on children. Begins Tuesday, May 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

The Joy of Parenting: Making Parenting Work for You. A one-night workshop covering topics such as understanding your own parenting style and what styles work and why. Registration required. Thursday, May 26, 7-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Bldg.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting hosts **Bernie Farber** of Canadian Jewish Congress, Thursday, May 19, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Call **Debbie** at 416-635-2860.

Lunch & Learn in Retirement at Holy Blossom Temple presents the film *Nobody Swings on Sunday* by **Harry Rasky**, Wednesday, May 25, at noon. Bring a dairy lunch, coffee, tea and cookies served. $1. 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 22, bingo. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, May 25; Sunday dance, May 22. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Denture clinic, Tuesday, May 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Senior safety symposium and exhibit, Wednesday, May 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m, May 24, Hebrew book club.

WAGMAN CENTRE
55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn Program, Tuesday, May 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The BJCC Computer Lab, which specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+, now offers night classes. Beginning in June, "Getting Started on Your Computer" is being offered Monday and Wednesday evenings 7-9 p.m., June 1-30. Other courses offered. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

The third annual golf tournament takes place Thursday, June 23, at Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club. Early bird special is $175 per golfer and $700 for a foursome. Payment must be received by May 20. Call ext. 371.

Registration is now open for September 2005 for morning preschool and full-day day care, 18 months through senior kindergarten. For information, call ext. 248.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for fall classes in the Koffler School of Music fall classes: Boogie Babies, Jammin' Tots, Little Maestros, Special Education Music, Suzuki Violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, Kidz Band Class, guitar ensembles, and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Photographic Homage to Jewish War Vets, "Portraits of Bravery" exhibit by **Yuri Dojc** through May 26.

The Day Martin Buber Was Buried and *To Love in Jerusalem*, a live performance of two radio plays by **Yehuda Amichai**. Thursday, May 19, 8 p.m. Al Green Theatre. $15.

KURT ROTHSCHILD HONOURED: Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University will bestow the Eitz Chaim (Tree of Life) Award, its highest honour, on Kurt Rothschild, an active member of many Jewish organizations in Toronto and around the world, at a tribute dinner on Sunday, May 22, in New York City.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Sher, Bella	May 2/05	Private
Phillips, Lawrence	May 3/05	42 Brookview Dr.
Oleynikov, Alexander	May 3/05	190 Dudley Ave.
Kackochen, Sam	May 4/05	453 Glengrove Ave.W
Senehi, Monireh (Mollazadeh)	May 4/05	Private
Little, Louis Edward	May 5/05	1201 Steeles Ave.W
Schonberger, Eugene	May 5/05	1 Alonzo Rd.
Shchupak, Alla	May 5/05	Private
Garay, Rozalia	May 6/05	Private
Szedlecki, Ann	May 7/05	35 Sandale Gardens
Mintz, Benjamin	May 7/05	1 Northwestern Ave
Wetstein, Sidney	May 7/05	140 Brighton Ave.
Schwitzer, Eugen	May 8/05	Private
Feldberg-Dowsling,Susan	May 9/05	48 Gordon Way
Ponte, Salomon	May 9/05	253 Torresdale Ave
Katz, Leib	May 9/05	15 Torresdale Ave.
Nisenker, Rosa	May 10/05	Private

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jack Tavroges	Apr 26/05	4005 Bayview Avenue
Adela Hauer	Apr 30/05	5935 Bathurst Street
Sylvia Kraft	May 1/05	22 Robingrove Road
Doris Gold	May 2/05	11 Enid Crescent
Hope Wells	May 2/05	923 St. Clair Ave. West
Howard Kendall	May 3/05	317 Sunset Blvd.
Hayim Levy	May 3/05	102 Chiltern Hill Road
Dorothy Richmond	May 4/05	63 St. Clair Ave. West
Bessie Levy	May 4/05	569 Sheppard Ave. W
Harry Wayne	May 6/05	1555 Finch Ave.E.
Kelvin Winkler	May 6/05	471 Lakeview Drive
Bertha Minden	May 6/05	3560 Bathurst Street

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID ARZEM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 22nd, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ELIZABETH ECKER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 22nd, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Clanton Park Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARNOLD (ADISH) NIRENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th, 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CHARLES SCHWARTZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Society Section #22
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HEDDY RYDEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th at 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MIMI SZEKELY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Bathurst North of Finch
Section 11
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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NOTICE

Jewish Cemeteries Management Inc. By-Laws have been submitted to the Registrar of the Cemeteries Act (Revised) for the Bathurst Lawn Jewish Community Cemetery Section. Any interested parties may contact the Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park Association office for information, or to make copies. These By-Laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Cemeteries Act (Revised).

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Coast to Coast

Sensitive stories portray settlers sympathetically as real people

As the mid-August disengagement from Gaza and settlements in the northern West Bank approaches, numerous articles have focused on the possibility of violent confrontation between settlers determined to remain in their homes and members of the Israel Defence Forces who will be charged with removing them – by force, if necessary.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Recently, however, other stories have attempted to sympathetically present the settlers' point of view as they await an uncertain future. In any other context, this kind of media exposure would have been most unusual, given the typically negative impression that the Western media present of the settlers.

Mark Mackinnon, the *Globe and Mail*'s Mideast correspondent, profiled Len Benhamo of Gush Katif as he contended with "nightmares" over his future after 16 years in his Gaza settlement ("Anxiety sets in over fate of Gaza homes," May 7).

On May 8, CTV's Janis Mackey Frayer reported from the settlement of Rafiah Yam in Gaza. She described the predicament of Abashy Natif, a resident and owner of a small restaurant, who after two decades in the settlement is prepared to leave voluntarily, but must deal with both the hostility of many of his neighbours who are determined to stay and the absence (thus far) of any government financial compensation.

"The problem facing those who want to leave, is actually getting the money to do so," Mackey Frayer said. "With just over two months before it's illegal to live here, the government has yet to award any compensation. Families willing to go can claim over $300,000 (US). When applications were finally accepted, they were told it would take 60 days, leaving little time to find new homes, new jobs and new schools."

The following day, the CBC's Adrienne Arsenault interviewed the Hillberg family in the Gaza settlement of Nezer Hazoni, who expressed their anxiety as the disengagement date looms. "We're the people everybody loves to hate," said Breina Hillberg, mother and wife.

Arsenault followed up: "Misunderstood and mistreated is how Samuel and Breina Hillberg see themselves. They've lived in Gush Katif for 26 years and raised a family here. They were offered grants and loans decades ago to settle Gaza back when the government encouraged people to come and build successful businesses, which is exactly what the Hillbergs did. Now at 55, Samuel is trying to wrap his head around the idea of walking away from his hothouses and starting again."

Among other things, the Hillbergs wonder what will happen to the grave of their son, who was killed in Lebanon while serving as a naval commando. Breina Hillberg asks, "How do I pull up the grave of a kid who died for his country? Look what his country is doing to him now." The Hillbergs' emotional trauma was palpable, as was their sense of uncertainty about the future.

Like Abashy Natif, the restaurant owner of Rafiah Yam, Hillberg claimed that the government hasn't come to them with concrete plans for the move. Yet unlike Natif, Hillberg is not even decided on whether she will go voluntarily if there is government compensation or whether she will resist, short of resorting to violence, which she rejects.

Arsenault ended her report on a cautionary note: "The Israeli army commanders in charge of disengagement say it will be their most complicated mission ever. They'll have to guard against attacks from Jewish extremists and Palestinian militants. They have no sense of how this will end."

Although media attention in the Middle East has been mostly focused on Iraq, Iran, Syria and Lebanon in the past few months, many journalists are predicting a massive shift to Israel as the disengagement deadline approaches. As of last week, the Israeli Government Press Office had received close to 3,000 requests for press accreditation from foreign reporters and their crews.

It is hardly unreasonable to anticipate that in the (likely) heated atmosphere of disengagement itself, media attention may focus once again on stories of confrontation and conflict, not on stories about the emotional stress of individuals.

In the media's pursuit of sensational headlines, especially in a competitive news environment, will the human interest stories be relegated to a mere blip on the radar screen?

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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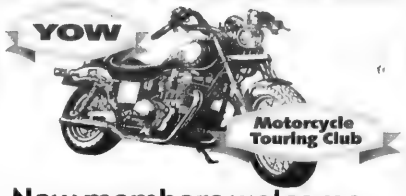

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Hundreds gather to pay respects to fallen Israelis

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

After the Royal Canadian Legion and flag-bearing boy scouts marched down the aisle at Beth David B'nei Israel Beth Am to the beat of a drum, more than 500 people stood for a moment of silence to commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers.

The Yom Hazikaron ceremony included poetry, prayer, candlelighting and song, as well as emotional testimony from those who have lost loved ones in Israel's fight for peace.

Helina Berkman and Hani Ben Shabat solemnly made their way on stage to light a memorial candle in honour of Berkman's husband, who died fighting in the Yom Kippur War, and Ben Shabat's brother, who was killed last year in a terrorist attack in Tal Hashomer.

Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh, who's father fought in four Israeli wars and witnessed the untimely deaths of many of his fellow soldiers and friends, told a story about a young man from Boston who urged his parents to make aliyah to Israel. He joined the army, where he and Brosh met, and they became good friends. A year later, the young man was killed in battle.

The Renanim choir sang Hatikvah at the Yom Hazikaron ceremony last week. [Benji Feldman photo]

This was just one example of the thousands of people who sacrificed their lives for the right of the State of Israel to exist.

"Twenty-one thousand, nine hundred and fifty-four men and women were killed, many who suffered for our existence. It's a number that the human mind cannot imagine," Brosh told the attentive gathering.

But when the crowd wasn't listening to the speeches and poetry recited by children, they sang along to songs such as *Bab-el-Wad*, which is about the area where Jerusalem was separated from the rest of Israel during the 1948 war, and *Hakotel*, a song that commemorates the soldiers who died in the 1967 war.

Rabbi Philip Scheim told his congregation that Yom Hazikaron is an outlet to pay respects to those who died so that Jews could have a state to call their own.

But more than that, he offered a message of hope and strength for the future and reminded the gathering to take pride in the accomplishments of a democratic country that thrived against all odds.

"We taught the world what it means to dream defiantly, what it means to go against history and military odds, technological challenge, out of the desert, out of the death camp – how to fashion a stunning, flourishing miracle," Rabbi Scheim said.

"The secret to our survival has been the sound of the voices of Jewish children from the schools and study halls, the sound of Israeli children laughing and playing and shouting in the parks, the playgrounds in the cities and towns – these are people's most precious sounds, our greatest national resource."

He added that it is in the quest to protect this precious natural resource, to preserve the dream of living in a peaceful Israel that has cost us the lives of so many loved ones.

"Bringing the dream to life has come at a high price. The human toll is great. The number of *korbanot* [sacrifices] continues to rise and brings us here to tonight's gathering of *zikaron*, remembering the precious thousands upon thousands of Israeli soldiers, men and women, young and old, who gave their last breath for the sake of Jewish children, for Israeli children, for the sake of our future," he said.

Before the 500-person gathering and the Renanim choir stood to sing *Hatikvah* as one strong voice, with the emotions running so high that it brought some to tears, Rabbi Scheim reminded everyone why we must continue to persevere in a land surrounded by hostile neighbours.

"In the survival struggle that we've been forced to wage, on Yom Hazikaron, we pray for that normalcy of real peace. [We must continue to fight] for what is rightfully ours and what must forever remain ours."

From tears to hope at Toronto commemoration

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Pain to joy, tears to hope – these were the emotions evoked by a darkened sanctuary becoming brightly lit and by the words of the speakers at this year's Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut commemoration at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

The evening was sponsored by the Mizrachi Organization of Canada, Emunah Women of Toronto, Yavneh Olami of Toronto and Bnei Akiva of Toronto.

Under lights dimmed for the Yom Hazikaron portion of the program, Rabbi Moshe Shulman, spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim, said Jews recognize that life is not a fairy tale, ending with "and they lived happily ever after."

Rather, he said, Jews understand that life has pain and tears, and challenges and shame, but because we have faith in God, we maintain hope in the ultimate good.

The rabbi recounted a story about Rabbi Yosef Ber Soloveitchik, one of the major Orthodox theologians of the 20th century, who was asked if the Israeli flag should be considered holy. Rabbi Soloveitchik replied that just as the clothes of a martyred Jew become holy because of his sacrifice, how much more so does a flag "soaked in the blood of [many martyrs] become sanctified."

Rabbi Shulman also recalled that Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook, one of the spiritual leaders of the settlement movement in Israel, used to leave his yeshiva on Yom Ha'atzmaut to walk the streets and watch the "amcha" – ordinary, generally non-Orthodox people – dance and celebrate. He always felt that it was vital for all parts of the population to feel that they were all one.

God, Rabbi Shulman said, doesn't want the Jewish people to be divided. In fact, he said, the Second Temple was destroyed and the people scattered because of *sinat chinam* (baseless hatred). "He cares about our unity, about our love for each other and for the land of Israel."

He said he heard that some spiritual leaders were advising Jews to not celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut this year. "I cried when I heard that," the rabbi said. "We must stand together. We must celebrate our differences, and work together as one people, with faith that God will protect Israel."

People celebrated as Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities began.

Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh decried those who constantly complain about the State of Israel.

"We should be proud that although we have had to defend ourselves 11 times in the 57 years since the state was founded, we have successfully absorbed 20 per cent of our population, brought over 7,000 of our brothers and sisters to Israel from Ethiopia in 48 hours, and went from a land with no industry to one in the forefront of high technology, and one with no water to one that sells expertise about it to the rest of the world," he said.

"We have so much to be proud of, so much to thank those who are no longer with us for."

Youngsters from Bnei Akiva, the religious Zionist youth movement, read from a story written by D.T. Epstein. Overlapping voices told of a young Israeli man and his family doing ordinary things – planting trees, going for walks, spending time with friends, building up to his mixed excitement and fear about going to the army, and moving somehow inexorably to his doom.

The Yom Hazikaron part of the program also included a prayer for Israel's missing soldiers, sung by Rabbi Natan Knadler; *K'El Maleh Rachamim*, sung by David Bernstein; and a memorial song titled *Shema Yisroel*, sung by Rabbi Avichai Zehavi. A memorial candle was lit by Eliana Goldberg and Efraim Figdor, niece and nephew of former Torontonian Chezi Goldberg, who was killed in a suicide bombing in January 2004.

The atmosphere changed abruptly, it seemed, as the sky darkened outside the sanctuary and the lights were raised, and the solemnity of Yom Hazikaron changed to the exuberance of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

A video of the day the state was declared was greeted by applause, cheers and whoops of joy, as was a traditional *daglanut*, a stylized parade of Israeli flags, presented by girls from Ulpanat Orot, the girls school of Yeshivat Bnei Akiva, and from Bnei Akiva; and a medley of Israeli music by the Netivot HaTorah children's choir, resplendent in sparkly blue and gray vests.

David Bernstein concluded the service with the Yom Ha'atzmaut Ma'ariv and additional prayers mandated by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. Dancing, music, flag waving and general hijinks followed the services.

Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut

'Our independence didn't come free,' Baker says

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — For three days running last week, people in Ottawa gathered in large numbers in solidarity with the State of Israel.

Community-wide observances for both Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, organized and sponsored by the Embassy of Israel and the Vered Cultural Program of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, were both held at Congregation Agudath Israel.

On Tuesday, May 10, a solemn ceremony marked Yom Hazikaron, the day of remembrance of those who lost their lives in the defence of the State of Israel.

Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker reminded those present that in Israel, everyone is affected and that he, too, has fought for freedom. "I am standing here before you now as an Israeli soldier like every other Israeli soldier experiencing a ceremony like the ceremony we are experiencing this evening. Listening to the songs, listening to the prayers, takes me back to my own personal friends that I lost during my own personal service in the Israeli army as an artillery soldier on the Suez Canal in 1973," he said.

Referring to the reading of *The Silver Platter*, a poem written by Nathan Alterman during the 1948 War of Independence that is often read at Yom Hazikaron ceremonies, Baker said "Our independence didn't come on a silver platter and didn't come free. It comes with a heavy loss… as much as we celebrate our independence, we will never be able to truly celebrate without this cloud, without this feeling of loss, without the deep gratitude to those who lost their lives in order to allow us to celebrate."

Brig.-Gen. Ilan Baram of the Israel Defence Forces addressed the assembly and read, in Hebrew, the IDF Order of the Day.

Two nights later, in the same venue, a more festive gathering celebrated the 57th anniversary of Israel's independence with singing, dancing and abundant Israeli food. The evening's host was Dalia Baker, Baker's wife, who thanked the Ottawa Jewish community for the warm welcome she has received since the couple arrived nine months ago.

A special tribute to Naomi Shemer, Israel's beloved songwriter who died in 2004, was written by Sara Vered, a veteran of the War of Independence, and narrated by Barry Karp. With a backdrop of slides of Israel projected onto a screen, the Raneinu Choir of Yitzhak Rabin High School performed some of Shemer's best-known songs.

Seen at Ottawa's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations which were put on by the Israeli Embassy at the Museum of Civilization in Hull/Gatineau are, from left, Ambassador Alan Baker and his wife Dalia with Brig.-Gen. Ilan Baram of the Israel Defence Forces. [Peter Waiser photo]

The Embassy of Israel also held a gala celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut at the Canadian Museum of Civilization last Wednesday evening, May 11. More than 600 people, including diplomats from various embassies, Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew, Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, MPs and members of the Ottawa Jewish community were feted in grand style.

The food was arranged in stations representing a map of Israel, with each station's fare representing its location. For example, the Haifa station featured fish, while "the cafes of Tel Aviv" offered coffee, wine and juices.

The evening also featured a jazz group led by acclaimed Israeli saxophone player Yeruslav Yaakobovich.

Zionist youth groups celebrate Israel's birthday

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With a sea of Israeli flags, a nargilah café and hundreds of people dancing to Israeli grooves, you'd think you were in Tel Aviv.

In fact, it was a club in downtown Toronto bubbling with the spirit of Zionism last week as some 300 celebrants partied the night away in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"I'm having a great time," said participant Jodi Katzess, 21.

"I've been a proud member of the Zionist movement my whole life… and I feel I need to show my support this way."

The event, held at Club Mod on College Street and titled "Partying on Yom Ha'atzmaut Tel Aviv Style," was put on by the Zionist Partnership, a conglomeration of the various Zionist youth movements in Toronto that aims to put political and religious differences aside to promote unity in the support of Israel.

"Every Zionist youth movement has their own organization and they plan their own events," said Orna Hollander, regional director of the Israel Program Center and USD/Hagshama.

"But our common denominator is that we love Israel, so we have a partnership of all the Zionist movements in Toronto where we have events together… conveying a united front."

The evening was filled with Israeli culture.

Television screens showcased images of life in Israel, from pioneers toiling in the fields to people partying in the streets. Massive Israeli flags adorned the walls, women donned blue and white leis and all the guests munched on Israeli snack foods.

A disc jockey spun Israeli hip pop, rap and trance, and in true Middle Eastern fashion, revellers puffed away on the nargilah patio.

"I feel like I'm at a Yom Ha'atzmaut party in Tel Aviv," said Itay Gadot, executive director of Betar-Tagar.

"It's a really authentic vibe."

Since starting up a year ago, the Zionist Partnership has planned several successful events, including the screening of an Israeli film at the Bloor Cinema that attracted a sold-out crowd of 850 people.

"What is happening in Canada is something really special," Gadot said.

"All the youth movements under the Jewish Agency are working so well together and bringing great events to the community. This is something unique, and now delegations across the world are paying attention to what is gong on here."

While many of the party attendees were out to have fun in the name of Israel's independence, some waxed philosophical on the meaning of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"We're celebrating 57 years of democracy and freedom for Jews to live in a state of their own," said Dave Horowitz, 25.

"It means that any Jew, from any part of the world, can travel to Israel and live in Israel without fear of persecution."

Hollander said the Zionist Partnership intends to plan more events in the near future and urges those interested to visit the websites of local Zionist youth groups for more information.

FLAGS OF ALL SIZES: The Zionist Partnership invited the entire Jewish community to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. With flags of all sizes are, from left, Lila Grafstein, Aliza English, an unknown monster truck driver and Joe Shedletzky. [Benji Feldman photos]

On Campus

New hate charges laid in Ryerson case

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Kevin Haas, 21, who was charged in October in connection with anti-Muslim hate incidents at Ryerson University, now faces two additional counts of wilful promotion of hatred.

The charges were laid only last week because in such cases, police must first receive the consent of Ontario's attorney general's office, said Det. James Hogan of the Toronto Police Service hate crimes unit.

Last fall, Haas was charged with seven counts of mischief under $5,000 and two counts of threatening death. The charges related to a 2004 summer campaign of anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish leaflets and graffiti at Ryerson. Among the incidents, the school's multifaith room was spray-painted with the words, "Die Muslims Die," as well as Stars of David.

Haas is not a student at the university.

Hogan declined to be specific about the material for which Haas was charged last week, but said they were "some of the same material and posters that were placed in various locations on campus, and materials that he distributed."

The charges each carry a two-year sentence if Haas is convicted.

Scholars hold conference at London's JCC

The London Jewish Community Centre is hosting the first day of the annual conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS).

The conference takes place at the community centre on May 29 and continues on May 30 and 31 at the University of Western Ontario, as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Established in 1976 as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) provides a platform for well-known scholars of the Canadian Jewish experience working in an array of disciplines.

Ira Robinson of Concordia University, a past president of the ACJS, says the conference is often an "eye-opener to those who have perhaps never thought of Canadian Jewry as possessing a rich history, literature and social structure." Indeed, the titles of the presentations, from "Soup, Bread and the Dole: Welfare in the Montreal Jewish Community in the '30s," and "The Art and Science of Building a Database for the Jewish War Veterans of Canada" to "Sexism and Anti-Semitism in the Experience of 10-Year-Old Jewish Girls" attest to the program's diversity.

The ACJS Conference is free of charge. Registration is required to attend the sessions held at the university. For more information, call 519-673-3310.

Correction

The photo caption for "Sudents join delegation to AIPAC conference" (*CJN*, May 12) should have said that Isaac Apter is the vice-president of the University of Toronto Hillel. U of T Hillel, York University Hillel and Ryerson University Hillel fall under the Hillel of Greater Toronto umbrella.

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March of Living nurtures sense of Jewishness

Continued from page 1

but also one where, as former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir once alleged, the children imbibed anti-Semitism along with their mother's milk.

One evening, marchers in Poland recalled the Polish citizens who risked their lives to save Jews – and such heroes did indeed exist. But so many others, apparently the great majority, either did nothing, looked away or fully supported the persecution of the Jews.

While earnest efforts are underway to revive Jewish life and recognize the legacy of the great Jewish civilization that once existed in Poland – about 20,000 Jews now live there out of a population of 38 million – it remained unclear whether awareness of such initiatives trickle down to the average Pole.

How, some March participants asked, could Poles live literally within metres of Majdanek, which is adjacent to Lublin, opening their apartment windows to see crematoria and gas chambers that look as if they closed down yesterday? How can some Poles take a shortcut path, walking right through that camp, between the mountain of human ashes and the ovens?

"It doesn't get any easier, that's for sure," said Max Eisen, 76, of Toronto, who was liberated in 1945 after surviving a death march. "It's very emotional."

This year, as in the past, the main goal of the March was to have new generations of Jews to bear witness once the survivors are gone, and the primary target was still 16-year-old Jewish high school students. But the scope was more ambitious because of the 60th anniversary of V-E Day. The total Canadian delegation of about 1,000 this year also included university students – Jewish and non-Jewish – young adults, municipal leaders, educators and adults, mostly from Montreal and Toronto, but also from other Canadian cities.

March of the Living participant Jessica Glazer plants a kiss on the cheek of John Zentner moments after he proposes to her near the Western Wall.

Ask the participants – from the youngest through to the survivors – the effects of the trip, and you got a full range of responses.

Sidney Nemes of Montreal saw the survival of his 75-year-old father, Robert, as a defiant victory over the Germans. "Three thousand years from now, this chain will not be broken," he said within yards of one of the only fragments remaining of the Warsaw Ghetto wall.

At Treblinka, under a canopy of green on an incongruously warm and sunny day, Hebrew University historian Paul Lipps spoke of the "confusion" involved in trying to "make sense" of what took place. He said he started to devote his life to Holocaust memory after seeing a Polish wedding reception on the grounds of Treblinka.

Montreal participant Adelia Bensoussan said she was "horrified by the lack of what I see" at Treblinka, where, in contrast to Majdanek, which remains completely preserved, the site has only stark monuments and a symbolic road of railway ties.

Non-Jewish students Meaghan Lang, 21, of the University of Regina, and Rafi Mustafa, 22, a journalism student at Ryerson University in Toronto, felt the trip gave them much to think about.

"It's been very emotional," Lang said. "It makes you question yourself." Persecution, she said, can start with something as simple as bullying and proceed from there.

Mustafa saw the Holocaust, "not just as Jewish problem, but as a human one."

On the trip as part of a project for a CBC radio documentary, Mustafa said it is vital to transcend the Holocaust's ethnic dimensions by seeing how other communities have also suffered from genocide.

At an event at Warsaw University honouring Righteous Gentiles the last evening in Poland, some Toronto teens told *The CJN* the trip was difficult but worthwhile.

"There was a lot more pain than I expected," said Melissa Rosenberg, a student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT). "When you come here, you really get a feel for what happened. Textbooks only take you so far."

On the other hand, "there wasn't only pain on this trip, there was life, Jews all reaching out together," added Jordana Hart, also 16 and a student at CHAT.

At the ceremony, Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, in remarks that stirred participants, said the legacy of the March of the Living trip has to translate into action, or the program is nothing more than rhetoric.

At Warsaw's Chopin Airport prior to leaving for Israel, 19-year-old student Zack Nemes, Sidney Nemes' son and a member of the Montreal young adult group led by Rabbi Reuben Poupko, said the ceremony at Warsaw University moved him greatly.

"Back then, Jews had nowhere to turn," he said. "Now they can go to Israel."

As has always been the case, organizers said, there was no one way young people would react to seeing the places where a whole Jewish life was wiped away in a few years. Some cried many tears, others nary a one. Some were members of the second or third generation of survivors, others had Canadian roots going back generations. Their common bond was their Jewishness and devotion to Israel.

The activities both in Poland in Israel were marked by small, memorable moments:

• At the 200-year-old, now neglected Warsaw Jewish Cemetery (Gensia), non-Jewish students from the Moscow International Film School sang *Avinu Malkeinu*, shedding tears for children they never knew;

• At the *Monument to the Ghetto Heroes* designed by Natan Rapaport, a man at one end of the plaza sold ghetto souvenirs to tourists; at the other end, a visiting Lubavitcher from Israel approached visitors asking them to lay tfillin;

• Sharon Levine, co-chair of the Montreal adult delegation, noted how, on the El Al flight to Warsaw, the pilot told the group how important the trip was. "Now we can come and go as we please," he said. "Our ancestors couldn't do that."

• The Sabbath was welcomed at a Kabbalat Shabbat at the Holiday Inn in Warsaw, with students singing and dancing in frenzied joy on top of tables, the boys and girls in competition over who could sing loudest. The noise was deafening, the gestures suggesting: "Here we are, alive Jews, and we will continue to be!" A similar outpouring of emotion took place at the Novotel Hotel, with young people going right out onto the streets.

• At Warsaw's Nozjek synagogue the next morning, which can barely summon a minyan on Shabbat, the shul teemed with visitors from the March. Irwin Cotler sat next to March national co-chair Ralph Lipper. Cotler was given an aliyah. A sefer Torah was donated to the shul, and there was more joyous dancing around the bimah. The only synagogue in Warsaw to survive World War II (there were 70 before the war), it was used by the Nazis to stable horses.

• At Majdanek, March of the Living co-ordinator Shauna Waltman, standing on a windswept monument surrounding the mound of human ashes, read a personal letter from her survivor grandmother, and cried.

• The first day in Jerusalem, in the back of the plaza near the Western Wall, Montrealer John Zentner proposed marriage to Jessica Glazer. She cried, accepted, and their entourage danced mazel tov around them.

• Yom Hazikaron was ushered in at an evening ceremony on the shores of Yam Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) in Tiberias. There were no speeches, only the sombre recitation of the names of those who have died. The audience was quiet. On a rooftop not far away, a security man watched every movement with binoculars.

Every group experienced other such moments.

Noah Kochman, 17, a student at Herzliyah-St. Laurent in Montreal, felt he was given a good "foundation" about the Holocaust and Israel before the trip. But his "emotional connection" came with identifying, not with the six million, but with one.

"I realized that it was best to make an emotional connection with one person and to hold the memories," he said, and then to bring that memory back to other people. "We are the next generation of witnesses."

Montreal survivor Rena Schondorf, who was on her third trip, was accompanied by her husband Mayer, also a survivor. She felt that because this year's group was so large, it was more of a challenge for "bonding" to take place among participants.

She said it's becoming more difficult because the survivor generation is dying off. It still remains an open question, at least to her, whether 20 years from now the message about the Holocaust will be carried by the next generations.

"I hope so," she said.

At a wrap-up session for Toronto participants, co-ordinator Michael Soberman told the group it took him awhile to realize that the March can only serve, most fundamentally, as a tool "to instil a sense of community.

"Our only goal can be to light that spark that exists in every Jew," he said.

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Meridor leaving JAFI

The chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is stepping down. Sallai Meridor, who has headed JAFI since 1999, told Prime Minister Ariel Sharon he will step down early, effective June. An acting chairman will be elected at a JAFI board of governors meeting at that time.

Rockets fired from Lebanon

The Israel Defence Forces said two rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into Israel last Thursday. No injuries or damages were reported. It was the fourth rocket attack from Lebanon into northern Israel in the past year. A day earlier, a rocket damaged a factory in the industrial zone of Shlomi, a town near the Lebanese border. There were no casualties.

In the name of the father

The daughter of missing Israeli airman Ron Arad won a military honour. Sgt. Yuval Arad, who is doing national service as a support staffer in an elite airborne unit, was among several dozen Israeli conscripts to receive citations for excellence from President Moshe Katsav and the army's chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon. Arad, who was a baby when her father bailed out of his crippled jet over Lebanon in 1986 and disappeared into captivity, had previously avoided publicity. Officials at the annual Independence Day event vowed to keep up their quest to find Ron Arad or his remains.

Mofaz won't raze homes

Israel's defence minister Shaul Mofaz came out against calls to demolish settler property after Israel leaves Gaza. "After we evacuate the settlers, we would have to maintain military forces, security guards and units to raze the houses in the middle of enemy territory, and there is no assurance that there wouldn't be terror attacks," Mofaz told Israel Radio. The Palestinian Authority wants the properties destroyed, and the Sharon government plans to do so. But senior Israeli officials have said they should be left intact, as Israel would be responsible for clearing the rubble, which could take months.

Israel's population 6.9M

Israel's population stands at 6.9 million. According to Central Bureau of Statistics figures published before Independence Day, 5.5 million Israelis are listed as Jews and the remaining 20 per cent of the population are Arabs. But the first category includes 300,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union who are not Jewish under rabbinical law.

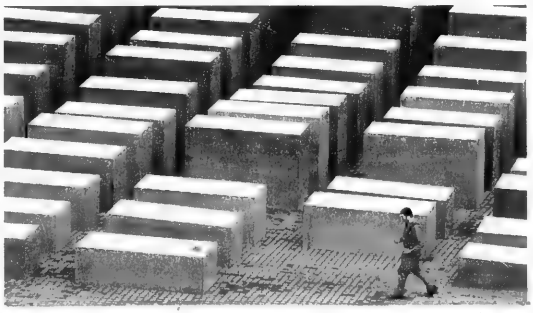
Israelis head to Gaza

On Independence Day, thousands of Israelis flocked to Gaza Strip settlements slated for evacuation. Settler officials said 50,000 people were in Gush Katif last Thursday. Among them was former diaspora affairs Minister Natan Sharansky, who resigned from cabinet to protest Israel's upcoming pullout from Gaza and the northern West Bank.

With files from JTA

Long-awaited Holocaust monument opens in Berlin

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter



A visitor at the newly opened Holocaust monument in Berlin. [RNS/Reuters photo]

BERLIN — Taking yet another pivotal step in atoning for its wartime crimes against Jews, Germany last week officially opened its first national Holocaust monument.

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, set on nearly five acres of prime real estate in the heart of Germany's capital, commemorates the genocide of six million Jews between 1939 and 1945.

Designed by New York architect Peter Eisenman, and covering 19,000 square metres, the equivalent of about two baseball fields, it consists of two elements: a sea of 2,711 grey concrete pillars and slabs that resembles nothing less than an immense graveyard and an underground information and educational centre.

Only a short distance from the Reichstag, the German Parliament, and the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of Berlin, the memorial imparts a sense of distress and isolation. It is about 100 metres away from the bunker where Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Third Reich, hunkered down in the last days of World War II and committed suicide.

It was inaugrated on a cool, sunny day at a sombre ceremony attended by, among other dignitaries, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Foreign Minister Joschke Fischer and leaders of Germany's reconstituted Jewish community.

Fifteen years in the making, the $35 million (US) memorial was plagued by delays over its location, design, cost and building materials. Approval for its construction, which began in 2003, was given by Reichstag deputies on June 25, 1999. The inauguration ceremony was held in a big white tent adjacent to the memorial and close to a street named after Hannah Arendt, the German-Jewish philosopher and author who was forced to flee Germany after the Nazi seizure of power in 1933.

Wolfgang Thierse, the speaker of Germany's parliament and an ardent advocate of the memorial, described the Holocaust as "the greatest crime in German history." Recalling that it was planned and administered in Berlin, he said it "touches the limits of our comprehension."

Thierse added that it exudes great emotional power, and will become an integral part of Germany's "cultural memory."

He thanked Eisenman for his "ingenious design," Yad Vashem for its cooperation and Holocaust survivors for their willingness to share their grief-stricken memories.

Paul Spiegel, the chair of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and a survivor himself, said that German Jews were shamed, betrayed, tortured and murdered by their fellow citizens.

He praised the memorial as "artistically impressive." But in a relatively bold critique, he said it ignores the perpetrators and their fellow-travellers, as well as the other victims of the Holocaust. "It is an incomplete statement," he observed, noting that appropriate memorials should be built for victims such as gypsies and homosexuals.

In addition, he urged the federal government to maintain what he called "authentic memorial sites," or former concentrations camps such as Buchenwald and Ravensbruck.

In what appeared to be a reference to the resurgence of open hatred against Jews in Europe since the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in 2000, Spiegel lamented, "We're still fighting anti-Semitism."

Calling it a momentous day for himself and Germany, Eisenman confessed that controversy and disagreements surrounded the building. But he expressed confidence that it will usher in a period of healthy debate about the nature of memorialization in Germany, which has paid out billions of dollars in reparations to Jews and Christians, encouraged the formation of a new Jewish community, the fastest-growing one in Europe, and formed a special bond and relationship with the state of Israel.

Striking a personal note, he said the project has drawn him closer to his Jewish roots. And then, to sustained applause, he concluded, "I'm a New Yorker, but part of my soul will always remain in Berlin."

Sabina van der Linden, a Polish Jew who was the sole member of her family to survive the Holocaust, said she knew only despair, humiliation, fear and hunger during her protracted ordeal. Now a citizen of Australia, she recalled the pogrom the German occupiers of her town unleashed and the help she received from a Christian neighbour who hid her after she was separated from her parents.

Since the end of the war, she has learned that hatred begets hatred, that silence in the face of racism is counterproductive and that the notion of collective guilt is fallacious. Quoting the novelist Elie Wiesel, she declared, "The children of killers are not killers." Her comments brought her a standing ovation.

Lea Rosh, the journalist and talk show host who originally pushed for the memorial, traced its genesis to a cathartic trip she made to former concentration camps in Poland in the 1980s. Rather than take credit for the concept herself, Rosh ascribed it to her colleague, the historian Eberhard Jaeckel. She also thanked Helmut Kohl, the former German chancellor, for supporting the project through thick and thin.

In closing, she remarked, "This memorial will stand in for the victims who have no graves."

At a concert of classical music the night before to mark the opening of the memorial, the mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, said he will do everything in his power to protect it from neo-Nazi vandalism.

Ironically, the steles are coated with a special anti-graffiti finish manufactured by Degussa, the German company that developed Zyklon-B, the deadly gas used by the Nazis at concentration camps.

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EU warns Iran against resuming nuclear policies

Continued from page 1

"The question is when will they have sufficient knowledge [to build one], and we think that this possibility even exists, possibly, in another six to nine months."

Shalom also called on the International Atomic Energy Association to use its June 13 meeting to make a "clear and unequivocal decision" to bring the Iran issue before the United Nations Security Council, which he said "has the sole authority to impose sanctions on Iran."

France, Britain and Germany have warned Iran they will break off talks and join Washington in seeking UN Security Council action if Tehran makes good on its threats to resume atomic work, European Union officials said.

The foreign ministers of the European Union's three biggest powers sent a strongly worded letter to Hassan Rohani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, warning that resuming potentially arms-related nuclear work "would bring the negotiating process to an end," an EU diplomat quoted the letter as saying.

"The consequences could only be negative for Iran," it said.

The head of Iran's nuclear agency said it may postpone resumption of uranium reprocessing after increasing European pressure.

"No certain day is fixed for resumption of reprocessing. It is possible to postpone it some days," Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the head of Iran's Atomic Organization, told the Tehran state-run television in a live roundtable discussion.

Israel Defence Forces chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, told Army Radio on Thursday that Israel knows how to protect itself against a potential Iranian threat.

"Iran is the central proponent of terrorism and Islamic fanaticism, and it has a non-conventional leadership that is liable to develop non-conventional weaponry," Ya'alon said. "Israel, therefore, needs to know how to defend itself against every threat and will always know how to do so."

Rohani said Tehran would resume some nuclear activities because it cannot continue nuclear negotiations with Europeans.

"Continuation of negotiations in their present format is not possible for us," he told state-run television, saying the talks were not balanced and were costly for Iran.

"The basic point that the Islamic Republic of Iran will resume part of its nuclear activities in the near future is definite."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair spelled out the potential consequences, telling reporters: "We certainly will support referral to the United Nations Security Council if Iran breaches its obligations and undertakings."

The United States believes Iran's nuclear energy program is a front to develop atomic weapons and has been pressing for Iran's case to be sent to the 15-member UN council for possible economic sanctions and other actions.

The EU shares U.S. suspicions but has offered incentives to try to get Tehran to give up its atomic fuel program, which Iran insists is only for nuclear power plants, not for arms.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier also urged Iran to maintain its voluntary freeze on enrichment-related activities.

"We continue to hope that Iran will not go ahead with this move, for which it is aware of the consequences," Barnier told the French Senate, the upper house of the country's Parliament.

The EU letter proposed "ministerial level talks" between the Iranians and Europeans within the next two weeks to break the impasse and avoid a crisis, EU diplomats said.

Hamas building army against PA: IDF chief

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Ya'alon said "Hamas is building up an armed popular army against the Palestinian Authority.

"Its arming and gain of strength are rapid," Ya'alon told the foreign affairs and defence committee at a special farewell session held for him.

He said that "this is the ending of a long period of [military] service and the ending of over 10 years of appearing before the committee since I was military intelligence chief."

Ya'alon has often clashed with members of the foreign affairs and defence committee, notably with its chair Yuval Steinitz.

Steinitz, a Likud member of the Knesset, told Ya'alon: "We salute you and thank you for your contribution to Israel's security."

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Health & Lifestyles

Singles flock to 'HEJ' parties' for fun and food

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

What began as a whim to throw a singles bash in the party room of a friend's condominium has turned into a word-of-mouth phenomenon known in Jewish circles as "HEJ parties" for the initials of their organizers.

Erin Toole, 32, known by her co-workers as the "social director," came up with the idea five years ago, but she didn't turn her vision into reality until two years later.

The success of her party exceeded everyone's expectations as 150 people showed up. Toole, who works in printing and graphic design, decided to begin an e-mail list to contact singles for future parties.

Eventually, said Toole, the parties fizzled out – until last fall, when she met Harris Pleet, a 38-year-old financial advisor.

"This pretty much started over gelato with me and Harris, when he decided to inform me that he makes the best lasagna, and I wanted to prove him wrong. I suggested we have a lasagna bake-off, and the parties grew from there," she said.

Toole got in touch with another friend, Jack Bensimon, 34, the chief financial officer for a software developer who lived in a condo with a party room. When a potluck dinner turned into a party with 24 singles, HEJ – short for Harris, Erin and Jack – parties were born.

From left, Harris Pleet, Erin Toole and Jack Bensimon.

Lesley Horlick, a friend who frequently attends HEJ parties, said Toole, who does most of the organizing work, deserves the credit for making the effort to bring people together.

"I hear people complaining about not being able to meet other Jewish people all the time, but there are so many ways to meet people here. Coming from Ottawa, I don't think people realize and appreciate the efforts people make here in Toronto," Horlick said.

"Everyone keeps telling me, 'Keep doing these parties. They're really great,'" Toole said. "Everyone says these are better than JDate parties [which are put together by the online Jewish singles network]."

"There aren't necessarily tons of hook-ups, but people always make new friends and always have a great time. I love planning and organizing events, it's a lot of fun," she added.

"Erin is a fantastic event and party planner," Horlick said. "I am amazed at the number of people she is able to bring out to these parties.

"The interesting thing is that Erin does not want this to be a paid type of event, so they are all free and everyone is always welcome to bring friends," she said.

If there is a cost – to rent a room, for example – Toole asks that guests bring a toonie to help cover it. But usually people who attend dinners and parties are encouraged to bring their own alcohol or something to eat.

Recently, Toole put together a barbecue at a friend's house that was open to anyone and their friends.

Right now, Toole is in the process of organizing a wine-tasting event and is hoping to reserve space at a restaurant on a Saturday night in June.

Regardless of how long Toole continues to plan social events for 100 of her closest friends, she said the parties are likely to live on.

"I've been an inspiration to others. A friend told me that the barbecue was so much fun that I've inspired her, and she's going to try to pull together a rooftop party for singles in early June," said Toole.

Toole, who will help spread the word since she has so many contacts, might join in the festivities.

"I am still single and looking!"

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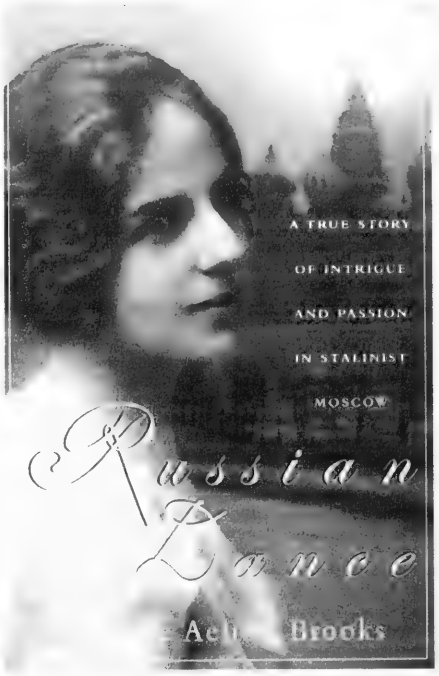
'CIAD MILE FIALTE"

Books & Authors

Story of tragic romance set in Stalinist Moscow

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

***Russian Dance: A True Story of Intrigue and Passion in Stalinist Moscow*, by Andree Aelion Brooks (John Wiley & Sons.)**



One evening in 1928, a Russian-Jewish physician and his wife, Marc and Katya Cheftel, attended a large and fancy dinner party at the Manhattan home of the renowned concert-hall impresario Max Rabinoff and his wife Bluet, who was equally known for her beauty, wit and charm.

Although Rabinoff had made a fortune as a capitalist by selling pianos and arranging musical events, he and Bluet were sympathetic to the ideals of Russian-style socialism and were captivated by their new visitor. Affiliated with the Red Cross, Cheftel explained that his mission in the United States was to study the American public health system. For the next two years, the Cheftels were frequent visitors to the elegant and always lively Rabinoff salon.

The slow-to-bloom love affair between Marc Cheftel and Bluet Rabinoff is the focus of *Russian Dance*, a recent book by American author Andree Aelion Brooks that skillfully relates the story of this tragic romance using a seamless blend of fictional and non-fictional narrative techniques.

It's a story well worth telling and Brooks tells it well, and with an apparently high degree of reliability, even as she blurs the traditional distinction between fiction and fact.

The story opens in the post-Lenin period, an era in which the Trotskyite and Stalinist factions struggled for political control of Russia. Brooks characterizes this historical moment, this calm between storms, as a "golden age of Bolshevism."

Naive as a schoolgirl, Bluet agrees to divorce her insensitive, womanizing husband and journey to Moscow to start a new life with Marc. Although she leaves her beloved teenaged daughter Anna behind, Bluet promises to send for her within a few months, as soon as she and Marc are happily settled.

Surprises lie in wait for each of the main players in this dark Russian plot. For Bluet, it's the discovery upon reaching Moscow that Marc is a senior operative in the GPU, the state political directorate, and had been functioning as a cunning spy in the United States; he has also failed to divorce his wife as promised. Blinded by love, Bluet moves into a shabby apartment with him.

For Max, it's the belated recognition that his showpiece wife and good friend have made him into a cuckold; for Anna, it's the traumatic realization that her mother doesn't want her to come to Moscow after all.

Marc's surprise is the realization that Russia's socialist dream, in which he was a true believer, has become a nightmare. After Stalin gains political control, the brutal collectivization of the Russian countryside that he initiates results in widespread starvation, deportations, deaths and suffering among the Russian masses.

Eventually Bluet realizes that her impoverished life in Moscow is a "living hell" from which escape is unlikely, since the authorities have confiscated her passport. Marc, having fallen out of favour with the regime because of his former ties to the Bolsheviks, begins to watch his back; his idealistic vigour seems to fade along with his optimism for the future of Russian socialism.

Ultimately, Bluet returns to Manhattan where she later became friends with Brooks; even so, it took her years before she would talk about her sad Russian misadventure. "I had already known Bluet for many years when she finally shared this story with me," the author relates. Bluet outlived her Russian paramour by more than 40 years and died in Manhattan in 1976 at the age of 85.

Brooks also spoke with Sheftel's sister-in-law and other knowledgeable sources to establish a compelling air of authenticity in the book.

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Ride 'em Jewish Cowboy

"My Governor is a Jewish Cowboy," boasts Kinky Friedman's newest campaign bumper sticker.

Who else but the legendary Kinky Friedman could reinvent himself in yet another career with such aplomb? He first entered the race for Governor of Texas with some uncertainty with a large Jewish star as his logo and the message, "Kinky Friedman Governor 2006 'Why the Hell Not?'"

Text and photos by Beverley Abramson

Now that his campaign is officially launched, he has since changed his slogan and appears to be winning support from followers who consider him a refreshing change.

Kinky's early calling was in the Peace Corps following the path his family set as "professional do gooders", he says. Later, in the '70s he became an audacious country musician/singer and bandleader of Kinky Friedman & the Texas Jewboys.

When he found himself broke, he turned to writing out of desperation, establishing himself as a satirical humourist/performer; a prolific author of outrageous mystery novels (18 novels with four publishers); and a zany columnist for the *Texas Monthly* magazine.

Now, as an entrepreneur (selling coffee, salsa, olive oil, hats, and t-shirts) he donates proceeds to help maintain his Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch. This five- year-old animal shelter has been home to 600 dogs, a few pigs, donkeys, and wild animals such as a wild Russian boar and wild turkey.

He is also co-owner of Echo Hill Ranch summer camp, the first and only family-owned camp in Texas that serves the Jewish community while welcoming families from diverse cultural backgrounds. Both the Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch and overnight camp are adjacent to his home.

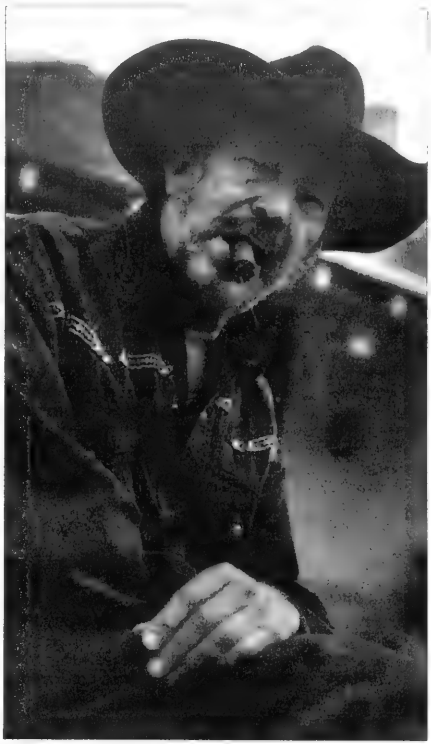
In his monthly column and speeches, Kinky frequently pays homage to his parents and sister, sharing his insight and feelings about their profound influence in shaping his values and commitment to social issues.

He describes himself as a blend of two cultures representing cowboys and Jewish – "both like to wear their hats indoors," he says. Having achieved many of his dreams and now, using his humour as a weapon, Kinky is claiming his spiritual calling. "Life smells good", he comments.

Kinky counts among his friends Willie Nelson and many other musicians as well as Bill Clinton and George W. and Laura Bush. Given his talent and track record for success he may be entertaining them soon in the Governor's mansion. Anything's possible. Might the next bumper sticker read, "My President is a Jewish Cowboy"? Washington get ready!

Beverley Abramson is a Toronto-area photographer who recently publsihed her inaugural book Bawdy Language – Exotic Dance.

"Cowboy Country", her new exhibit about Texas cowboys runs at the Blue Dot Gallery, 55 Mill St. Building 47, Suite 101 until May 29.(416-487-1500).



Photos: [Left]:Kinky signing his book and campaign poster with slogan, "Kinky For Governor- How Hard Could It Be?" at BookPeople Austin, Tx.
[Above]: Kinky relaxes at his home on Echo Hill Ranch, Medina, Tx.

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Arts & Travel

Two tales of two cities told in three languages...

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With a cast and crew of 60-plus people presenting two plays set in two cities and performed in three languages, Gesher Theatre's upcoming Toronto productions of *City* and *Shosha* are truly colossal endeavours.

"It's a major undertaking," says producer Robert Topol.

"But it's what I do and it's a lot of fun."

The Israel-based Gesher ensemble, lauded by the *New York Times* as one of the top theatre groups in the world, will take to the stage to perform *Shosha* on June 1 and 2 and *City* on June 4 and 5, at Toronto's Centre for the Arts.

Although both are set in pre-World War II Jewish eastern Europe, the plays present starkly different plots.

Shosha, which garnered a Nobel Prize for literature for its author, the iconic Isaac Bashevis Singer, is a love story that unfolds in the dark days of 1930s Warsaw.

City is an adaptation of Isaac Babel's stories exploring Odessa's bastion of dynamic Jewish culture, particularly its unique breed of Jewish gangsters.

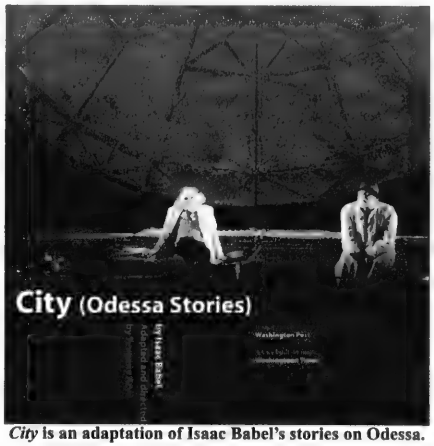
Topol foresees the performances resonating strongly with audiences.

"If you've got a Jewish soul, you'll understand what [these plays] are all about," says Topol, formerly a major player at the multi-Tony award winning Livent Inc. and executive producer of the award winning documentaries, *Deadly Currents* and *Impact of Terror*.

"People will walk out of the theatre being very proud of who they are."

Born in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Topol is married to Alla, a native of Odessa, and says the play's depiction of that city is the next best thing to being there.

"Culturally speaking, Odessa was hugely important for Jews," says Topol, noting Jews enjoyed freedoms in Odessa more than any other city in the Russian empire.



***City* is an adaptation of Isaac Babel's stories on Odessa.**

"It's a tremendous, amazing city and the next best thing to going to Odessa is coming to see *City* performed by Gesher."

Critics have given the play rave reviews.

To that end, the widely read newspaper the *Guardian*, based in England, characterized *City* as "*Fiddler on the Roof* meets *Three Penny Opera*."

Topol characterizes the play as "the original version of the musical *Guys and Dolls*."

Because Gesher's actors are Russian and Hebrew speaking, *City* and *Shosha*, respectively, will be performed in those languages, while the audience will tune in to headphones with simultaneous English translations.

Topol says he had a positive experience listening on a headphone when seeing *Gesher* on stage in New York a year ago.

"I myself was skeptical when I went to New York to see a play performed in Hebrew, but it was fantastic," he says.

"People will see this play and will be hugely entertained."

Topol says the extravaganza aspect of the productions marks somewhat of a turning point for Gesher, which was formed 14 years ago in Tel Aviv by immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

"Up to this point, most plays performed by Gesher have been done so in a theatre festival environment," he says, adding the group has dazzled audiences in such venues as London, Paris, New York, Moscow and Melbourne.

"This is a different kind of environment. It's the first time [for] a commercial engagement."

The productions are co-presented by Leslie and Anna Dan in association with the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

Topol explains that it was in fact Leslie Dan who approached him about producing the plays.

"I had never seen Gesher until last year in Europe," Topol recalls.

"Leslie felt it should be done in Toronto and a [mutual friend] told Leslie to give me a call... so he approached me and that's how I got involved."

In the run-up to the performances, Topol is in the midst of a marketing blitz, putting together flyers, posters and ads, as well as being personally interviewed for exposure in newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

"The biggest challenge is to market the show and spread the word," he says.

"We're building up to a crescendo now...I hope Toronto will come out and support it."

For tickets, contact ticketmaster at 416-872-1111 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca

For group sales information, call Carol Gibson at 416-703-5309.

...and two plays by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Two plays about life, love and sex in Jerusalem written by the late Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai will debut in Toronto this month.

Amichai, best known for his poetry for which he was awarded the Israel Prize for poetry, the country's highest honour, also wrote two lesser known plays, *To Love in Jerusalem*, and *The Day Martin Buber was Buried*, that director Adam Seelig wants to share with the theatre-going public.

"Amichai is a very accessible poet. A large part of his appeal is that with the simplest words he can mean so much. It's simple, straightforward and it speaks directly to people," he says.

The plays – they will be staged as *Two Radio Plays* – will mark the Toronto launch of Seelig's theatre company, One Little Goat that originated in New York City four years ago.

"Amichai is one of the poets I was exposed to as a child. I lived in Jerusalem for a year. The reason why I founded the company was because I was interested in the intersection of theatre and modern poetry."

Seelig said that while he has been a fan of Amichai's poetry since he was a young boy, only recently did he stumble on his plays after doing some extensive research on the Internet about five years ago.

"As a poet, he's been close to me, but as a dramatist he's very new to me," he says.

"These plays are both quintessential Amichai works. He was a love poet. Both plays deal with love but have two distinctly different tones," he explains.

"*The Day Martin Buber was Buried* has a more sombre quality that is about lost love. *To Love in Jerusalem* is about a different kind of love, a passionate, torrid love affair where the couple makes love in different religious sites in Jerusalem."

The live performance features actors Pasha McKenley, who was named one of the top ten theatre actors in *NOW Magazine*, Kevin Hanchard, Paul Fanteaux, who was nominated twice for a Dora Award, Sean Dixon, Cayle Chernin and Dala Badr.

The other main player in this production is the authentic sound design taken from the city of Jerusalem itself, such as car horns, choirs, chants and church bells.

He says that both plays have a light, comedic quality to them, but one theme that is constant with both is the debate about whether a person has to be covered up to be religious.

In *To Love in Jerusalem*, says Seelig, there is a contrast of people being open with each other in an environment where people are encouraged to keep to themselves. But the play is written in a humorous way that, according to the director, is classically Amichai.

Though the plays deal with subjects that some people may find distasteful, such as fornicating in a shul, Seelig says it is not meant to be disrespectful.

"Amichai takes the dialogue of lovers and casts it in the rhythm of religious prayer," says Seelig.

"It's playful and it's paying homage to the spirit of religion."

And producing and directing these two plays by a man whose poetry had such on influence on him, is Seelig's way of paying homage to an international treasure.

"I wanted to show a side of one of the world's most beloved poets, to know Amichai as a dramatist, to open people's ears, to show people through sound there can be a deep emotional response. There's a thematic level of different kinds of love in Jerusalem, how love is interwoven into the city."

Two Radio Plays by Yehuda Amichai will premiere at the Al Green Theatre in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre on May 19, at 8 p.m.

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JULY 31-AUG. 14
AUG. 18-SEPT. 1
DEC. 17/18-JAN. 1/2
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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

HOLY BLOSSOM PRESENTS ARTHUR MILLER'S *THE RIDE DOWN MOUNT MORGAN*

Holy Blossom Temple Stagecraft Company marks its 10th anniversary with a production of the **Arthur Miller** play, *The Ride Down Mount Morgan*. The play tells the story of Lyman Felt, a middle-aged insurance executive with two wives, who has a near-fatal accident that brings his spouses face to face in the hospital.

"It's a very poignant story," says director **Michael Ryval**. "Miller deftly explores the nature of the lies and deceits that are often at the heart of many relationships. It's also a wonderful vehicle for actors and allows them to express a wide range of emotions."

Holy Blossom Temple, Eisendrath Auditorium. 1950 Bathurst St. $15-$10. May 26, 28 and 29, 8 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 511.

* * *

Jewish Folk Choir Spring Concert: The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir's 79th annual spring concert features a performance of *Di Naye Hagode (The New Saga)*, a choral tone poem by Jewish-American composer **Max Helfman**, orchestrated by choir conductor **Alexander Veprinsky**. The text is from the long narrative poem *Shotns fun varshever geto (Shadows of the Warsaw Ghetto)* by martyred Soviet Yiddish poet **Itzik Feffer**.

The performance features soprano **Miriam Eskin**, tenor **Steven Szmutni**, pianist **Lina Zemelman** and the **Toronto Mandolin Orchestra** as guest artists. Tickets ($22-$18) available at Jewish bookstores or by calling 416-593-0750; children under 12 admitted free. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Sunday, June 5, 7 p.m. www.winchevskycentre.org

* * *

Dolly Comes to Stratford: Matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi knows the perfect partner for her latest client, the wealthy Horace Vandergelder: herself. That's the irresistible plot line of the **Thornton Wilder** play *The Matchmaker*, later immortalized as the stage musical *Hello, Dolly!* The Stratford Festival production of the Broadway classic went into previews recently and opens May 31. The director is **Susan H. Schulman**, who directed previous productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The King and I* at Stratford, and has a current production of *Little Women* on Broadway. 800-567-1600 or www.stratfordfestival.ca

* * *

Israeli-Palestinian Gay and Lesbian Couples: *Zero Degrees of Separation* is an experimental documentary by sometimes Torontonian **Elle Flanders**. The documentarty examines the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the lives of two same-sex, cross-cultural couples caught in the crossfire. Interwoven with their narratives is the story of the director's Zionist grandparents who helped found the state of Israel. It's being screened at the Inside Out Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival, which runs May 19 to 29. www.insideout.ca

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Westmount Collegiate Theatre presents *Fiddler on the Roof*. $12-$10. Vaughan City Playhouse Theatre, Thornhill. May 18 to 20, 8 p.m. www.westmountentertainmentcom or 905-882-0277, ext. 600.

• *The Sound Traveller*, a documentary by Endless Films, focuses on Toronto poet **Rafi Aaron**, creator of the photo-literary exhibit "A Seed in the Pocket of Their Blood." It airs on Bravo television, Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Sisters of Sheynville are, from left, Lenka Lichtenberg, Isabel Fryszberg and Fern Lindzon.

• **Sisters Of Sheynville**, an all-female Yiddish swing band that focuses on the repertoire of the **Barry Sisters**, consists of **Lenka Lichtenberg**, **Isabel Fryszberg**, **Fern Lindzon**, **Lorie Wolf**, **Kira Payne** and **Ashley Summers**. They perform free at the Distillery Jazz Festival, Canteen Cabaret, Sunday, May 22, 2 to 4 p.m. www.distilleryjazz.com

• The Yiddish Culture Council of Toronto presents a lecture by **Eugene Orenstein**, associate professor and acting chair of Jewish studies at McGill University, on **Sholem Asch**, "From the Shtetl to the World," to mark the 125th anniversary of the writer's birth. Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Admission $5. Sunday, May 22, 2 p.m.

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir with Conductor Alexander Veprinsky right in the second row. Pianist Lina Zemelman is beside him.

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Teenage actor a master at playing troubled lads

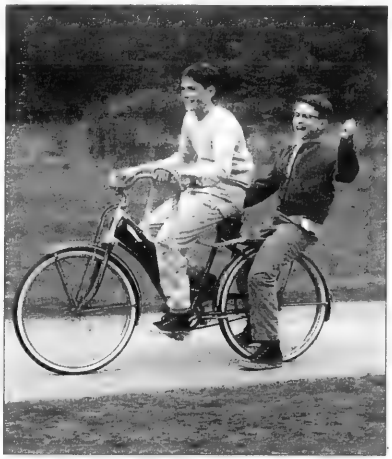
By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Michael Kanev, who plays the supporting role of Chester in the current theatrical film *Saint Ralph*, is a 15-year-old north-Toronto actor who's had a string of interesting and high-visibility parts since he entered the acting profession just over five years ago.

A student at Lawrence Park Collegiate where he recently finished Grade 10, Kanev has appeared in some 15 movies and television shows, including *Elliott Smelliott*, *Samantha*, *I Downloaded A Ghost*, *Puppets Who Kill* and the *Berenstein Bears*.

A master at playing troubled but brilliant lads and at putting on authentic-sounding Russian, South African, French and other accents, his on-screen persona ranges from the comic to the sinister, and often reflects a surprising level of complexity.

In *Under the Dragon's Tail*, a Canadian-produced television mystery, he played an artful-dodger type of servant who is murdered while stealing from his employer. "It was a good role," Kanev said. "I was this little punk, up to no good. It was quite a bit different than who I am in real life."



Michael Kanev (back of bike) with co-star Ralph Walker on the set of *Saint Ralph*.

In *Saint Ralph*, which has been enjoying good box office around North America, he plays the best friend of a boy who is determined to run the 1959 Boston Marathon, believing a win might save his mother who is dying from cancer.

Kanev landed the part after five auditions. "My character – I really like him," he said. "He's a very bright boy and he wears big glasses. He's not a nerd but a good-hearted kid who wants the best for Ralph."

He's also done scores of TV commercials, some of which are still being aired. "He had two McDonalds, a Campbell's Soup, a Taco Bell, a Febreze — I can't remember all of them," said his mother, Mila.

Like the film and television productions, most of the commercials were shot in and around Toronto, where his parents arrived as immigrants from Kiev in the late '70s.

There's something about Kanev's red-haired looks and natural acting ability that have kept the talent scouts interested and the agents hopping. He seems blessed with natural acting abilities and a definite knack for learning parts and getting inside a character.

"When I do a role, I become familiar with the character. I'm not Michael, I'm whoever the character is," he said. "Especially when you're on the set, you're so focused, you just do your thing and the camera catches you and that's what happens."

Mila, herself an actor and singer, recalled that Michael always seemed determined to act. "I never wanted him to go into the business because I know how hard it is," she said. "But since he was three years old, he begged and pleaded with me, but I always said 'No.' So when he was 9½ or 10, he got himself an agent, all by himself."

Within two years of getting an agent he did 17 commercials, then began landing movie and television parts.

Although his involvement in *Saint Ralph* kept him out of school for nearly a month (he had a tutor on the set), Kanev is a hard-working student. This year he received 90-in drama and also did well in history and English. His father, Efim Kanev, is an engineer; his brother Nick an 18-year-old student in business school.

While he enjoys attending film premieres such as the New York opening of *Samantha* last November, he expressed doubt about whether he will pursue an acting career. "It's a really tough business," he said, with all the level-headedness of Chester from *Saint Ralph*. Still, that didn't stop him from going to Los Angeles to find an agent last November.

Meanwhile, he likes to play sports, listen to music and chill out with friends. He's also looking forward to going to Camp Northland this summer – if another acting part doesn't turn up first.

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REAL ESTATE Section

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Exquisite 5 bedroom home on ½ acre lot! Finished basement with quality finishings, circular drive, totally upgraded throughout! Absolutely gorgeous! Must see! *Ted Waxman

• • •

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WESTMOUNT/WILSHIRE
Beautifully upgrd home on quiet cul-de-sac, w/9 ft. ceilings, stainless appliances. Great room sizes. Shows great! **Mark Waxman

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BATHURST-STEELES - JUST LISTED!
Immaculate sidesplit, main floor den, finished recreation room, large lot. *Sarah Rovet

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EAST END BEAUTY! $449,900
Over 3,100 sq. ft., detached 4 bedroom, 4 baths, finished basement, potential in-law suite. *Helen Gould

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Fabulous split 2 bedroom layout, oversized walk-in shower, 2 year new appliances & window coverings, locker. Shows great $319,900. *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-ANTIBES - END UNIT
Large 3 bedroom townhome, finished basement, only attached by a few feet, feels like a detached house. On large lot! Appliances, central air, $285,500. *Ted Waxman

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"CONSERVATORY" CLARK-HILDA
1st ad! Lovely 2 bedroom, 2 baths, low floor, asking only $269,900. *Sarah Rovet

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BATHURST-STEELES "COURTLAND"
About 1,400 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms plus solarium, extra large rooms, ensuite storage, appliances, newer broadloom, 3 car parking. Must see! *Ted Waxman

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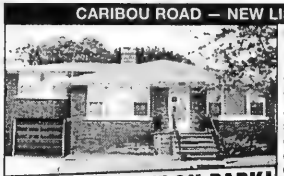
CARIBOU ROAD — NEW LISTING!



STEPS TO CARIBOU PARK!

Spacious 3 + 2 bdrms., 4 baths (4 pc. ensuite in master) on generous 50 ft. lot in prestigious area, close to TTC, schools, shuls. Sep. entry to 2 newly renovated in-law suites. Only $649,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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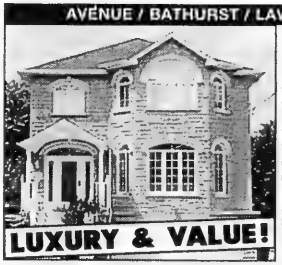

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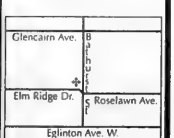

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JEWISH VETS MARK V-E DAY:
Adjutant Sam Ages, left, and Capt. Paul Bender of the Ottawa Post Jewish War Veterans of Canada visited the National War Memorial in Ottawa on the 60th anniversary of V-E Day. Bender laid a wreath on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. [Elly Bollegraaf photo]

New Sephardi camp celebrates Zionist ideals

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

For several decades, sleepover camp has been a summertime ritual for legions of young Canadian Jews.

When school's out for summer, they perennially set off for beautiful, lakefront camp grounds to revel in up to two months of non-stop fun.

While this tradition is quite common amongst Ashkenazi Jews, it hasn't been as much so for the Sephardim. But that may very well change thanks to the start-up of Camp Torolago.

"There has never been a Sephardi-based overnight camp," said Rachel Benaim, 23, director of the overnight stream of Camp Torolago.

"So we felt, why not offer overnight camp for these kids?"

Situated on the banks of Bull and Bucks lakes in Arden, Ont., the 900-acre wonderland begins its second-ever camp season this summer.

A day stream of the camp for three to 13-year-olds will kick off its inaugural summer this year at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre in Thornhill, Ont.

Imbuing campers with Zionist ideals and a sense of Jewish camaraderie, the camps incorporate both Sephardi and Ashkenazi customs and traditions.

"On Shabbat, we sing Sephardi and Ashkenazi songs, so both groups can understand," said Benaim.

"The Sephardi spirit comes through naturally because the camp is Sephardi-run," said Leon Benlezrah, 23, director of the day camp.

"We don't have to go out of our way to be Sephardi because that's who we are."

In addition to the cultural component, the camp aims to provide campers with opportunities to explore nature and be active in sports and other exhilarating activities.

To that end, the overnight camp, for kids aged eight to 16, offers a variety of water activities, such as kayaking and water trampoline; land sports, including horseback riding and zip line; and various indoor activities, including video-arcade games.

Benlezrah, a teacher at She'arim Hebrew Day School, said campers at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre will make full use of the facility's gym and pool, outdoor basketball court and large field.

"Once a week, we'll have outings to places like Canada's Wonderland and Ontario Place," he said, adding the camp provides hot kosher lunches and door-to-door busing.

Annie Sugar sent her two sons and a daughter to the overnight camp last year and has signed them up to return this summer.

She chose the camp for its small size and family-like culture.

"It's like one big family," she said. "Everybody knows everybody."

Sugar said that this family dynamic was imperative for her seven-year-old daughter who had never previously spent a summer away from her parents.

"My daughter has long hair and they washed her hair for her," she said. "That's the kind of attention they give."

Sugar added that at other overnight camps, her kids didn't have as much time to do the activities they love because of the large camp size.

"They only got to go water-skiing once a week, whereas at Torolago, they went every day," she said.

Benaim, an aspiring teacher, noted the camp aims to foster a pattern of campers returning year after year, much like the tradition at Ashkenazi camps.

"The idea is that the kids will be together all these years," she said.

"It will keep the community together and let it grow and flourish… And it's also a place where kids can create lifelong friendships."

While not strictly religious, the overnight camp offers prayer services each morning for those who want to participate.

In line with the Zionist mandate, the camp will welcome 18 kids from Israel this summer, all of whom are victims of war.

"This will bring the face of Israel to these kids," said Benaim.

"It makes our Zionist philosophy real."

For campers who are nearing the age to be staff members, there is a special training initiative called the Torolago Leadership Program (TLP), which involves campers volunteering as assistants to counsellors, as well as taking part in workshops and seminars.

Campers at the overnight camp hail from different parts of Canada, as well as the United States, Venezuela and Mexico.

Benaim and Benlezrah noted there are subsidies available for parents who want to send their children to Torolago, but face financial and other obstacles.

"We're excited to add new things and bring new people to our camp community," said Benlezrah.

For more information, contact 905-731-5438 or visit www.torolago.com.

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Lots of squash potential in Shoihet household

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Earle Shoihet believes there could very well be another squash champion in the family sometime down the road.

For the time being, though, the father of four boys is content to bask in the glory of son Albert's under-13 national title.

The country's top-ranked player in his age group captured the Canadian Junior Open Squash Championship at the Calgary Winter Club earlier this month, defeating third-seeded Adam Engel from Pickering, 9-7, 9-5, 10-8. He took home the national crown less than two months after winning the provincial championship at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

With brothers Ethan, 7, and Caleb, 10, showing plenty of potential, a sibling rivalry may be brewing in the Shoihet household as the boys grow older and continue to develop. Ethan finished third at a recent event held at the Toronto Lawn and Tennis Club, playing against kids three years older than himself.

The eldest Shoihet, 15-year-old Jacob, also plays squash, but is more interested in football and music.

"Ethan's really keen and getting better," said Albert, 12. "I think he's going to be a champion. I play with him once a week. He really enjoys it."

Albert Shoihet

Albert, who took up the game five years ago, won his second open provincial title in three years in March. He was sidelined for three months in 2004 with knee troubles related to a growth spurt, missing both the provincial and national championships.

He said the knee problem is under control while he continues to receive treatment from a chiropractor, as well as regular massages.

He's also become much more focused on squash, quitting hockey last November after playing four years at the triple-A level with the Vaughan Kings.

A member of the Fabulous Fitness club in Woodbridge, Albert finished third last year in both the Canadian and U.S. Opens and hopes to travel abroad next season to participate in the British Open.

This year's success can be partially attributed to hooking up for lessons with Mike Way, coach of Canada's top two players, Jonathon Power and Graham Ryding.

"[Albert's] a very good athlete and he's got a very good work ethic," Way said. "He does look like Graham Ryding did, a top junior player in his age group as well.

"Of course, there's a long way to go to develop a young player to play at the top professional level. If he stays the course, I don't see any reason why he couldn't make it to the same level as Graham.

"Graham's a very tenacious player and I see a very similar mindset in Albert."

The 5-2, 100-pound all-around player has remained atop the national rankings since the beginning of the year, and he plans to work out over the summer to stay in shape for the start of the new season in October.

A Grade 7 student at Oakville's WH Morden Public School, Albert also credits his success to mom "really pushing me to train a lot."

Over the next few months, he plans to attend three of Way's week-long squash camps while preparing for his bar mitzvah this fall.

Israeli hoops star teaches kids how to dribble and pass

By COOKIE LOMMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LOS ANGELES — Aulcie Perry is a tall man – and a man who stands tall in Israel.

At 6-11, the former professional basketball centre would stand out in a crowd anywhere in the world. In Israel, Perry draws crowds of cheering fans, especially youngsters.

"I've been here a long time," said Perry, an African-American born in Newark. "Israel has been very good to me."

Perry has been very good to Israel as well. After a successful career with the country's top basketball team, Maccabi Tel Aviv, Perry, 54, now operates summer basketball clinics for children aged seven to 14 in Israel – and as worldwide attention focuses on the NBA playoffs, he's about to open another one.

Along with Jewish sports heroes such as Tal Brody and Tamir Goodman, Perry is introducing a three-week sports camp called Sal Stars, or Hoop Stars in English translation.

His new venture will be open to children from around the world.

Sal Stars will teach not only basketball but some tennis and soccer as well, Perry said. The program is open to Jewish kids from around the world, though it's aimed at Torah-observant Jewish teens.

The camp will be based in Givat Washington, a religious sports university near Ashdod. Givat Washington has world-renowned sports facilities, some of Israel's best athletic trainers and excellent accommodations.

"The three-week camp will give them the highest quality of coaching and training in sports as well as giving them the Israeli experience," Perry said. "We get a lot of kids from abroad. A lot of Jewish families that are working abroad send their kids to the camp to introduce them to Israel. They'll travel. They'll see the country, the historic sites. It's going to be something special."

The clinic runs from July 7 to 28. Participants also will spend time touring desert springs, ancient tunnels, rolling hills and beaches, Perry said.

Perry already operates Basketball for Stars summer camp at the Wingate Sports Institute near Netanya.

Eight years ago, Perry and Greg Cornelius, an American from East Carolina University who played professionally in Israel, set up the Netanya camp.

"It is a very, very high quality affair," Perry said. "I bring the best coaches, and also coaches who are Israeli and were star players here in Israel. I also bring in the top players from Maccabi to come in and talk to the kids."

Perry came to Israel in 1976 as a rejected NBA player who was trying to work on his game on a summer league team. He impressed representatives from Maccabi Tel Aviv.

"I came… to work on my game and then go back and try again with the NBA," Perry said.

"Maccabi came to me. I signed up for two months. We won the European Cup.

"Things never looked the same again. Maccabi has been the top team since," he said.

Brody, from Trenton, N.J., was a star player in the United States. A college All-American in the 1960s, he was drafted as a top player in the NBA draft, but instead chose to come to Israel.

"Tal Brody is 'Mr. Basketball' in Israel," Perry said. "He changed basketball here."

Perry and Brody, who was the team captain, helped Maccabi Tel Aviv win the European championship in 1977, Perry's first year in Israeli basketball. The win put Maccabi "on the map to stay," Brody once said.

During his career, Perry also led Maccabi to victory in the 1981 European Cup, the 1980 Intercontinental Cup, nine league championships and eight National Cups.

When Perry was with Maccabi, he would bring traffic to a halt as fans jockeyed for a view of a man who, then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin said, helped bring "honour to the people of Israel."

Perry played high school ball at West Side High in Newark and college ball for Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla. In 1975, he had a short stint with the Virginia Squires of the old American Basketball Association.

But it was in Israel that Perry found his game and his home, he said. Today, Perry, who is unmarried and has a son who's 28, observes Jewish holidays, but said in an e-mail that he "doesn't like to classify" himself religiously.

"In Israel, they are more concerned about what you can do than what colour your skin is," Perry said.

"You'll have the opportunity if you're capable and have something to offer."

For more information about Perry's summer camps, visit www.sal-stars.com and www.sal-stars.co.il.

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MOM AND DAUGHTER CELEBRATE: City Hall square in Tel Aviv was a happy place last week when Yom Ha'atzmaut arrived in Israel, as seen on the faces of this young mother and her daughter. [Israel Sun photo]

AVOCADO & GRAPEFRUIT SALAD W/POMEGRANATES & PISTACHIOS

- 1 red onion, sliced into thin rounds
- 2 tbl white wine vinegar
- 1 bunch watercress
- 1 small pomegranate
- 3 red grapefruits
- 2 kiwifruit
- 1 lg. avocado
- grated zest & juice of 1 orange
- sea salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbl olive oil
- 1/4 c pistaschio nuts, coarsely chopped

1. Toss onion rings with vinegar; set aside in refrigerator. Rinse and dry watercress; wrap in paper towel; refrigerate.
2. Cut pomegranate into 1/4's; break out 1/2 c. of seeds. Working in the sink, gently squeeze 1 tbl of juice from the remaining pomegranate and set aside. Peel and section grapefruits. Peel, thinly slice kiwi. Peel and cut avocados into chunks.
3. Dressing: combine zest, orange juice, 1 tbl pomegranate juice, 1/4 tsp. salt; whisk in oil.
4. Arrange watercress on a plate; top with grapefruit sections (minus the juice). Add kiwi, avocado, and onions; pour dressing over all. Season with pepper; garnish with pistachio nuts. Serves 6.

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Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman, C.A.

Accepting personal responsibly for one's actions is one of the fundamental precepts of Judaism. "Man is always liable" for damages caused, the Talmud declares even if such damages were caused while sleeping. This concept applies equally to damages caused by our possessions. Thus, owners of animals are liable for damages inflicted by their pets, the details of which take up much talmudic discussion. What was true regarding animals in talmudic times is equally true today regarding cars, computers or corporate assets. You are responsible for ensuring your e-mails are virus free. Conversely, a parent cannot be held liable for damages caused by their minor child, since a child is not owned by the parent.

Jewish law therefore does not accept the notion that workers' negligence should be borne by the employer. In a well known talmudic passage, a group of needy workers who broke a valuable barrel of wine were to pay out of pocket the total amount of the damages less any wages they were otherwise entitled to. Only the talmudic sage Rav's insistence that the employer, a rabbinic scholar himself, act beyond the letter of the law, freed the indigent workers of their liability and also allowed them to collect their salaries. But such demands are not necessarily placed on an average employer, nor given to workers who are not classified as poor. Thus, a worker who carelessly erases important computer files, or whose rude demeanour chases away clients, is to be held responsible for losses incurred.

Yet, while we must ensure that people take their responsibilities seriously, Jewish law recognizes that being excessively harsh on those who commit errors will scare away people from taking on more difficult tasks. It benefits nobody if fear of making a mistake rules the workplace. Thus, as a practical measure a worker who causes a financial loss is to take an oath that they were not negligent, thereby exempting themselves from payment. This rabbinic willingness to enact – and even change – laws to promote business growth is a common feature of Jewish civil law. Whereas, for example, Torah law requires a creditor to produce two witnesses (who must then be cross-examined) in order to collect monies owing, the talmudic sages relaxed the standards of evidence required in order to ensure that creditors would continue to loan money.

Send comments and questions to info@torahinmotion.org.

Dinner with an Eskimo

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

A short while ago, I had dinner with an Eskimo, a Canadian Inuit. She showed me how Eskimos rub noses.

My hostess told me fanciful stories about growing up in the cold North and her memories of building igloos with her father, then huddling inside them, cozy under caribou covers. She reminisced about their long sleigh rides and the sensitivity and respect they displayed for their captured hunt.

From time to time, my friend and her husband travel to Nunavut to visit her parents, and they have a grand time with them, despite the fact her parents can't speak a word of English and her husband doesn't speak a word of Inuit. Her stories were genuinely Canadian!

But the conversation then became sombre, as it often does with aboriginal folk. My companion lowered her eyes as she began recalling the days when RCMP police shot Inuit dogs, so as to stifle the natives' means of transportation and force them into villages.

She also recalled how she was snatched from her parents and taken to a residential school 1,000 miles away. She was six. How lonely and afraid she must have been. There, she was forbidden to speak her language or practise her culture. Instead, she was force-fed Christianity and encouraged to convert. Cases of sexual and physical abuse in those schools were the norm.

My Eskimo sister shared with me dreadful tales from her elders, including stories about the British Crown's practice – in the mid-1800s – of trading to native people blankets that had previously been used for smallpox victims in British Columbia. This, it is said, might be the first deliberate act of biological warfare against a people.

As I have researched my recent columns on Canada's indigenous inhabitants, I have become incensed at this aspect of my nation's history, and I feel overwhelming guilt at my lack of action on behalf of people whom we systematically murdered and crushed. The more I read about the institutionalized kidnapping, as well as the physical, mental and sexual abuse perpetrated against them – including the actions of our army a few short years ago in Oka, Que., to restrain Mohawks fighting the development of a golf course on land they claimed was sacred – the more deeply saddened I am about our Canadian roots.

What have we done? How did we Canadians allow and perform such acts of cruelty against beautiful little children? Are we not the globe's peacekeepers, trying to bring civility and harmony to international squabbles? I abhor the fact that I am now forced to accept the noxious reality that there is some real nastiness in my Canadian blood.

The Torah states: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Rabbi Joseph Herman Hertz, the late chief rabbi of England, and other Torah authorities state that "neighbour" means people of any race or creed. This view is in sync with Rabbi Pinchas Eliyahu of Vilna, who encouraged love of all humankind, saying that "all people are created in the Divine image, and all engaged in improving civilization." Certainly, Canada's native peoples, then and now, are our neighbours – or perhaps we are theirs.

In a blip of time, Canadians have wounded, and continue to wound, many, many native people. A courageous message, therefore, desperately and quickly needs to flow from our lips to the ears of aboriginal people, "Selach lanu. Selach lanu. Selach lanu – Forgive us. Forgive us. Forgive us and offer us the chance to rebuild together, for the sake of what is just and for peace."

Imagine. I had dinner with a real Eskimo, a Canadian sister, and we rubbed noses.

"… they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree;

"And none shall make them afraid." (Isaiah)

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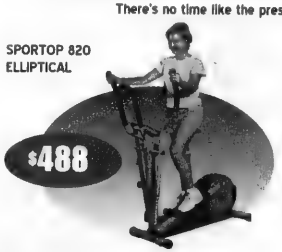

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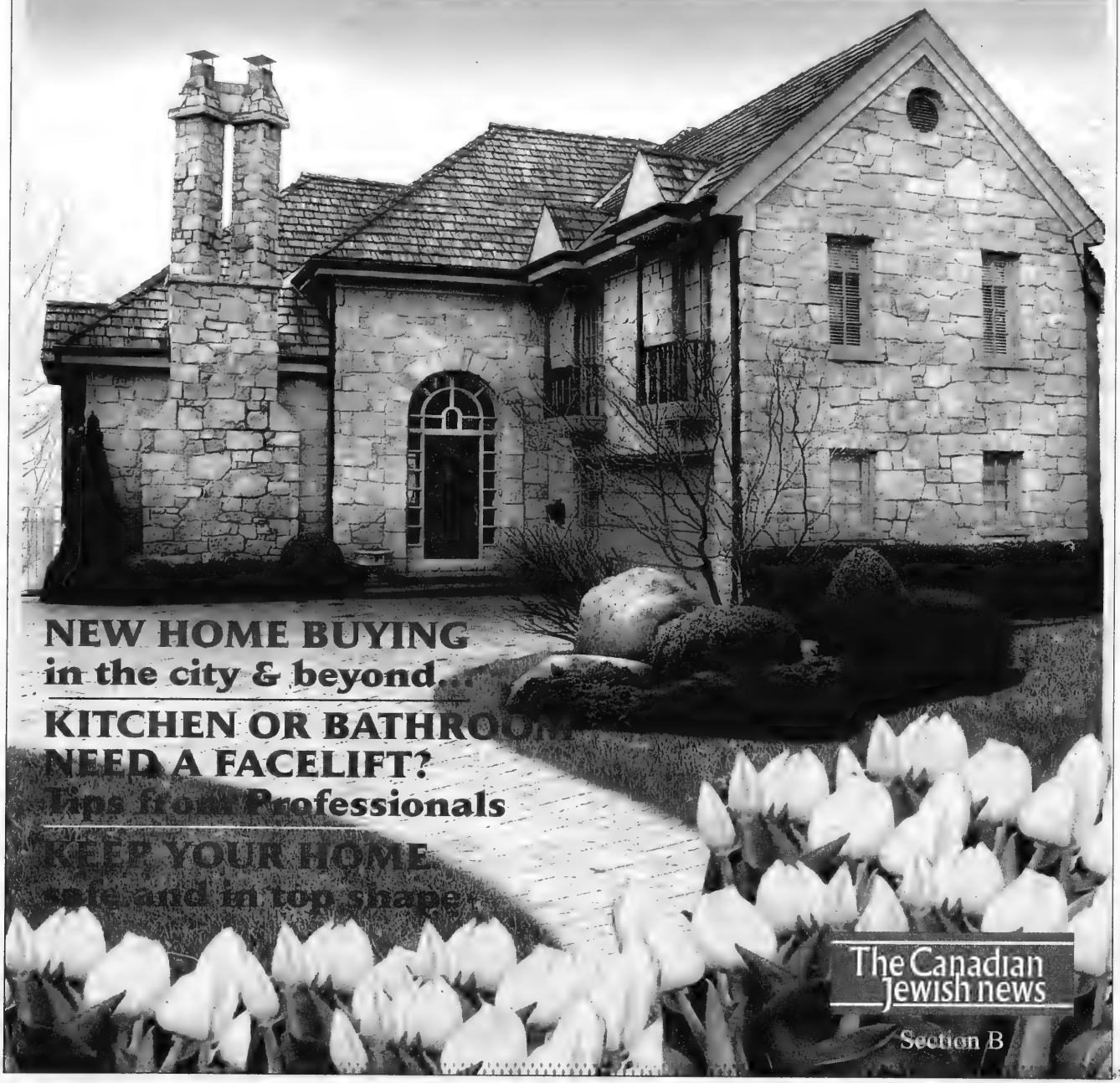

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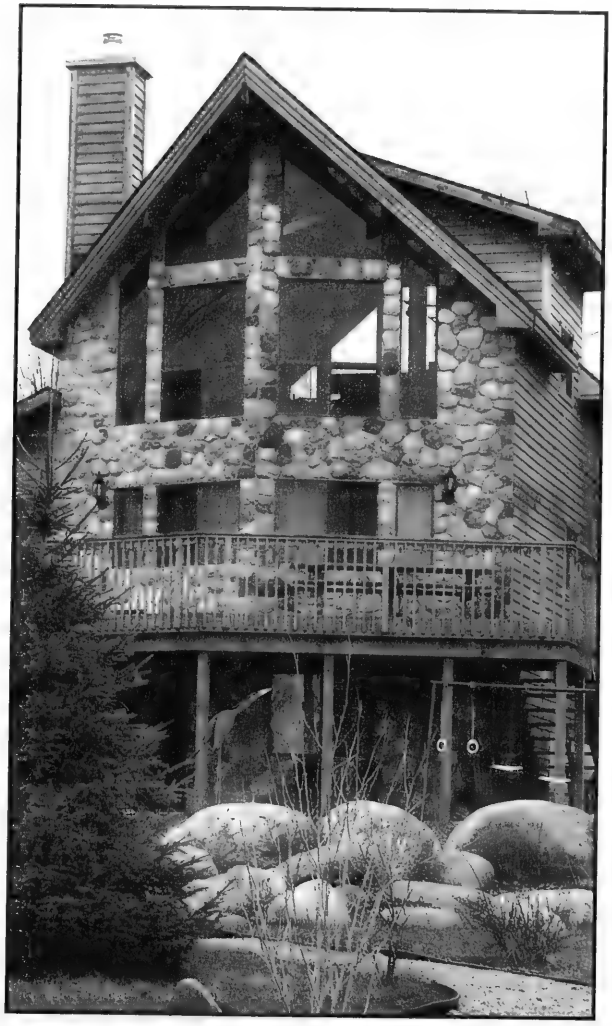

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Upper Thornhill Estates
offers quality in a rustic setting

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Rivermill Homes is proudly planning its next subdivision of quality homes nestled in a rustic area that's rich in natural beauty: Upper Thornhill Estates.

Partners Jeffery Katzman, Yoram Greenblatt and Paul Dasilva are building what will be the final group of homes to be made available in this choice area.

Located on Bathurst Street north of Major Mackenzie Drive, they promise to be yet another success from the builders who have to date built in Thornhill Woods, Mississauga, Brampton and Toronto.

Personal attention to detail, both during construction and after a sale, is a tradition at Rivermill Homes.

Katzman explains: "We're a small, on-site builder. We will customize the homes, always taking care of things. Quality is very important to us, and our standards are very high.

"We provide excellent value without compromising quality."

The company can customize its homes very easily, he says.

One plan, for instance, can accommodate two kitchens, and if a request is made before construction begins, there's usually no charge for such things as enlarging a washroom or moving a closet.

"We will make those changes, and our salespeople can read plans and help the purchasers," Katzman adds.

"We also have a designer that will go through the colour choices when it's time."

Only 40 detached homes on 42-foot- and 50-foot-wide lots are available in phase I. Buyers can choose from two-storey houses or bungalows, which are perfect for second- or third-time home buyers.

As a standard feature, only quality hardwood oak plank flooring is used in the homes' living rooms, dining rooms, family rooms and (where applicable) dens.

This is complemented by oak stairs, as well as by beautiful kitchens with breakfast bars and raised cabinets that stretch up toward the homes' high ceilings.

As well, 50-oz. carpet runners on stairs provide more comfort underfoot.

Some of the lots are on ravines and boast lower level walkouts. As well, a new Jewish community centre will also be built nearby at Bathurst and Weldrick Avenue.

And with lots of nearby conservation areas, walkways and nature trails, you could very well have a natural paradise in your own backyard.

"It's in a prestigious subdivision that's been architecturally controlled for the overall landscape," notes Katzman.

To learn more about Rivermill Homes and pre-registration, call 905-761-9465.

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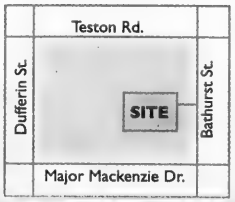

See Sale Representatives for more information. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. E. & O.E.

Minor repairs can prevent major problems

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Have you ever ignored a leaky faucet or dismissed a chipped tile and then regretted your indifference later on?

If so, you likely learned the hard way that dealing with a home maintenance issue head on can help prevent a minor issue from festering into a full-blown problem, says John Ullman of Dear John (416-704-6340 or www.dearjohn.ca).

"The biggest tip is if something looks like it's wearing out, it's better to call somebody in to take a look at it before it's broken, so you can try to salvage what you've got," says Ullman.

"If you wait too long, you've got no choice."

Since his childhood, when Ullman tagged alongside his contractor father to lend a hand, to the present, the full-time handyman has plied his trade for a host of customers, working on everything from plumbing and drywall to painting and electrical upkeeps.

"I do just about every repair or upgrade that goes on inside the home," he says.

Ullman believes a good handyman isn't merely someone who fixes or repairs your home, but someone who offers a personal touch.

"At the end of the day, I want the customer to feel that I'm more than just a guy trying to make a buck," he says.

"For instance, I have this one customer, a woman who is an elderly widow, where it's guaranteed that I will spend 20 minutes having a cup of coffee with her."

While Ullman is versatile, he notes there are certain jobs which require licensed professionals and is always ready to refer customers to those experts, if need be.

Serge Roytman of S.B. Electrical Service (416-834-4312) has 15 years of experience and recommends checking to see if the electrician you hire is licensed and has liability insurance.

"Electricity is very dangerous... and if it's not done by a professional, it can create trouble," he says.

"If the contractor is licensed, they should have a... license that's approved by the city and liability insurance."

'Electricity is very dangerous... and if it's not done by a professional, it can create trouble'

Roytman specializes in lighting systems, engaging in service upgrades in homes for such things as tube changes and pot lights.

Because many people are adding electrical appliances in their homes, Roytman says a burgeoning part of his business is adding amperage.

"If you want to rent a unit downstairs in the basement and you need to add a stove, microwave and fridge, you need more amperage in your house," he says.

"Increased amperage in your house gives you the opportunity to load your house with heavy [electrical] equipment."

In some instances, you may have the wherewithal to fix things on your own and just need to ask a professional a question or two. Roytman says that type of advice should be free.

"If they have any questions about electrical parts, they can call us and we will answer for free," he says.

Ullman has a similar philosophy.

"I look at my customers as not one-time customers," he relates.

"I'd like them to know they can count on me, even if it's to call me for advice."

Ullman urges customers to ask questions of their contractor and become educated on how and why something needs to be fixed or replaced.

"I'd want somebody that's going to come to my home not just to fix this and that, but who is going to advise me on what's happening and why," he says, noting this is a practice he employs.

"I like to try and educate my customers."

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No Place Like HOME

Century Grove Homes tranquil and convenient

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Picture a new suburban development with large detached homes nestled near parks and hiking trails. Imagine that this new community is so conveniently located it's just minutes from shopping, Go Transit, major highways, synagogues and Jewish day schools.

This new development, Upper Thornhill Estates, at the north-west corner of Major Mackenzie Drive and Bathurst Street, should have great appeal for those people wanting the best of two worlds: rural tranquillity and easy access to urban conveniences.

And there's good news for the savvy home buyer. Century Grove Homes (905-884-7848) is offering a selection of 13 models in the Upper Thornhill Estates development.

"Century Groves Homes is getting interest from a lot of repeat buyers. I know we have the best prices," says sales representative Irene Simons, a licensed real estate agent. "A lot of what may be upgrades for other builders are standard features for Century Grove Homes, like the silent floor and plywood sub floors."

She says the location and lot sizes are also key selling features. "It's a fabulous location. It will be very close to the new Jewish community campus.

"The bigger lots offer good value in lot size, location and design. Nature lovers won't have the congestion of too many houses built close together.

"They are all detached homes, which is very appealing for those buyers looking for a prestige community," Simons continues. "There are no town home, semis, apartments or condos. It's an area with appeal for every age group. You'll never have to move again."

Century Grove Homes is offering 13 models to choose from – two-storey homes and bungalows – ranging in size from 1,640 to 4,350 square feet, on 35- to 50-foot lots.

Prices starts at $389,990 for a 1,640-square-foot three-bedroom home. The largest home, 4,350 square feet, is selling for $714,990.

The biggest lots, which are 50 feet wide by 133 feet deep, are located on a premium court, Simons says, adding that some homes with walkout basements are still available.

"There's going to be lots of green space. There are 12 kilometres of hiking and walking trails, parks and open wetland. Some of it is maintained, some of it is naturalized. It's all part of the East Don River."

Century Groves Home builder Rob Vitullo says every one of these soon-to-be-constructed homes – scheduled to be completed by the end of 2006 – boasts nine-foot ceilings and family rooms with gas fireplaces on the first floor.

"The nine-foot ceilings on the main floor give the homes a luxurious feel," he says.

The largest models have nanny suites on the second floor complete with bathrooms and there's an option for a second-floor laundry room, he adds.

All the homes feature family rooms off the large kitchens. "A lot of kitchen upgrades are possible, says Vitullo. "We can do the upgrades in every house."

Other standard features include hardwood strip flooring on the main floor, oak staircases with runners, eat-in kitchens and master bedroom en suite bathrooms with corner tubs.

The kitchen cabinets are 39 inches high so there's more shelf space, he explains. "With nine-foot ceilings, the tall cabinets look better. Garberators and oak and maple cupboards are all standard features."

As for visual appeal, Vitullo says: "We wanted a lot of architectural detail like columns and wood mouldings. There are vinyl casement windows throughout except for the basement.

The bungalows will offer a condominium alternative to retirees wanting to downsize to one floor and maintain the privacy of a single-family home. This type of housing could also keep multiple generations of one family living in close proximity to each other, he says.

Simons adds that one of the advantages of buying a Century Grove Home is that it is listed with a realty company. "The beauty with us is that we can co-ordinate the sale of the old house to match the new house, because the company representing Century Grove, Premium One Realty Corp. is a full-service real estate brokerage."

Prospective buyers can visit the Century Grove Homes sales office at the north-west corner of Major Mackenzie and Bathurst.

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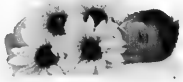
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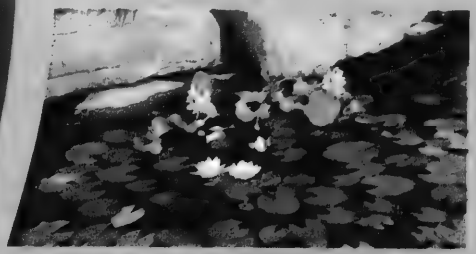

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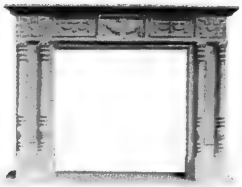
Prices much lower than retail at **auctions**

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

"Going, going, gone!" The thrill of the auction lasts long after the gavel hits its mark, when items are taken to their new homes where they will be enjoyed for years to come.

Two long-established auction houses in Toronto are Empire and Waddington's.



The president of Empire Auctions (416-784-4261), Michael Rogozinsky, is enthusiastic about his family's business. Established by his father, the company now boasts additional branches in Montreal and Ottawa.

"Everybody in our family loves what we do. We treat our business as a passion, so we try to make it as fun as possible for ourselves and for our customers," Rogozinsky says. That is evident in Empire's approach to auctions.

"Our auctions are very user-friendly," he says. Empire's auctioneers speak in a clear, straightforward manner. Before the auction, viewings offer potential buyers the opportunity to examine the items and ask questions of the experts.

"In Canada, everything in auction is sold as is. At Empire, we want to maintain a strong reputation, so we do our best to describe things accurately," Rogozinsky says.

Some research may be needed to make an auction purchase, but the money saved makes the effort worthwhile. At auctions, one can purchase items available elsewhere for much less than retail.

Empire acquires its pieces from a variety of sources: estates, inheritances, importers, dealers, retailers, manufacturers and from people experiencing financial difficulties. Its collections include items unavailable anywhere else. Antiques, estate jewelry and watches, stamps, coins and European and American art are some of the treasures to be found. Even a Torah once passed through the doors of Empire, one which had been hidden during the war and was later restored and donated to a congregation that's using it today.

Rare sports memorabilia and sports cards are also available, as is rock memorabilia. An audiotape of an interview with John Lennon from a Montreal radio station was sold through Empire.

Waddington's (1-877-504-5700) was established in 1850 in downtown Toronto and had several owners before it was purchased by Ronald McLean in 1962. Today, it is operated by his three sons, Alistair, Donald and Duncan.

"We sell contents of homes, collections. We're very involved internationally working for vendors and buyers," Duncan McLean says.

Waddington's has 12 departments and experts knowledgeable in everything from dolls and maps to musical instruments.

The assorted collectibles at the auction house include jewelry, fine art, Oriental rugs, furniture, silver, pottery and chandeliers, as well as Royal Doulton figurines, books, Canadiana, ephemera (posters, letters, photographs), weaponry, African art and Judaica.

Waddington's will appraise items for insurance, estate planning or market-value-assessment purposes.

Waddington's has a branch in Vancouver, Joyner Waddington's Canadian Fine Art, which was formed through a merger of Joyner Fine Art Inc. and Waddington's. Joyner Waddington's Canadian Fine Art is one of the leading auction houses for Canadian art.

Judaica will be featured at Waddington's decorative arts auction on June 16. Many of the items are from the late 19th and early 20th century.

Dorion Liebgott, the curator of the Beth Tzedec museum, is involved in organizing the auction. "One of the goals is to encourage new collectors or people who don't want to spend a great deal necessarily but who want to start a collection," she says.

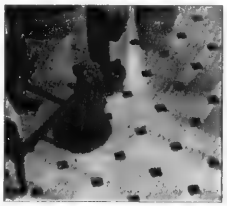
Spice containers in the shape of fish, flowers, towers or a ship are some of the more eclectic pieces to be auctioned. There are several large silver chanukiyot and a silver Iraqi kiddush cup with a tray and a lid. "It's quite interesting, the stuff that turns up," Liebgott says.

Hard or soft: choice of flooring requires some thought

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Like most big decisions you will make about your home, the secret to choosing excellent floors is solid research. Before you make a decision, there are a number of things that the experts recommend you consider, such as usage, location and care.

• What room is the flooring being installed in?



For busy rooms, you need a floor that can withstand years of heavy use, from the heavy pounding of children's sneakers to the scratches from Fido's uncut toenails and the occasional dropping of cutlery or china. Bathrooms and kitchens fall into this category. For rooms that only see slippered feet, a more delicate material may suffice.

Mitch Wolanski of Amcan Hardwood Floors (416-784-0064) has been installing hardwood floors for more than 30 years.

Although hardwood is popular in kitchens, he'd never recommend to a customer that they install it there. Dishwasher leaks, overflowing sinks, flying cooking oil and spilled liquids from the fridge can warp the wooden slats, permanently damaging the floor.

"I would only recommend hardwood floors if a husband and wife don't use the kitchen except for microwaving," he says. "It always takes a horrendous beating."

• What style do you want?

The possibilities are almost endless.

If you have your heart set on hardwood flooring, there are a number of popular colours and woods to choose from. White oak, Brazilian cherry and maple are very popular, as are other exotic woods from South America and Africa.

Stains and finishes have also come a long way. It's possible to stain wood on site, and if done properly, the results can be stunning. But if the job is done poorly, the result is a blotchy finish. Wolanski recommends choosing a prestained wood, which ensures that the colour you want for your floors is the colour you are going to get, and the texture and grain turn out perfectly.

"With pre-finished wood, the finish is perfect," he says. "As smooth as a baby's bum."

• Consider climate.

If you're set on hardwood flooring, keep the moisture content in mind. Hardwood floors are installed at a set moisture content, and when the moisture is set higher or lower for a prolonged period of time, the result is flooring that will look different than what was originally installed. Increased moisture in the air can cause the wood to expand and warp. Dry air with less moisture can dry out the wood and make the floor contract. Wolanski's rule of thumb is that a three per cent increase in humidity will expand the floors by one per cent.

"The wood acts like a sponge and sucks the water out of the air," he says.

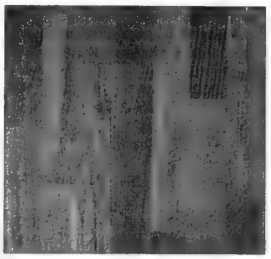
Regional climate will affect humidity, but so will a number of other things. Warm summer air, hot water radiators, big trees, leaking appliances, humidifiers and fireplaces can all change a floor's properties.

Yet, with proper care, hardwood can last for decades. Wolanski's house has hardwood flooring in every room but the hallways, kitchen and bathroom. He takes good care of the floor, only wears slippers at home, and has never had a problem.

However, not everyone wants wood. Rugs, especially high-quality ones, can be conversation pieces and function as art for your floors.

Ben Baum of Dominion Rug (416-485-9488) says the three types of rugs that are most common are Tibetan rugs, antique finish vegetable dye rugs, and aubusson rugs.

Tibetan rugs are handwoven in Nepal and made from wool and silk blends. The materials are soft, and the rugs come in a wide variety of patterns and colours, from traditional to modern designs.



Antique finish vegetable dye rugs have a washed out finish, with pale colours and traditional or Oriental designs. The vegetable dyes are natural and come in many colours. "They have a nice patina to them," Baum says.

Aubusson usually refers to a Louis XIV style or a French country look. The weave tends to be tight and flat, giving the rug a passing resemblance to a blanket.

Baum says there are two different ways to buy a rug.

If you fall in love with one before you have furniture, it's possible to use it as your starting point and build the room around it. However, most people try to find a rug to match a particular room.

Because it's impossible to picture how a rug will look in your living room while you're standing in a showroom – much less make a decision you will be happy with – most reputable rug dealers will allow you to leave a deposit and take a rug home, then return it if you decide a couple of days later that you don't like it.

Baum recommends taking advantage of this service.

"You have to see what it looks like with the colour of your furniture and walls," he says.

(A personal anecdote: my mother was looking for a rug for her family room, and she picked up and returned about a dozen rugs before she finally settled on one she liked.)

It's often heard that some rugs are made by children. If you want to avoid buying a rug that was made using child labour, look for a special label on the back, similar to the marking you would find on a piece of wool clothing, that indicates children weren't involved in the manufacturing process.

"Without that marking, there's no certainty that child labour isn't used," says Baum. A reputable rug dealer should be able to tell you which ones were made by adults only, he adds.

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There's lots to consider when choosing lights

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Good lighting can make a room or house look inviting, and it can make the difference between a bright room that everybody loves using and a dim, cave-like dungeon that sits untouched.

But before you head off to install the newest, brightest lights in your basement, Michael Gladstone of Royal Lighting (416-782-1129) recommends that you consider the different types of lighting available, and your needs for each room.

Fluorescent lights have been around for ages and are fine for bedrooms and laundry rooms, but it's an uneven light that flickers slightly, which can irritate some people.

Halogen lights, known for their bright, white light, are popular choices for home offices, desk lamps, living rooms, and other rooms where you do a lot of reading. Good quality halogen lights burn brighter than other types of light bulbs and can also last longer than regular pot lights.

A kitchen is one of the most frequently used rooms in any house, and as such, it has specific lighting requirements. Gladstone says there should be a light or lights over the table, to brighten the area during mealtimes. Fluorescent light is fine for the preparation area, but choose something else for the eating area.

"No one likes eating under fluorescent," says Gladstone. "It's not a nice light to eat under."

Bright lights are something that you can't afford to skimp on for a home office. Gladstone recommends getting a desk lamp, preferably one with a halogen bulb, and switching it on even if you think your work area is bright enough without it.

Track lighting – tiny lights artfully attached to rods and hanging from the ceiling – is also becoming a popular choice for home offices, he says.

The bathroom is where you prepare for the day ahead, so it's important that the counter or work area be well lit, and that the lighting mimic natural light as closely as possible.

Gladstone suggests installing bright vanity lights – a standard pot light will do if the bathroom is small, but if it's large, consider installing a fixture as well to minimize shadows. Frosted glass lights will also do the trick.

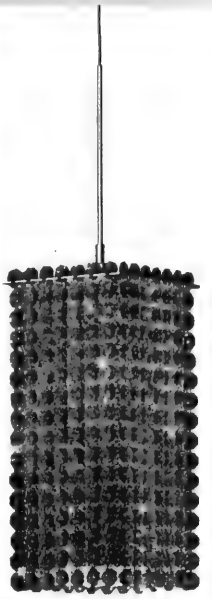
And if you want to install a light in the shower, make sure it's waterproof and moisture proof.

Significant details such as wattage and choosing the size of light fixtures usually depend on the size and colour of the room you are buying for, Gladstone says.

He will recommend different fixtures if a room has high ceilings instead of low ceilings, and if the walls are painted in dark colours instead of light colours.

Because lighting is so customized, he cautions that it's impossible to select a fixture or any other type of lighting without considering how it will look in the room, both in terms of function and esthetics.

For the environmentally conscious, lights that use up less energy are a wise choice for the pocketbook and the planet.



Choose halogen lights or energy-efficient curly fluorescent bulbs over standard or fluorescent pot lights. But keep in mind that once you install standard light fixtures, it can be difficult to convert them to more efficient varieties – it's possible with some, but with others, it just can't be done.

The big lighting trends this year are fixtures in earth tones and brushed nickel finishes, Gladstone says.

Polished brass is out, but he guesses that it will be popular again in a few years, because all styles make a comeback at some point.

But since lighting styles change every year, don't bother trying to make your fixtures look as up-to-the-minute as possible. Instead, Gladstone says your best bet is to put together a look that complements your furniture and the colour of your room. If done well, it will always look timeless.

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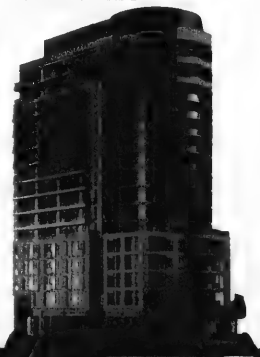

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Setting up a home office

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Working from home is not for the faint of heart – Philip Taylor knows from firsthand experience. He operates Mainly Mac (905-201-8460), which sells and services Apple computers, from his Markham home.

Taylor's garage has been converted into a service depot. Four full-time employees take over the bedrooms by day. Couriers come and go at all hours. ("I wonder what the neighbours think of that," he muses.) Work life and personal life are difficult to separate.

"It's very hard to run a home business," Taylor admits. But there's an upshot. "You have more control over how you do things."

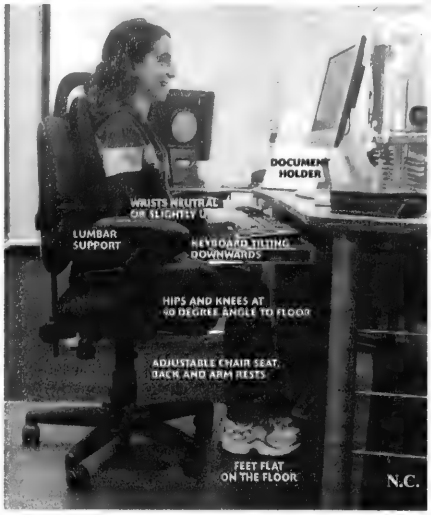
Home businesses aren't ideal for everybody, but home offices are gaining in popularity. Whether you're working from home part-time, running a business from your basement, or just want a place to tinker on the computer in peace, there are a few things worth considering when it comes to outfitting your space.

• Computer

The differences between Macs and PCs are subtle, says Taylor. Generally speaking, Macs are better with graphic design programs such as Photoshop, while PCs are better for data processing and with accounting and finance software. The difference is in the way the machines "think" – PCs are linear thinkers and Macs are divergent thinkers. "The Mac interface appeals to the artistic element," he says.

For the casual user, the differences aren't a big deal. However, for first-time users, Macs are easier to learn on and understand, says Taylor. An added bonus: Macs aren't susceptible to viruses and are immune to spyware, an insidious program that traces your moves on the Internet, usually without your knowledge, and sends the information to a third party.

If and when something goes wrong with your computer, the problem is usually a result of viruses or spyware, says Kfir Fisher of Computer Clinic (416-570-1818). The best bet to keep your computer safe is to install antivirus software and update it frequently. Microsoft often provides free downloads to upgrade and maintain antivirus software, but Fisher laments that many people don't take advantage of the offers. "Do it," he urges. This can be the key to keeping your computer in good shape. Fisher occasionally runs into situations in which a six-year-old computer is in top condition, but a two-day-old computer is clogged with viruses because of the way the machine is being used.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• Internet access

Don't skimp on Internet access – get the fastest speed available, says Taylor. The last thing you want is to be waiting forever for an e-mail attachment to download, or worse yet, tying up the phone line while you're online.

• Printer

If you're going to be printing a lot of text, get a laser writer, says Taylor. They are expensive, but the ink can last for up to three years depending on the amount of printing you do. In contrast, an inkjet printer is cheaper than a laser printer, but the ink cartridges run out quickly and can be costly to replace, the quality can be better and it prints in colour – laser is black and white only.

• Fax machine

The fax machine is on the fast track to extinction, thanks to new computer technology, but for some lines of business, it's still an essential. There are still companies that require a hard copy of your signature and won't accept PDF documents. If you regularly read and sign legal documents, for example, you'll need a fax machine to send your John Hancock.

Continued on page B13

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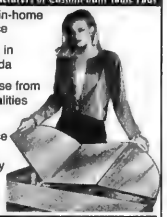
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Dressing up the bedroom, bathroom and dining room

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Imagine the perfect evening. You're entertaining friends at home, then you retire to your personal oasis of comfort, your inviting bedroom. You can picture it, but do you have everything you need?

With an amazing selection and excellent service, David's Fine Linens, Provincial Table Pads and Deblins Linens are three retailers who can help you achieve your decorating goals.

Located in the elegant Bayview Village Shopping Centre, David's Fine Linens (416-590-7311) is known for dressing up dining rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms in the Greater Toronto Area with unique style. Manager Steven Back says: "We're a middle- to high-end linen boutique, with quality fabrics from everywhere in the world."

A member of the Canadian Interior Design Network, David's is the place to find that something special, and maybe a little bit different, for your home.

Its selection of table wear includes embroidered Irish linen, in patterns and textures that draw the eye. Often there are matching napkins that can be accented with napkin rings, also available at David's. One featured tablecloth at the store, in permanent press fabric, is washable with a soil-release finish. It's perfect for busy family get-togethers.

Beautiful towels offered at David's come with exquisite trims, including embroidery or pearl fastenings that can be removed for washing. Matching towels and robes are featured, too.

David's bedding includes sumptuous duvets and comforters, some of beautiful soft sateen fabrics. There is a full range of down products, including white goose-down duvets and pillows. A large selection of sheets made of Egyptian cotton is available. Egyptian cotton is "probably the best cotton you can get regardless of thread count," Back says.

Many of the products offered at the store are finished or produced locally, so custom work can be provided.

"If you're someone who appreciates the finer fabrics and workmanship, this is where you come," he says.

David's carries a full line of Tempur-Swedish products. Developed by NASA for the space program, the mattresses and pillows are made of heat- and pressure-sensitive material. Your body heat and weight mold the mattress, eliminating pressure points. The result is a very comfortable night's sleep.

Since 1982, Provincial Table Pads (1-905-383-1343) has been protecting finely crafted and cherished wood tables with protective coverings. Founded by Ross DePalma, it is the sole manufacturer of table pads in Canada.

DePalma says table pads provide an even surface for your table and stability for things prone to teetering, such as long-stemmed wineglasses. "They make your tablecloth hang a lot nicer," he says.

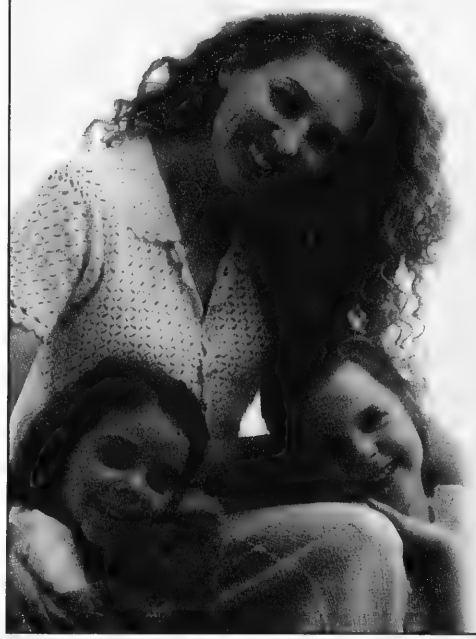
Provincial Table Pads protect your heirlooms

Table pads protect delicate surfaces from heat, scratches and spills. With pads, it's possible to place items that are as hot as as 500 F on the table.

"I've seen tables get marked with just a pizza box," says DePalma.

Continued on page B14

It's just around the corner, but it will show the world how far you've come.



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Marketing Managers:
Reesa Soto & Bethany Bokser
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Website: www.chartwellreit.ca

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Director: Beverly O'Hara
Tel: 416-498-5588 Fax: 416-498-5014
E-mail: gibson@chartwellreit.ca
Website: www.chartwellreit.ca

Overlooking a beautiful ravine, **The Gibson Retirement Residence** is located in North York. Residents enjoy a number of well-appointed amenities such as an elegant dining room, fireside lounges and an atrium landscaped with lush greenery. The Gibson offers a host of services such as housekeeping, dining, security and recreational programs.

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Terrace Gardens has been providing quality care for Toronto Jewish seniors for over 20 years. Delicious meals and snacks are kosher, under supervision of COR. A wide variety of recreational programs are offered. Newly renovated private and semi-private suites are available for permanent and short term stays. For a personal tour please contact 416-789-7670.

No place like an office at home

Continued from page B10

• Accountant

If you have a home business or work from home, a good accountant will help you determine what tax advantages you are eligible for. For many a small business, existence wouldn't be viable without significant tax breaks. "There is a lot of grey area on what you write off," says Taylor. "Tax deductions are the only way most small home businesses can survive."

A good accountant is worth more than his or her weight in gold and can save you more money than you pay for the accountant's fee. The accountant's fees may even be deductible, depending on your line of business.

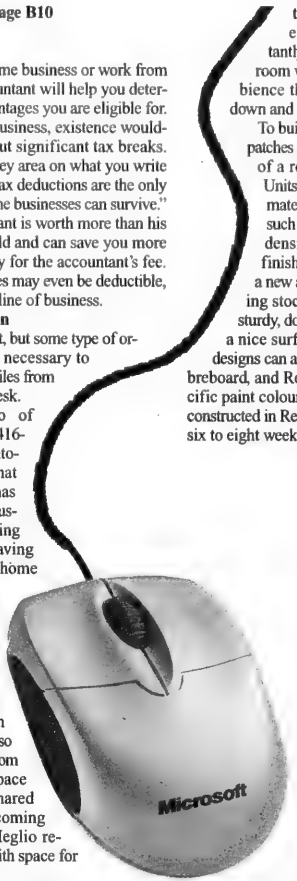
• A room to put it in

An office is great, but some type of organizing system is necessary to prevent mounds of files from piling up on your desk.

Sal de Meglio of Regency Interiors (416-661-9100), a Toronto-based company that builds wall units, has noticed lately that customers are expressing more interest in having wall units built for home offices.

Most people who inquire about wall units for a home office are looking to fill entire walls – from floor to ceiling – with wall units. They're also looking for lots of room to store files and space for a computer. Shared workspaces are becoming popular, too. De Meglio recently built a unit with space for three workstations – one for each child. But most importantly, he notes, customers want a room with a pleasant, relaxing ambience that makes them want to sit down and do work.

To build a wall unit, de Meglio dispatches staff to take the measurements of a room to ensure a proper fit. Units can be built from a variety of materials, including exotic woods such as ebony or walnut, medium-density fibreboard with a satiny finish, and veneers. Fibreboard is a new addition to de Meglio's building stock, and is ideal because it is sturdy, doesn't twist or distort, and has a nice surface for finishes. Trims and designs can also be carved directly into fibreboard, and Regency can even match specific paint colours. The wall units, which are constructed in Regency's workshop, take about six to eight weeks to complete.



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Find out more about Hazelton Place Retirement Residence at
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Linens in a variety of sizes and colours

Continued from page B11

Repeated spills won't cause pads to rot or to mildew, nor do the pads scratch the table. "I compare them to an insurance policy, if you want to enjoy your dinner and have peace of mind," says DePalma.

Available in a variety of colours, the table pads are guaranteed to fit. In-home service is offered and pads can be shipped anywhere. Provincial Table Pads also promises to beat any other price by five per cent.

The company can custom design pads for any surface in need of protection. Of late, they have been designing many pads for oak kitchen tables.

One grand piano in a concert hall in downtown Toronto was the recipient of a pad. During social functions, when the piano was not in use, people would rest their cocktails on it, marking the wood. Provincial Table Pads put an end to that.

The life span of the pads varies from 20 to 50 years, depending on how often they are used. And, of course, they also lengthen the life span of your table. The company can also provide protective bags for storing table leafs.

Deblins (416-782-2910) is a linen store with a vast selection at excellent prices, and is a recent recipient of the Consumer's Choice Award for Business Excellence.

Ellis Chitiz, Deblins' president, says: "All of our product is off price. Nothing in our store is ever regular price. I work on a smaller margin."

With complete lines for the bedroom, bathroom and dining room, including accessories, Deblins' prices may be low but its product quality is high. "We reject more than we buy," says Chitiz. "If it's not good enough for Deblins, we don't buy it."

Printed and jacquard towels are available in eight complete ranges of solid colours. They carry more than 100 shower curtains.

"We literally source household linens from all over the world to bring value and creativity to your home," says Chitiz, naming Israel, Italy, the United States, Germany, India, China and Canada as sources for Deblins' fine selection.

"On our sheets, we guarantee you won't have nightmares," he jokes.

Deblins offers sheets and accessories with a vast range of thread count, from 200 to 600, and cotton ticking with a high thread-count covers duvets and pillows, so the down doesn't escape. Brand-name and designer bedding includes seven new bedding designs from Israel, exclusive to Deblins.

Charlemagne, Deblins' house brand, is made to meet Deblins' specifications. Its logo is a castle, fitting for the linen store that helps make your home your castle.

Fun, fresh lime greens, pinks and aquas are currently being shown in bedding, bath and table linen. Dining rooms can benefit from Deblins' chair covers, tablecloths and napkins.

Also featured at Deblins is a virtual treasure-trove of specialty items for the home, including bathroom scales, large wall mirrors, bedside benches and iron beds.

The computerized bridal registry and gift cards make gift-giving easy, and through the registry, merchandise from any of Deblins' three locations can be accessed.

Mortgage Maven offers hope when things look hopeless

By SYLVIA BROOKE

Special to The CJN

Acquiring a mortgage is the most important financial part of buying a property, and Mortgage Maven (416-782-1195) is available to help when it seems there may be nowhere else to turn.

Gerald and Joel Kelman are the father-and-son duo behind Mortgage Maven – Gerald is secretary and treasurer and Joel is president.

"We're very involved in real estate," Gerald says. "My son is also a real estate broker, and I worked as a corporate tax advisor for many years."

The company specializes in equity-based lending. When a borrower doesn't qualify for institutional lending, the Kelmans do an appraisal and can arrange financing for up to 85 per cent of a property's current appraised value.

They're not concerned about tax returns or income, only that the borrower isn't a criminal and/or has never declared bankruptcy.

"It really helps out people if they're in a bind," Gerald says of Mortgage Maven's service, adding that "we haven't had any mortgage defaults in our experience."

They can set up a mortgage in a week from start to finish, including doing an appraisal, finding a lawyer, making adjustments and securing funding.

Their rates can vary, and most of the mortgages they set up are second mortgages – banks don't deal in second mortgages – although they have also set up some first ones.

Mortgage Maven works with brokers across Ontario, and is mostly involved with properties in urban areas such as Toronto, Barrie, Oshawa, Guelph and Cobourg.

However, the father and son have also been involved with financing a non-conventional mortgage on a property in cottage country.

If someone wants to get out of a mortgage, early payment is possible, and an equity loan can be used either to acquire a property or for personal needs, such as decorating, Gerald says.

The Kelmans will look at commercial ventures up to $25 million or arrange mortgages for as little as $20,000. As Gerald says, "We want to satisfy both sides, the borrower and the lender, and see that everyone's happy."

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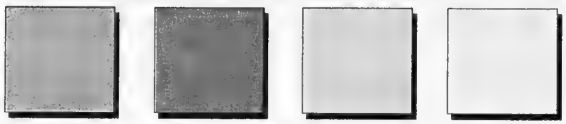

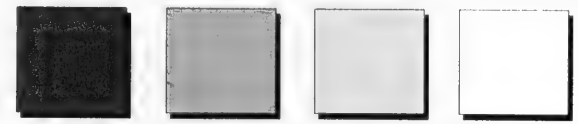

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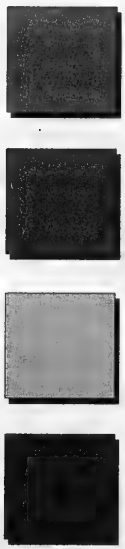

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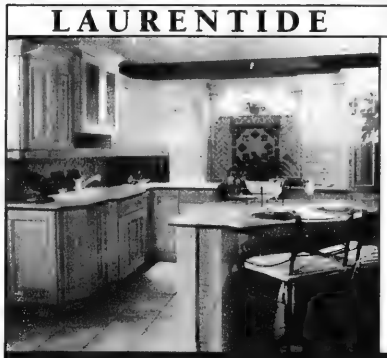
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Enjoy a luxurious retreat and earn revenue

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

If you're seeking a place to retreat for the weekend and want to earn revenue in the process, then a hotel- style condominium suite in a resort is a tantalizing option, says Debbie Lafave, director of sales and marketing for Intrawest at Blue Mountain.

"It's a beautiful escape and you're only 90 minutes away from Toronto," Lafave says of the Westin Trillium House at Blue Mountain, the resort's flagship property.

"People can have ownership [of a suite] at a premium resort that's still growing, while they're receiving a revenue cheque every month."

Lafave explains that the rental program allows the owner of the suite to spend up to 120 nights a year using the facility, with the remainder of the time provided to rental guests. A percentage of the proceeds from the renters go to the owners.

"Owners get to see appreciation of their assets over the years, while offsetting the costs of ownership because revenues are coming in," she says.

"The owner takes a 50-50 split with Intrawest, so if we're not successful for the owner, we're not successful for ourselves."

On average, Lafave says owners spend about 30 nights a year on site.

She advises those who are in the market for this type of property to seek out one that meets their specific needs, both in terms of lifestyle and as an investment.

"Do I want to be using this regularly and will I come up in the winter to entertain?" Lafave cites as a question you should consider.

"If you've got three kids and a dog and you plan on being up at the resort almost every weekend, then I would say you're better off at one of our golf-course communities, with larger square footage and you're just a chip shot away from the village. It really depends on how much you want to use it."

The suites of the Westin Trillium House, three-quarters of which have been sold, include hotel-style perks.

A "heavenly" bed and bath and furniture amenities, as well as two-hour room service, a full restaurant and bar run by Oliver Bonacini and 10,000 square feet of conference space, are part of the package.

The newest project in the works is Mosaic.

"It's a trendy boutique hotel… where you can purchase a suite ranging from a bachelor up to a three bedroom," Lafave says.

"We've added a lot of creature comforts on site, like a spa and a spectacular pool with a fountain lit up with halogen lights that runs 24 hours."

Lafave adds that owners reap the benefits of Intrawest's marketing arsenal.

"Intrawest delivers a huge marketing package, attracting people for golf, skiing and conferences," she says.

"It's a very unique combination to find in a rental property."

While the rental program is popular, Lafave says some customers may be more inclined to not participate, seeking their own custom-built properties.

"We've seen an evolution in custom-built homes for people who don't want the rental program," she says.

"Some of these people are semi-retired and they want to extend their weekends. They stay in Toronto a few days a week and then come up [for the remainder]."

To reach Intrawest at Blue Mountain phone 1-888-696-2583 or visit www.thevillageatblue.com.

Security systems offer homeowners peace of mind

By SHERI SHEFA
Special to The CJN

When buying a new home, rewiring it for a home entertainment system shouldn't be your only priority, says security expert Jack Shore.

Shore, the president of Keystone Security Systems Inc., has been serving industrial and residential security needs in and around the Greater Toronto Area for the last 25 years.

While he installs a lot of commercial systems, residential security is also an important part of his business, and he offers complete home systems, including surveillance, intercoms, a fire system monitor, lighting and more.

"If the alarm goes off, it's nice to know that someone will be on their way," he said.

"It's a way for people to have peace of mind. If there is a home broken into, while you are on vacation or out for the day, someone will be dispatched and someone will be sent to the house to fix any damages, like a broken window."

But his company does more than fix windows after a break-in.

Keystone Security Systems also protects your home from fires, and Shore believes his company has the edge when it comes to fire monitoring.

"If an alarm goes off, the fire station will also be notified to prevent your house from burning down."

In addition to an alarm system, Shore recommends that if you're buying a new house or renovating, you should also consider installing a surveillance system to scare off potential burglars.

"A lot of people are looking at putting cameras around the house to deter intruders," said Shore, whose company specializes in surveillance, both covert and visible.

But home security is an investment, Shore said, noting that depending on the size of your house, a good system can cost several thousand dollars.

Perhaps one of the most comforting features that his company provides is an option for his customers to watch over their houses even when they are halfway around the world.

Shore said that all his customers need is a computer to be able to access their home cameras from the Internet to check up on their houses.

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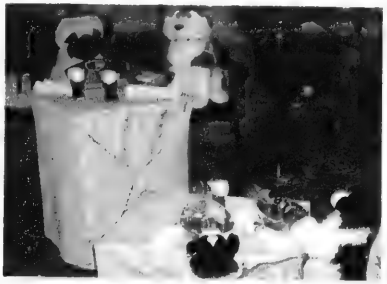

Baycrest Centre Foundation's 4th annual Tables of Distinction attracted more than 1,500 people to the two-day event at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto. Co-chaired by Joanne Nisker and Janice O'Bright, the event showcased Toronto media personalities, celebrities, designers, artists, retailers and renowned hostesses who team up to create 43 unique tabletop settings in their own individual style. On Monday, April 11, 270 guests attended a Benefactors Luncheon.

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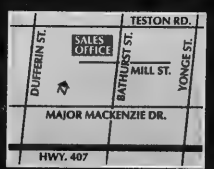

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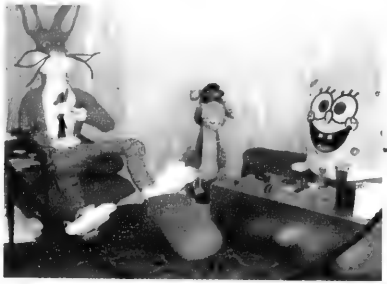

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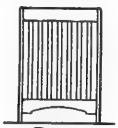

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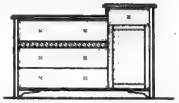

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Good **baby furniture** is a solid investment

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special the The CJN

As all parents know, those little bundles of joy require a lot of equipment. Babies can't sleep on the floor, their clothes are too tiny to hang up in the closet, and they don't walk around by themselves for a few years.

But luckily, expectant parents have nine months to stock up on the necessities of baby life.

Since babies need a place to sleep, a crib is often the first purchase that new parents consider. It can seem like cribs come in more shapes, sizes and colours than adult beds – and indeed, the showroom of Kiddiesworld of Furniture in Mississauga (905-624-9092 or 416-621-9483) has more than 85 cribs on display, according to owner Jerry White.

And since children often sleep in a crib for up to three years, it's important to get a good mattress, White says.

Cribs that convert into beds that babies can use when they're older are also becoming popular, says Catherine Scott, owner of Dearborn Baby Express in Thornhill (905-881-3334).

"The style is completely different from how cribs used to be," Scott says.

The head and foot of the crib become the headboard and end of the larger bed, and the bed can be lowered closer to the ground for easier toddler access.

The convertible cribs sell in the same price range as traditional cribs, but while parents will need to buy a larger mattress and rails to hold the bed together, the cost is still less than buying a new bed outright.

"A lot of parents like them, because they don't have to buy anything else until the child gets married," she says.

Another baby essential is a car seat – hospitals won't let you leave for home without one, and with good reason, says Scott.

Babies will need two car seats – one for the newborn stage, and a larger one for when the baby is around six to eight months old.

New models are essentially carrying baskets that look like little chairs, and they snap into a holder buckled into the car. Many can also snap right into a stroller, so when your baby falls asleep in the car, there's no need to risk waking her up by transferring her to a traditional stroller.

Speaking of strollers, there are many different options, depending on your personal tastes. Three-wheeled jogging strollers – the equivalent of stroller SUVs – are becoming more popular, says Scott, but despite the healthy image they convey, they offer no real difference in safety or ease of use.

Many strollers have features such as easy folding, snap-in car seats, and rain covers. Whichever model you buy, make sure you can open, fold and lift it by yourself.

Another trend is dressers that double as change tables, says Scott, who has noticed that few people are buying stand-alone change tables anymore. This item is popular with new parents, because it has a life beyond the diaper years. The body has several drawers for storage purposes, and the flat top curves at its ends to fit a contoured change pad, which is available at baby stores.

A glider is also a practical piece of furniture, especially if a mother is nursing, White says.

Unlike a rocking chair, which rocks, a glider glides – as the name suggests – in a back-to-front motion, and it often has thick padding to sit on. The chair may also come with an ottoman that's also on gliders, so the adult's whole body moves in one smooth motion.

Many manufacturers also offer items that can be added to existing furniture sets once baby gets older.

Desks, night tables, and double beds are often designed so parents can keep elements of a baby's room even after the baby years have passed, and nobody will know they were once part of a nursery.

"A lot of people are getting more practical and seeing the added use, because things are expensive," Scott says.

Many children's desks are made with space for a computer and a pull-out tray for a keyboard, and can be used until the child grows too big to fit his or her knees under them, White adds.

There are a number of styles for baby's furniture this year.

Designs are taking cues from art deco styles, with rubbed and rounded corners rather than sharp angles.

There is also tremendous variety when it comes to colours. "The big colour for a child now, believe it or not, is black," says White, adding that saffron and weathered white are also popular choices.

But if you plan to keep a set and use it as the child grows, consider buying a neutral colour that won't embarrass your child when he or she is a teenager. (My parents bought me a white bedroom set when I was in elementary school, and 15 years later, it still serves its purpose well, although the desk is a bit too small now.)

Both White and Scott note that, regardless of what you buy, children's furniture is an investment that will be used for years – one that can be passed down to siblings, relatives or friends.

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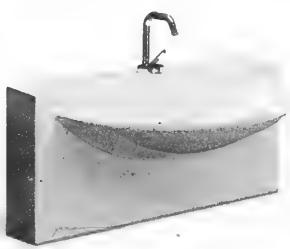

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First-time home buyers must do their homework

By SHERI SHEFA
Special to The CJN

While buying a home for the first time can be exciting, there are many factors that need to be taken into account to make an informed decision.

According to some first-time buyers, the three most important factors to consider are location, location and location.

Bryan Demsky, who recently got married and bought a home, recalls the decision-making process that he and his wife went through before choosing the house that was right for them.

He said they considered what they could afford, whether they wanted to buy a new house or a resale home, whether they would buy a detached or a townhouse, and whether they would buy in a Jewish area.

"Once we decided that we would purchase new, it was only between Thornhill Woods [a budding Jewish community at Bathurst Street and Highway 7] and the area we eventually chose, Bathurst and Elgin Mills [Road]," Demsky said.

"Thornhill Woods became way too unreasonable with respect to pricing, given what we were getting. Even our area was quite high if you compared it to other areas surrounding Toronto, but that's the price you pay for being fairly central and in a Jewish or an in-demand area," he added.

Danielle Markus and her husband, also first-time buyers, felt that living in central Toronto was more important to them than anything else.

"We didn't want to be in a remote area without easy access to public transportation, shops and grocery stores," she said.

[Cover photo by Edward Dunbar]

"When we found the home that we wanted to buy, we spoke to neighbours and researched the area. It was first about the house meeting our needs, over and above the location, but we got lucky. We were able to find a home in the Yonge [Street] and Sheppard [Avenue] area that had everything we were looking for," Markus added.

Most home buyers know that some times are better than others to buy, but in Demsky's case, he wanted to have a house waiting for him after his October wedding last year.

"Ideally, we wanted something to close immediately, but that wasn't an option. And by waiting the extra time, we were able to save a substantial amount of money each month," he said.

Markus also took the seasons into consideration.

"We thought that we might be able to find better prices and less bidding wars by buying in the winter," she said.

Despite being able to save a lot of money for a down payment, Demsky and his wife realized that they didn't have a lot of choices when it came to financing.

"[We opted for a] mortgage. No other options were considered. Ideally, we would have liked to pay in full with cash, but we didn't have that luxury."

The Markuses, on the other hand, decided on a non-traditional financial plan that worked better for them than a mortgage.

"We have a secured home equity line of credit combined with a checking account. We opted out of a traditional mortgage because the line of credit suited our particular needs better," Markus said.

Fact box: TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Know your agent. Make sure he or she is knowledgeable, experienced and loyal. Don't be afraid to interview two or three agents before deciding on one.
- Don't buy a house you can't afford. This seems like obvious advice, but if your monthly debts, including your mortgage, exceed more than 36 per cent of your income before taxes, you've gone overboard. You should always leave yourself enough money to live a full life – and to go on vacation once in a while.
- Pick the right mortgage, and don't be afraid to do all the necessary research to find the financial plan that's best for you.
- Get a pre-approval letter. This will let sellers see you as a serious buyer and will give you leverage when it comes to negotiating.
- Lock in your interest rate. This will protect you from an increase if rates go up while you're looking for your house.
- Don't let the seller know how much you love a house. They may feel they can hold out for the asking price.

(Sources: MSN.ca, Nancy Dunnan, a New York-based financial advisor)

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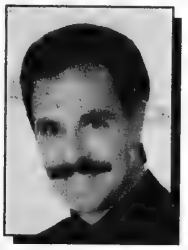

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Man and Mower – cut to the heart of personality

(NC)-It's no secret that you can tell a lot about a man by the car he drives.

Want proof? Picture the devoted family man and a sensible sedan or van comes to mind. Likewise, the style-conscience professional wouldn't be seen in anything but a high-performance sports car. And there's little doubt that the person tooling around in a hybrid electric vehicle feels strongly about the environment.

What's parked in the driveway also is a good indicator of what's stored in the garden shed, according to John DeFranco, The Home Depot Canada's buyer for outdoor power equipment.

"The same factors that influence the decision-making process when buying an automobile can be applied when selecting a new mower," said DeFranco. "When shopping for a new car, you compare the features, kick the tires and check under the hood, but in the end it's the one that best suits your personality that seals the deal."

DeFranco offers the following "personality profiles" to match man and machine.

Dream Machine

For those who dream of owning a Hummer and wouldn't drive anything but a 4-wheel-drive, John Deere tractors exceed even the toughest test. With plenty of power under the hood, cruise control, automatic transmission, a deluxe high-back seat and even a power port for plugging in a cell phone or CD player, these machines will keep the driver content for hours.

Cut to the Chase

The family man who prefers to drive a van or sedan wants a reliable mower that will complete the job quickly, since the yard is little more than a distraction from the busy rigors of home life.

"There's no question that this personality requires easy lawn maintenance," DeFranco said. He suggests an easy-starting, low-maintenance mower, designed for demanding residential mowing that leaving more time for a friendly chat with your neighbour.

The Manicurist

If the lure of European precision and high-performance sports cars fires you up, Toro mowers will take you where you want to go. This is the perfect mower for those who like exact cuts, precise edging and plenty of compliments from envious neighbours.

"There's no need to break a sweat with one of these mowers," said DeFranco. "The self-propelled system allows you to slow down or speed up effortlessly, something you'll appreciate on a hot day."

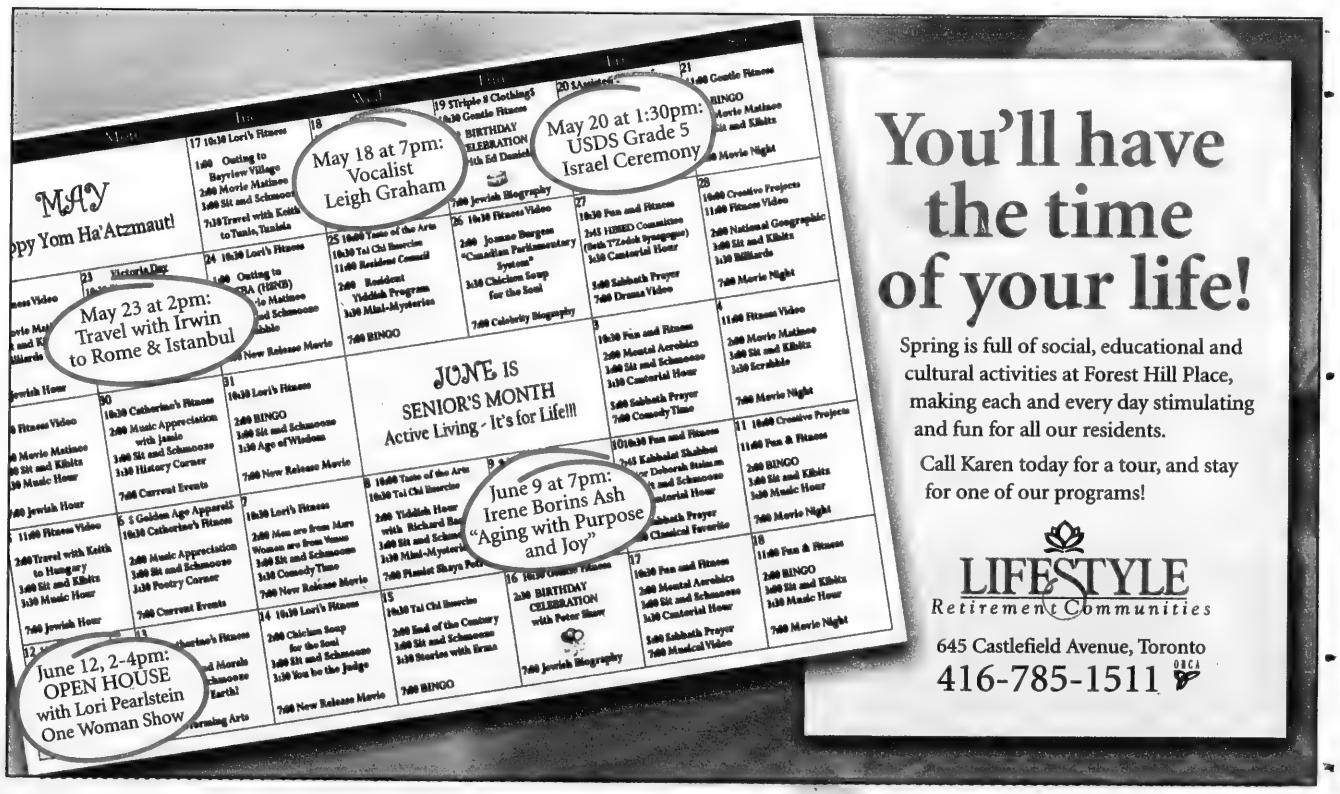
Mr. Down to Earth

For the sentimentalist or grounded environmentalist who sees green, a push reel or electric mower is the way to go. Neither type has an internal combustion engine. They are quieter and don't produce emissions like gas-powered mowers.

Battery-powered mowers are good for smaller yards and require little maintenance. Push reel mowers are simple machines with no power source, so you'll get a light cardiovascular workout while sprucing up your yard.

No matter what your personality type, DeFranco said, size up your landscaping needs before purchasing a new mower. Next, take a look in the driveway.

—News Canada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Room size important when buying furniture

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When it comes to shopping for home furniture, size is important.

"The very first advice I would give to people is to know the measurements of their living room, dining room, den, bedroom, etc.," says Mickey Zworth, president of 18th Century Furniture Galleries, which has been furnishing homes for more than a decade.

"Once we learn the sizes of the rooms, our staff will give free advice on how to furnish it."

Zworth notes that 18th Century staff have expertise in interior design and decoration and will go into a customer's home to develop tailor-made ideas for appropriate styles, colours and fittings.

"When we see the customers' homes and the actual rooms, we can come back to the store and advise them on exactly what they should get," says Zworth, a 50-year industry veteran.

Of course, advice is only valuable when the person providing it is well-informed. That's why it's important to shop at a store with staff who know their field.

"Somebody who is knowledgeable is the best candidate for good advice," says Joe Cabral, owner of Carrocel Restorations, a family business established 21 years ago.

Specializing in main floor furniture such as tables, chairs and classic accessory pieces, Carrocel sells, restores and builds furniture on site.

"We build custom tables... so when you're buying a table, you are getting selected grains, veneers and a proper finish," notes Cabral.

He encourages shoppers to buy from a store with a solid reputation.

"You have to be careful that you're buying from a reputable dealer who can provide service if there is a problem," he says.

To that end, Zworth says customer service is paramount. "We treat service the same as a sale," says Zworth, recalling an incident in which a customer's house guest damaged a couch and 18th Cenutry had it fixed, free of charge.

"It is so vital for a customer to be satisfied... because one satisfied customer means more customers for us."

Since furniture comes from all over the world, Cabral emphasizes the importance of buying pieces that are suited to our cold Canadian climate.

"One of the most important things people should get is furniture that is acclimatized for North America," Cabral says. "There is a lot of furniture that is from offshore... and once the furniture is here over the winter months when it is excessively dry [inside], the dryness is the worst thing for wood."

With respect to trends in style, Zworth sees a mixture between traditional and modern, which he terms transitional.

"People are looking for transitional furniture – half-modern, half-traditional – because they correlate," he says.

"If they have something in their home which is very personal, we work around the times... to coincide with the new furniture they are getting."

Cabral is unequivocally a traditional advocate. "One thing about traditional styles is that they are always in style," he says. "They are timeless."

18th Century Furniture Galleries is at 7855 Keele Street. To contact the store, phone 905-760-1518 or visit www.18thcenturyfurnituregalleries.com.

Carrocel Restorations is in Markham at 3225 Fourteenth Avenue. Dial 905-475-6942 or log onto www.carrocel.com.

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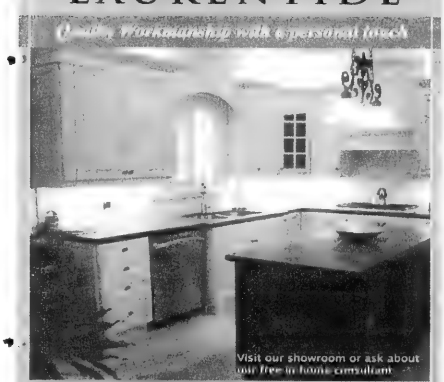
LAURENTIDE



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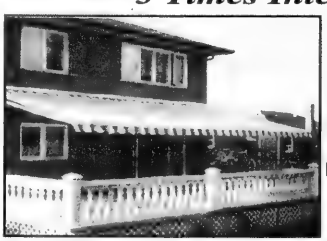

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Lotus Condo *unveils model suite*

Lotus Condo, a project of ShiuPong Developments Ltd. offers a new concept in urban living – a private, hotel-inspired spa service in a condominium for the exclusive use of residents and their guests.

Located on Scollard Street at Yonge Street and Davenport Road, Lotus is Toronto's only condo plus spa, offering the perfect balance of chic urban living in the heart of Yorkville.

Spa amenities include yoga studio, gym, massage and treatment rooms, nail bar and steam rooms – hotel-style services right in your own building.

Michael Wilson of International Home Marketing says, "Our customers are sophisticated young professionals and active empty nesters who love the Yorkville location and lifestyle.

"They have been drawn to the well-designed layouts, superb Yorkville location and the great value."

Suites range from boutique studios to one-bedroom, one-bedroom-plus-den and two bedroom suites, as well as a penthouse collection.

In designing a two-bedroom model suite, interior design consultancy Moca Design was enlisted to create a warm and seductive atmosphere.

The 1,247-square-foot model suite has a two-bedroom, two-bathroom layout with curved glass and a dramatic elliptical layout.

"The building profile is mixed with stylish 30somethings and sophisticated 50-plus, so we created a model suite that is both classic and contemporary and appeals to both age groups," says Moca's Naji Mourani.

Expansive views radiate from the elliptical open concept living/dining area. A palette of creams, chocolate and espresso are used throughout, with dashes of colour provided by accessories. The tonal scheme and textured sheers unite each room for a co-ordinated, seamless flow.

The living/dining area opens to a curved wall of glass ideal for taking in the views of downtown and Yorkville. The balcony can be accessed from the living area as well as from the master bedroom.

The kitchen has a granite counter bar that is perfect for entertaining or casual eating. The stainless steel appliances, which are standard, are sleek and appealing.

In the master suite, the large upholstered headboard, oversized espresso coloured side tables, writing desk, his and hers closets and sumptuous ensuite are evocative of a stylish boutique hotel.

A large window/slider offers easy access to the balcony. The ensuite vanity has a modern glass countertop with raised glass bowl, single lever faucet, stylish soaker tub and marble flooring – these items are standard features at Lotus.

The main bath is more than a typical powder room. A three-sided glass shower enclosure and designer sink add style and great functionality.

Flexibility and functionality continue in the second bedroom. "We designed it to be a multi-tasking room," says Sandra Colavecchia of Moca Designs.

"The built-in day bed means the space can easily be used as a den or second bedroom. And the built-in work station is ideal for a home office."

"The overall look is serene and very calming, the perfect oasis in the city."

With suites starting at $179,900, "it's the best value in Yorkville. It's a great building at a great price in a great location," Wilson says.

For more information, call 416-968-1717, visit www.lotuscondo.com, or drop by the sales centre and model suite at 8 Scollard St., at the corner of Yonge and Davenport.

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Turn your home into a **movie theatre**

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

From cinematic projector screens to dazzling neon lights, all the trappings of the movie theatre experience can now be comfortably provided to you in your home.

So to ensure you get the best bang for your buck when you seek out home entertainment products, the experts recommend doing some good old-fashioned research.

"Start out by doing some research on the Internet or in magazines," says Saul Keshen, president of Giant Screen Systems (416-784-4454 or www.giantscreensystems.com).

"Then it's best to actually take a look and listen to see what you will end up with."

The variety of products you can end up with seems to grow by the day.

Keshen, a 22-year industry veteran, says retractable projector screens are a particularly hot item.

"The best advancements in video quality have been made in that field," he says.

"The screen is retractable, so it doesn't take up too much space in a room... it's less expensive, has as good or better a picture than any other type... and if you want the home theatre experience, it's really close to what you would get by going out to the movie theatre."

While the screen is certainly central to the movie-like experience, there are many other amenities that meet this need.

"People are starting to put in theatre seating... neon lights, movie posters and even fake ticket booths," says Robert Campol, general manager of Synergy Home Systems (905-669-5005 or www.synergyhomesystems.com).

"It's become an event."

In addition to audiovisual entertainment, Synergy provides a gamut of home system services, including security, automated lighting and other touch panel controls that can do everything from turning on your furnace to operating motorized blinds.

Campol trumpets automated lighting as both an object of convenience and esthetics.

"I think the lighting control system is really the best thing I install these days," he says.

"The reason is that it does so much on an esthetic basis to make your home look more refined... making your furnishings and floor look their best all the time. And you don't have to run around turning on lights and lamps. You do it once, clock it into a preset and it's recalled immediately."

Because business is booming, customers have no shortage of choices, which can make selecting the right company a bit of a challenge.

That's why Campol and Keshen agree that reputation is important.

"Take a look at the experience and reputation of the dealer," advises Keshen.

"Look for someone who has what you need and the reputation to back it up."

Also, be sure that the store salesperson makes you aware of the sheer variety of products that are available.

"We educate our prospective clients on everything that is available [now] and new technologies that are around the corner, so they can make educated decisions as to what to put in their home now and to at least be prepared for the future," Keshen says.

To that end, Keshen emphasizes the need to have homes wired for the future, so that you'll be equipped for the newest technological innovations.

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Interior decorator helps give your home a unique touch

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special The CJN

With people paying more attention to their homes than ever before, interior decoration is once again emerging as a booming and exciting industry, one that uses the season's hottest trends in fabric, shape and design.

Want to know how to get in on this growing trend but don't know just how to do it? There are many interior decorators that will do the job, but Stephanie Benaiche of SB Interiors (905-883- 4796) promises to give your home a unique touch that will last for years.

Growing up as the daughter of an architect, Benaiche developed her love for design into a passion for interior decor. She graduated from the Academy of Design with a diploma in interior decorating and has been the face of SB Interiors for four years.

SB Interiors will decorate any room in your home from the bathroom to the dining room with equal panache. Benaiche offers a unique one-on-one service and gives a personal assessment of your individual needs and wants, whether the company is doing an entire home makeover or just a little freshening up.

She takes everything into account, including your existing furniture and your budget, to create a look that is just right for you.

"I know how expensive things can get, so it's really important to me to find things that are within the client's budget," Benaiche says.

To create a unique look for each renovation, she creates several storyboards with possible choices of colour, fabric and furniture to choose from.

Benaiche also likes to keep some older pieces to mix in with the new look. "I don't like to replace furniture just for the sake of it," she says. "If certain pieces have always worked for you, then why throw them out?"

Benaiche believes personal pieces add a special character to rooms, but while creating a personal look for her clients is important, Benaiche understands interior decorating trends as well. She cites bright colours, antiques and eclecticism as the hottest trends now. Using different pieces to complement each other, for example, often creates the most uniquely cohesive of looks.

"People are really putting a lot more thought into decorating these days," she says. "Clients love to borrow from different periods within one room."

Although she enjoys all aspects of interior décor, what Benaiche likes most is the interaction with her clients. "I like knowing that at the end of the day, my clients will come home and be happy."

And she loves to decorate bedrooms, children's rooms and rooms that will be used on a day-to-day basis.

In such a fast-paced industry as interior decorating, the services of SB Interiors are quite unique. Benaiche makes it a point to listen to all her clients to make sure they will be pleased with the results. "A lot of designers do their own thing, but what works for one person doesn't necessarily work for everyone else," she says.

The process of redoing your home can be daunting, and it seems all too simple to get caught up in the newest, hottest looks. Hiring an interior decorator can help you home in on what you want and make sure you get there.

"Your home is your sanctuary, and you have to be comfortable in it," Benaiche says.

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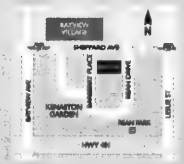

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Kitchens are about more than storage

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Imagine a kitchen without cabinets. Impossible? Absolutely. Without a well-planned system to organize your kitchen, there would be no way to find the items you need when you need them.

Aside from the most common types of cabinets – doors that swing out to reveal rows of shelves inside – there are many different ways you can utilize your space.

According to staff at the showroom for Kitchen and Bath by Laurentide (416-850-2830), other popular types of cabinets include lazy Susans – round, rotating shelves usually placed in corner cabinets – and drawers called pantry pullouts that allow for maximum reach in deep cabinets.

But kitchen cabinetry can also be a hallmark of style, not just a storage system.

The materials used to build the doors, as well as the staining and the colouring, can help your cabinets make a statement.

When customers visit owner Mike Tuk at the showroom, one of the first things he or his staff usually ask about is the type and style of cabinet doors a customer is interested in.

Doors come in a wide variety of materials and colours. In recent months, customers have been opting for a glazed look, which is achieved through the use of paints, light washes or teaking. But traditional styles are still common.

The bottom line: cabinets last a long time, so make sure you choose a style you can live with, and with functionality that suits your needs.

As for kitchen countertops, Tuk says Laurentide specializes in natural materials, primarily granite, marble, corian and slate.

Granite is a hard stone, and the likelihood of finding something harder is small. Marble comes in a wider variety of colours than granite, but it's also a softer than granite, and as a result, it's more prone to nicks and scratches. Slate and limestone, also softer materials, are more common in vanity counters.

The question of how hard a stone is isn't an academic argument or a holdover from high school geography class. The kitchen is home to a number of sharp objects – such as knives, forks and bottle openers – and all it takes is a carving knife landing on a counter, blade side down, to chip the stone.

Regardless of the type of stone you choose, it's important to get it sealed. Without a sealant, a spill – from ketchup to hair dye – could stain the stone.

'Doors come in a variety of materials and colours'

As for maintenance, Tuk says, "There are solutions for cabinets to keep them shiny and new," but wiping down cabinets and countertops with a damp washcloth will also do the trick.

Laurentide will also take measurements of your kitchen and recommend appliances to fit your space and budget.

Logart Inc. (905-709-2722) manufactures kitchen counters, cabinets and bathroom vanities. Before redoing a kitchen, Logart dispatches staff to take measurements of your kitchen. The company can also take care of the plumbing, tiling and flooring. Logart also has interior designers on staff.

What is the most important advice you give clients who are preparing to sell their home?

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A gym under your own roof

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Some days, when it seems like the heavens are plotting to keep you away from the gym (translation: it's snowing and you don't want brush off the car) or you're not in the mood to put up with gym rats (read: you don't want to share the TV), nothing can seem more appealing than a treadmill under your own roof.

It's possible! But building a home gym, whether it's one cardio machine or a room bursting with weights and other fancy equipment, requires dedication, maintenance and a financial investment.

The first thing you need to do is evaluate your fitness goals and fitness needs, says Daniel Minniti of Fitness Depot (416-243-8888), a company that sells, delivers and repairs fitness equipment. What is it you hope to achieve with a home gym? Do you want to train for the Boston Marathon from the treadmill in your basement, or do you just want a set of free weights to do some casual weightlifting? Once you're sure you know what you want and need, it will be easier to narrow down the choices until you find something that suits you.

Once you know what piece of equipment you want, be sure to test it. A reputable store should let you try out that elliptical trainer right on the showroom floor. Make sure the machine you're interested in is a comfortable fit for your body size. There aren't any machines specifically designed for men or women only, but the sizes do vary and it's essential that your machine isn't too big or too small.

If it's a bike, how comfortable is the seat? Does it make your bum go numb? Can you adjust the height of the seat? Are the pedals too stiff, or are the handlebars too far to reach easily? If it's a treadmill, make sure the handlebars are comfortable to hold, and they're not too tall or too short for you – you shouldn't be slouching. Does the treadmill have a good shock absorber? Will you slip while running? If you like to use the preprogrammed workouts, do you like the ones that the machine offers?

Also, keep in mind that it's going to cost you money, says Minniti. The cheapest option when it comes to a home gym is to invest in a bench and a set of barbells. But Minniti cautions that it might be difficult for other people to use your barbells if the weight doesn't suit them. And while it's possible to buy a treadmill or a stationary bicycle for dirt cheap, there's no guarantee that it will be a comfortable model that fits your body type, and poor-quality machines will not necessarily withstand rigorous use. Having a higher budget makes it more likely that you'll find an exercise machine that's durable, comfortable for you to use and adjustable to suit your needs.

The cheapest option when it comes to a home gym is to invest in a bench and a set of barbells'

Finally, says Minniti, if you're going to invest in a home gym, make sure it's something you're really going to use. The last thing anyone needs is another clothes hanger.

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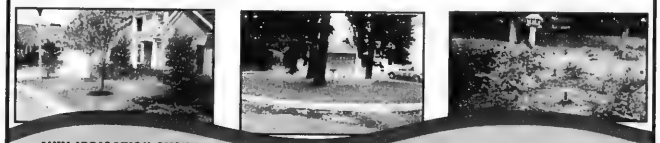

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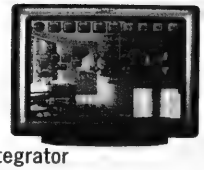

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Landscaping companies feature customized looks

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Whether it's patio stones, awnings or flower beds, landscaping products can beautify your home and even protect the environment in the process.

Experts say the trick to meeting your landscaping needs is to find a provider that offers services and products that are tailor-made to your preferences.

"We have experienced sales staff who can make recommendations… and find that fine line between what the customers request and the best product to suit the environment," says Hugh Kayler, general manger of Pike's Awnings.

"The product needs more than just a single aspect. For instance, it can add outdoor space and also have an aesthetic value."

In business since 1881, Pike's provides an array of products, including awnings, elaborate patio coverings, terrace tops and enclosures.

Kayler notes that Pike's suppliers and manufacturers typically offer five-year warranties, and he emphasizes that warranties are a reflection of a company's standard of quality.

"A warranty is only as good as the company," he says.

"Obviously, a well-established company… is going to be up front about their warranties."

It's no secret that price is high on the list of things to consider when making a purchase, so make sure you can afford what appeals to your eye.

"Most of [the buying process] is based on cost and look," says Tania Pacitto, assistant office manager at Beaver Valley Stone, which offers a host of natural stones, interlocking products and retaining walls.

"So you have to create a budget."

Once your budget is set, Pacitto suggests finding a company that puts customers first.

"We have great customer service," she says of the family business founded in 1989, which boasts a 10-acre outdoor showroom displaying natural stones from such exotic places as India and Brazil.

"[Sales staff] can help you make your decisions by listening to what you have to say and what you want."

Customer service is integral, particularly when there is a problem with the product.

"When a customer calls [for help], the contractor should be there the same day and solve the problem," says Adi Arbid of Aviv Irrigation Systems.

"If you call me and say I have a pipe that's burst… I will go to the customer right away. It's like 9-1-1."

Arbid honed his skills working on vast expanses of kibbutzim and moshavim in Israel.

He sells and installs such products as sprinklers and custom-designed flower beds.

The irrigation expert notes that modern innovations in landscaping are focused on environmental stewardship.

For instance, some sprinkler systems now offer a built-in rain sensor, which triggers the sprinkler to turn on based on whether rain has fallen, so as to conserve water.

Some other trends in landscaping include retractable awnings, natural interlocking stone and designs with a "customized" touch.

"If somebody's favourite colour is pink or purple, then we can make it pink or purple," says Kayler.

"We're doing things with fantastic fabrics and nice details… as people are realizing that the product can be very customized."

To contact Pike's Awnings, call, toll free, 800-268-3748 or visit www.pikesawnings.com.

Beaver Valley Stone can be reached at 905-886-5787 or 416-222-2424, or by visiting www.beavervalleystone.com.

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Getting rid of clutter can save time

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Professional organizers Marilyn Anthony and Susan Cohen have found many lost treasures.

Partners in the company ClutterCutters (416-516-4554), Anthony and Cohen have, in the course of their organizational work, found money, Israeli bonds, jewelry and sentimental objects that their clients had lost or misplaced amid the clutter of their homes and offices.

Cohen recalls helping a young client organize his office and discovering Israeli bonds that had matured. "We were going through old paperwork and files, opening up envelopes that had never been opened. My client had completely forgotten that he had bought the bonds. He was really quite thrilled," she says.

Susan Cohen and Marilyn Anthony

Meanwhile, Anthony was working upstairs reorganizing the kitchen with his wife. The couple had been married for about three years but had not yet opened their wedding gifts.

On that day, after unpacking some old boxes, she found silver jewelry belonging to the young woman's late mother. "It had been stored for years," says Anthony. "It was incredibly meaningful for her. They were small items, but they had tremendous sentimental value."

She says it is common for people to find things they don't realize they have as we tend to accumulate so much. "At every job, we have found something of value."

Anthony and Cohen, friends since high school, became partners in the professional organizing field three years ago.

Both women had left jobs in the arts. Anthony, a professional musician, had been the principal orchestral librarian for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Tel Aviv for 20 years. She returned to Toronto with her husband and two sons in 1998.

Cohen is a former director of arts programs at the Ontario Council for the Arts and a freelance broadcaster and arts events organizer, among other things.

The two friends wanted career changes that would give them freedom and independence and more flexibility, Anthony says, noting that professional organizing was a natural choice for them. "We realized we had these talents. We're both very organized. We wanted to do something completely different with these talents and we are loving it."

She explains that in their previous professional lives, she and Cohen had spent much of their time developing systems to keep their respective arts organizations running smoothly.

"When you're doing arts shows, you have to be organized and work within larger schedules," Cohen says. "You learn to project manage.

"We're teaching people how to break things down into smaller tasks and units, to set smaller goals and tasks to make things achievable."

People's homes are overloaded, she continues. "We live in a very materialistic society. People have huge amounts of everything.

"We're supposed to be living in a paperless society, but we have more paper than ever, more electronic gadgets than ever and if anything, we have more things than ever, which leads to more clutter and more stress."

People spend an hour a day looking for things, she contends. "We want to give people back that time. We go through their day to find out where the bottlenecks are around organization: is it related to having too much stuff, procrastination or a pack-rack mentality? Each person needs a solution."

With more people taking work home or working from home and setting up home offices, "people are working all over the place at home," says Anthony . "Everything is bleeding into everything else. People need to set up boundaries in terms of space."

CutterClutters specialize in residential, home office, collections, downsizing homes and staging homes for sale, she says. "Residential and home offices are our specialty.

"People can call or e-mail (www.wecutclutter.com) us for a consultation and we can advise them on how they can proceed or we can just come and start working.

"We like to do a consultation to see if there's a personality fit with the client and us, so that they'll feel comfortable working with us."

She stresses that when ClutterCutters take on a job, she and Cohen always work with the client. "We don't make decisions about what to discard. The clients have to make the decision. It can be quite stressful. We have leading questions to help them decide."

Their clients also get homework assignments between sessions. "We are very motivational. We're like personal trainers," adds Cohen. "We help people get organized and stay organized. We try to set up systems that the people can keep up themselves.

"We can have a maintenance program to give the clients some extra support, so they can keep up the changes. If you work so hard to set it up, you don't want to go back to the way things were. It takes six weeks to make these routines a habit."

She says people need to learn that everything has a place and they have to tackle small messes before they snowball. "The more it builds up, the more daunting it is."

The average session with CutterClutters lasts three to four hours. The company can tailor a program for every budget, adds Anthony. "We're very quick. We can do a small office in three hours. And the organizational systems are customized. Every system is different. There's no one size fits all. We make a system for the individual."

Both women say they find organizing people's lives and spaces very rewarding.

"You leave somebody who has called you in because they're in need, so much happier," says Anthony. "They feel so grateful when you finish, you feel like you're doing a mitzvah."

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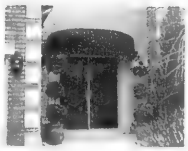

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Condominium
a gateway to trendy and affluent neighbourhoods

By SHERI SHEFA
Special to The CJN

Standing at the corner of St. Clair Avenue and Bathurst Street, the 22-storey Forest Hill Condominium is sure to be the next hot spot for those looking for a new home.

Jo-Anne Azzarello, the vice-president of marketing for the Goldman Group, a company known all over North America and Israel as a successful real estate development group, calls the Forest Hill "the gateway to the affluent Forest Hill neighbourhood, the trendy Wychwood Park community and a rapidly revitalizing St. Clair Avenue West.

"This is one of the more exciting projects we've worked on," she adds.

Azzarello says that what makes this building so special for the community is that even if you have to move to another residence, you can do so without having to leave Forest Hill, for a reasonable price.

For those who need to commute, the Forest Hill is steps away from TTC bus stops, the subway line and streetcars.

"It offers a ton of flexibility in terms of location – you don't have to rely on two or three vehicles," Azzarello says.

If the hustle and bustle of city life is too overwhelming, there are several parks in the area to offset the busy streets, including Winston Churchill Park and Cedarvale Ravine.

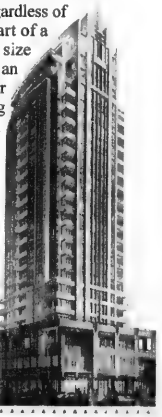
The location is ideal for observant Jews who need to be within walking distance of a synagogue. Bathurst is known as a haven for shuls.

The condominium is conveniently surrounded by eight schools, including Forest Hill Collegiate and Hillcrest Public school, which is a plus for a young family.

But convenience was not the only concern when the Goldman Group made plans to erect this condominium. The Goldman Group has a reputation for constructing trendy buildings and the Forest Hill is no exception. The effort to make this building stylish is apparent. The interior of the building has an art deco influence, which complements the combination of tinted glazing and brick on the outside. The style was intentionally adopted from the Yorkville urban design guidelines.

Those who think a building's décor should come second to the condo's amenities will be impressed by the state-of-the-art security, the fitness centre, a Miami-style outdoor patio with an all-season whirlpool, a sauna, a guest suite for extended-stay visitors, a billiard room, a library – and even a movie theatre.

As for the suites themselves, the Forest Hill offers suites to suit the needs of everyone regardless of whether the buyer is a bachelor or part of a growing family. The condos range in size from a one-bedroom suite to ones with an eat-in kitchen, an over-sized master bedroom, open concept living and dining room areas and multiple balconies with unobstructed views of the city.



"The views make this a special building. In the fall when the leaves are changing, the view is quite spectacular," she said.

The price of a suite at the Forest Hill starts at about $200,000 and construction of the condominium is slated to be completed in 2007. The sales centre, at 396 Spadina Rd., north of St. Clair, is now open and private appointments are available. For more information, call 416-868-0500 or visit www.foresthill.com.

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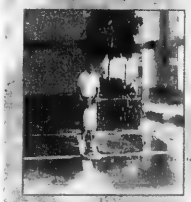
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This Week

National

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More than 100 family members and friends to celebrate Naomi Bogomolny's centenary. *Page 19*

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Paul Peregal evokes post-modern expressionism. *Page 39*

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A resident of Neve Dekalim and an Israeli soldier examine an unexploded rocket launched by Hamas, one of some 70 mortars fired at Jews in Gaza last week. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

IDF thwarts Gaza attack

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel Defence Forces troops thwarted a multi-pronged Palestinian attack on the Gaza Strip settlement of Kfar Darom before dawn last Friday, killing one of the militants in an exchange of fire.

The attempted attack is the latest episode in a recent escalation of Palestinian shelling in the Gaza Strip. There were no Israeli casualties, although the IDF said the attack was intended to cause many deaths. Military officials said they suspect the attack had been planned for a long time.

Last Friday afternoon, dozens of Kfar Darom residents began marching toward the neighbouring village of Dir al-Balah, where the attack originated, to protest the shelling. The protesters were heading toward the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) building, where they said the militants had been hiding.

Hamas renews violence

But IDF troops intercepted the settlers a short distance from the entrance to the settlement, halting the march. The settlers dispersed after they were promised a meeting with the division commander to discuss the security of settlement. Hamas said it carried out the attack in co-operation with the Fatah-linked Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and the Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella group of armed factions.

In the last two years, multiple Palestinian groups have co-ordinated several other multi-pronged attacks in Gaza, mainly at the Erez and Karni crossings.

Gaza brigade commander Col. Moti Kidor said Palestinian police officers spotted the militants but did nothing to prevent them from opening fire on Kfar Darom, Israel Radio reported.

Three Palestinians infiltrated an abandoned building near Kfar Darom and fired mortar shells and six anti-tank missiles at the settlement.

Continued on page 29

Canada's efforts on Nazis get poor grade

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canada's efforts to bring Nazi war criminals to justice have slowed to a crawl while around the world new investigations have grown by leaps and bounds, according to a report prepared by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem.

In a letter-grade handed out to mark countries' Nazi-hunting efforts, Canada's mark for the period April 1, 2004, to March 31, 2005, fell to C from B in the year before.

"No serious progress appears to have been made," stated Efraim Zuroff, director of the centre's Israel office and co-ordinator of its research on Nazi war criminals worldwide.

"There were no new cases and no deportation of people ordered out. [War crimes prosecutions] seem to be in deep trouble," Zuroff said.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's fifth annual *Status Report on the Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals* granted the highest grade, an A, to the United States and singled out Ukraine "as the country which has done the least in recent years to bring Nazis to justice."

Denmark and Hungary each received a B, while Canada joined Australia, Poland, Latvia and Germany, among others, with a C.

Continued on page 5

CJN *reporter tells Ethiopian tale*

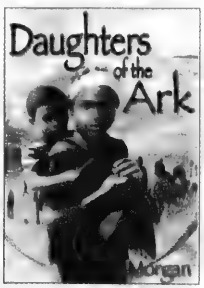
By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Anna Morgan is passionate about things. She is passionate about her responsibilities as a journalist for *The Canadian Jewish News*, about the necessity for excellence in educational philosophies and techniques, about her family. Most recently, she has become fascinated by Africa, particularly the story of Ethiopian Jews.

She is so fascinated, in fact, that she has recently published *Daughters of the Ark*, a book for children age 10 and over published by Second Story Press. It was scheduled to be officially launched at a reception at Holy Blossom Temple on May 25, at 7 p.m.

Daughters of the Ark tells the story of Debritu, a 14-year-old Ethiopian Jewish girl who, together with her two younger brothers, makes her way across miles of hostile and dangerous country before finally arriving in Israel in 1984, during Operation Moses.

Continued on page 36



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Ex-Toronto rabbi attends conference in Iran— see page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Police Lauded on Hate

CALGARY— The Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center cited the Calgary Police Service (CPS) last week for fighting Internet hate. Leo Adler, Friends' director of national affairs, honoured Sgt. Frank Foley of the CPS diversity resources unit and Const. Kathy Macdonald of its crime prevention unit. Adler was in town to publicize the centre's new CD-ROM report on terror and hate-related websites.

WORLD

Jews are Old: Report

JERUSALEM — According to data released last week by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem, a study found that 16 per cent of Jews in Israel and the Diaspora are over 65, more than twice the average proportion of elderly worldwide. One of the study's editors cited as possible reasons the tendency of younger Jews to assimilate or have fewer children, as well as the relative affluence of Jews in much of the world, meaning that more survive to old age.

Cemetery Desecrated

MOSCOW— Moscow's main Jewish cemetery was vandalized May 14. Vandals damaged 15 tombstones and left anti-Semitic graffiti on two graves in the Vostryakovskoe Jewish cemetery in a Moscow suburb, police said. Prosecutors are treating the incident as a hate crime. Meanwhile, on May 15, Chabad held a ceremony in a Jewish cemetery in Malachovka, near Moscow, for books damaged in a May 10 fire that destroyed a historic wooden shul. Arson is suspected.

Ombuds for NPR

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) last month appointed two ombuds, one liberal and one conservative, to monitor National Public Radio's Mideast coverage, after receiving complaints from Republican Jewish activist Cheryl Halpern and Democratic congressman Brad Sherman, the *New York Times* reported. The CPB allocates federal funds for public radio and TV. Some Jewish activists have called NPR's Mideast coverage biased since the intifadah began in 2000.

$7.3M Bar Mitzvah

MONTE CARLO — Anglo-Jewish retail tycoon Philip Green hired chart-topping band Destiny's Child to play at his son Brandon's bar mitzvah party on the French Riviera. Green held the three-day-long event at France's posh Grand Hotel du Cap-Ferrat earlier this month. Green lives in nearby Monaco, but chartered a plane to bring 300 guests to the party, said to have cost $7.3 million (US). Green, 53, spent some $9 million on his 50th birthday party, where Tom Jones and Rod Stewart performed.

Envoy Meets Pollard

WASHINGTON— Israel's ambassador to Washington met with Jonathan Pollard last week, a first. Daniel Ayalon visited Pollard May 17 at the North Carolina prison where he is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel. Pollard, who was granted Israeli citizenship in 1995, has demanded such a visit for years, saying the United States otherwise would not take his release requests seriously. Ayalon said he conveyed "a message of strength and support" and Israel's support for his release on humanitarian grounds. *Ha'aretz* reported that Pollard, an ex-U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, was unhappy, feeling the meeting lacked substance.

New Pope off to Shul?

VATICAN CITY— Pope Benedict XVI has told Israel's ambassador to the Vatican that he will visit the main synagogue in Cologne, Germany, in August, becoming only the second pope in history, after predecessor John Paul II, to visit a shul. Oded Ben-Hur said the Pope told him of his intention after an audience with the Vatican diplomatic corps earlier this month. Pope John Paul II visited Rome's synagogue in 1986. The new pope said he intends to continue John Paul's work on improving Catholic-Jewish relations.

Businessman Gives School Record Donation

REGINA — Kenneth Levene, a former Regina businessman who now lives in Calgary, gave a record $4 million to the University of Regina last week.

Kenneth Levene

The gift, the school's largest ever from one person, will go to the graduate business school, now called the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business.

Levene dedicated his gift to his parents David and Margery. Members of the Levene family, who were active in Regina's Jewish community and Beth Jacob Synagogue, ran Crescent Furniture for 55 years until it closed in 1984. Founded in 1929 by Levene's Russian-born grandfather, the firm also had stores in Swift Current and Moose Jaw, Sask.

"This gift serves to express my thanks to this city and province for affording our family the chance to pursue our dreams in a land of freedom and opportunity," Levene said.

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Power couple launches fight against anti-Semitism

By CARA EDELL
Special to The CJN

Late-night television news is a precursor to slumber for many viewers, but one night last spring, it was more of a wake-up call for Elizabeth Comper.

After a crowd of 2,500 gathered at Leah Posluns Theatre to condemn the rash of hate crimes plaguing Toronto at the time, Comper – the wife of Tony Comper, president and CEO of BMO Financial Group – watched news coverage of the rally in the privacy of her home.

Coalition of non-Jewish business leaders creates FAST

"I couldn't be there that evening, and after that I had to do something," she said.

Noting that 2004 was the worst year in more than half a century for anti-Jewish activity in Canada – according to B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, there were 857 reported incidents of harassment, violence and vandalism last year alone – Elizabeth Comper said she and her husband resolved take action.

Now in its launching stage, Fighting Anti-Semitism Together (FAST) is a coalition of non-Jewish Canadian business executives who "are encouraging other non-Jewish leaders to stand up and be counted against the oldest hatred in human history," said Paul Deegan, head of government and public relations for BMO Financial Group.

Elizabeth and Tony Comper

So far, about 20 chief executives have signed on to fund FAST. Many of its supporters are household names, Deegan said, including Peter Godsoe, former chairman of the Bank of Nova Scotia; Rick Waugh, president and CEO of Bank of Nova Scotia; and Dominic D'Allessandro, CEO of Manulife Financial Corp.

"They believe it is time to speak out, challenge others to speak out and get more people to join the cause," Deegan said.

"We're sending out the message that the Jewish people are not alone," Tony Comper said. "We have a prestigious group associated with the project, an impressive roster. And we hope it will broaden over time."

To promote FAST, he will address the Empire Club of Canada on June 16.

With money collected from corporate donors and in conjunction with Canadian Jewish Congress, the Compers will launch an educational project this fall targeted at public schools that aims to educate both Jewish and non-Jewish students about eradicating anti-Semitism.

Elizabeth Comper said a DVD is currently being filmed and will be used in classrooms to prompt discussion and foster awareness. *Canadian Idol* host Ben Mulroney will introduce the four-part video series.

"Something like [FAST] has never been done before in any place that we know of," she said. "This isn't just a Jewish issue. This is an issue of every single person living in Canada. If we can change or move one child, then it's all worth it."

To date, the Compers have raised more than $200,000 for FAST and they plan to promote their initiative across the country.

BLINDNESS IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD ... IT'S NOT EASY BUT I HAVE NO OPTION

On Sunday, Aug. 4, 2002, Eyal Neufeld's life changed forever. The 19-year-old soldier was returning to his military unit after visiting his family in Carmiel. On the bus, Eyal remembers noticing a man wearing a yellow T-shirt and whispering to two passengers, who then both left the bus at the next stop. Seven metres from Eyal's destination, that same man started screaming, grabbed the soldier sitting next to him and blew himself up.

Eyal reached the hospital in critical condition. He was unconscious for two months and woke up blind and deaf.

"Those days ... I would wake up to silence and darkness. I believed it to be another nightmare and went back to sleep."

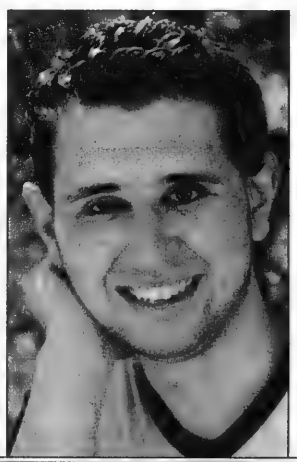
"I talked but could not hear the replies, I sang not even knowing to whom I was singing. I did not know what the time was, who touched me and who brought me water to drink. I had no idea what had happened or the extent of my injuries – there was no way to communicate."

Crying for days, "why me," Eyal realized that he had to continue on with his life.

After 2 months of operations, a hearing device was implanted in one of his ears, and Eyal was able to hear again. A year after his injury, Eyal moved to a house in Afeka, to live near Beit Halochem, Tel Aviv.

Everyday Eyal goes to Beit Halochem, where he plays Goal Ball (soccer for the blind); he works out in the well-equipped fitness room and afterwards socializes with other disabled friends and family.

"I am so grateful to have a place that I can go to and where I fit in. Beit Halochem has helped me cope with my disability and made me realize that life does continue."



Eyal Neufeld was 19 years old when he was blinded in a terrorist attack on a bus in 2002.

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Foiglman soars

Foiglman, by Israeli author Aharon Megged (The Toby Press), is one of the best books I have read in a long time. Narrated in melancholy reminiscence by a professor of Jewish history, the story that unfolds is an insightful, painfully poignant tale of complex human relationships and moving personal struggle.

The key relationship in the story is that of history professor Zvi Arbel and Yiddish poet Shmuel Foiglman. Megged artfully describes the curious friendship between these two men – outwardly different in virtually every respect – and the invisible lines that spin out of it in which other individuals, in particular Arbel's wife, Nora, become entangled.

From the editor's desk

Arbel, born in Israel, is a chronicler of eastern European Jewish history. In contradistinction to his father, a renowned archeologist who spent a lifetime uncovering the secrets of the civilizations buried underneath Israeli soil, Arbel toils to uncover and record the lachrymose Jewish experience underneath European soil, as it were. In fact it is one of Arbel's published works, *The Great Betrayal*, an examination of the 17th-century Chmielnicki pogroms, which attracts the attention of Shmuel Foiglman.

Foiglman, a Holocaust survivor from Poland who lives in Paris, is so taken by Arbel's book, he sends the Israeli a book of Yiddish poems with a personal note of inscription of thanks to the history professor. The unexpected, though as it turns out decidedly not serendipitous, arrival of the book in the professor's mail sets in motion a train of events that transports the reader through the innermost conflicts of the human heart, revelatory meditations upon Jewish history and scholarly discussions of the interplay between language and culture.

Foiglman the poet follows the trajectory of his book of Yiddish poems and also arrives at Arbel's home. Vulnerable, dependent and scarred by his experiences in the war, he is the literary instrument by and through which Megged brilliantly depicts the tensions between Israeli and Diaspora life, between Hebrew and Yiddish, between empathy and indifference and between compassion and cruelty.

Arbel helps Foiglman get his poetry translated into Hebrew and published in Israel. It is a dream come true for Foiglman, but the awakening is not the resolution either Foiglman or Arbel could have wanted or anticipated. And yet, through his efforts on behalf of the Yiddish-speaking poet from Paris, the Israeli reaches deeper understandings about his own work and about the people whose tearful past it has been his professional role to chronicle and whom Foiglman embodies so entirely.

Megged is a profusely talented writer. His novels, short stories, children's stories, plays and novellas have won him wide acclaim in Israel and abroad. His works have been translated into Spanish, French, Romanian, Russian, Italian and German. And it is no wonder. He is extremely adept at characterization. He gives his readers full, sometimes sorrowful, but always illuminating access into the narrow chambers of the troubled minds and wounded hearts of the people in his stories. We can relate to those people because we can recognize them in our own experiences. They are archetypes to be sure, but they are also specific individuals whose emotions are our own.

The Toby Press published Marganit Weinberger-Rotman's English translation of *Foiglman* in February 2003, some 15 years after its first appearance in Hebrew. That same year, Megged received the prestigious Israel Prize for his many contributions over the decades, through his writing, to the development of Israeli culture and society. Toby Press is planning to release *The Living on the Dead* by Megged this October in paperback. He deserves as wide a readership in the Diaspora as he has in Israel.

* * *

The Toby Press, a five-year-old Jerusalem-based publishing house, is endeavouring to acquaint the English-speaking world with many of the gems of modern Hebrew literature.

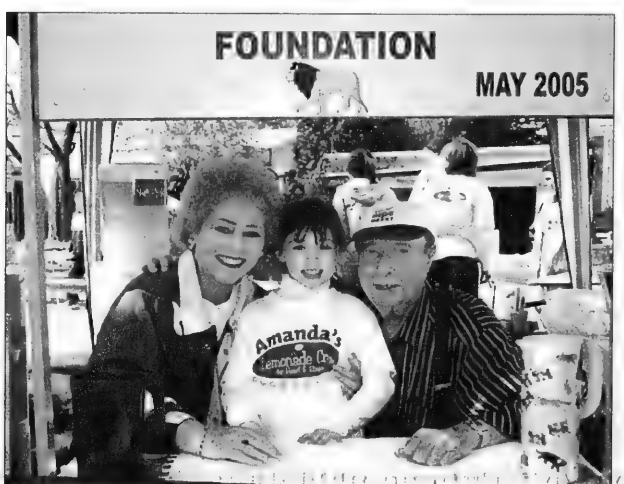
It has introduced *The Toby Hebrew Classics* to bring to reading life out-of-print works by authors such as Haim Nachman Bialik and M.Y. Berdichevsky, to name just two. The Classics will complement already published works by authors such as Haim Sabato, Amos Oz, Naomi Ragen and Haim Lapid. The translation of Israeli literature is in addition to The Toby Press' ambitious program of finding new authors from around the world and re-setting and printing many of the classics of the Western canon.

The Toby Press is slowly building a bridge across two Jewish worlds, the dynamic, richly diverse realm of Israeli literature and the voracious reading public, mostly unaware of the new and old authors in Israel, that is Diaspora Jewry.

The press is to be commended for its effort. We are the beneficiaries.

— MBD

SeeJN



LOTS OF LEMONADE:
Amanda Belzowski – pictured with her grandparents Lou and Betsy Fruitman – and her family raised $5,170 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario from their annual lemonade stand on May 15. At similar events over the past six years, Amanda, 7, sold enough lemonade to contribute almost $14,000 to the foundation, and this year's event brings her total to almost $20,000.00. The foundation's 18th Annual Becel Heart and Stroke Ride for Heart starts Sunday, June 5, at 8 a.m. Visit www.heartandstroke.ca/ride forheart or call 416-486-RIDE for more information.

Canada's efforts on Nazis get poor grade

Continued from page 1

Overall, the report found "the number of new investigations initiated [in at least 11 countries] during the past 12 months reached the figure of 659 [an increase of 97 per cent over the previous year] and the number of cases currently under investigation [in 15 countries] reached at least 1,218 [an increase of almost 30 per cent over the figure for the period from April 1, 2003-March 31, 2004]."

The report found that during the period under review, legal proceedings were initiated against six Nazi war criminals in four countries – three in the United States, one in Hungary, one in Denmark and one in Lithuania. In the same period, five convictions were obtained, all in the United States.

"Most of those convicted served as armed guards in concentration and death camps in Poland and Germany," the report stated.

"From Jan. 1, 2001, until March 31, 2005, a total of 32 convictions of Nazi war criminals were obtained all over the world. Of these convictions, 23 were in the United States."

In that period, Canada registered successful legal actions against only three suspects, the report continued.

Zuroff said the lack of new prosecutions in Canada is troubling. Despite the addition of Irwin Cotler – a longstanding advocate for strong measures against war criminals – to the cabinet as justice minister, "there is no political will in Canada," Zuroff said.

"I believe that Canada has basically given up. They seem to be going through the motions and it doesn't seem to be getting anywhere… There is an increasing feeling that the government is totally oblivious, apathetic on this issue."

Efraim Zuroff

Hungary earned a B for issuing an international arrest warrant seeking the extradition from Australia of Karoly (Charles) Zentai, who is alleged to have participated in manhunts, persecution and murder of the Jews of Budapest in 1944.

Zentai was discovered as part of Operation: Last Chance, a program initiated by the centre, which offered cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of war criminals.

Operation: Last Chance also uncovered Milivoj Asner residing in Klagenfurt, Austria. Asner served as chief of police in Slavonska Pozega, Croatia, throughout World War II and allegedly played an active role in the persecution and deportation to death of hundreds of Jews, Gypsies and Serbs.

Ukraine, meanwhile, "hasn't done a thing. They don't want to do a thing," Zuroff said.

As in the Baltic states, many Ukrainians consider those who collaborated with the Nazis anti-Communist heroes, he noted.

PROUD LEARNERS: Grade 3 students from Beit Rayim Hebrew School show off their first siddurim at Beit Rayim's May 15 Siddur Ceremony, while Neil Silverberg, inset, a Grade 5 student at the school, displays his project for Beit Rayim's Israeli Fair.

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10:30 PM **Genesis:** Rabbi Tina Grimberg, Darchei Noam

11:30 PM **Haftarah Highlights:** Rabbi Yossi Sapirman, Beth Torah

12:30 AM **Exodus:** Professor Sara Horowitz, Associate Director, Centre for Jewish Studies, York University and Professor Jonathan Richler, First Narayever Congregation

1:30 AM **Dessert Buffet**

2:00 AM **Leviticus:** Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Kolel

3:00 AM **Numbers:** Rabbi Ed Elkin, First Narayever Congregation

4:00 AM **Deuteronomy:** Dr. Seymour Epstein, Executive Director, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. Beth Haminyan

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Greater Toronto Area

Temple Har Zion's founding rabbi set to retire

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Michael Stroh had no intention of becoming a congregational rabbi when he entered Hebrew Union College (HUC) in New York, but a mandatory stint at a congregation sparked a desire to change course.

Originally, he said in an interview earlier this month in his study at Temple Har Zion in Thornhill, he just wanted to pursue Jewish studies and become a professor. But at the time, he said, there were few Jewish studies options at secular universities below the graduate level.

At the end of June, Rabbi Stroh will retire after more than 30 years as rabbi of Har Zion. He is being honoured at a series of temple events in June.

The rabbi, a native of Queens, New York, first came to Toronto in 1966 to serve as assistant rabbi, and later associate rabbi, of Holy Blossom Temple.

He credits Rabbi Gunther Plaut – whose scholarly reputation was a large part of the attraction of the Holy Blossom position – for showing him that scholarship could be a significant part of a congregational rabbi's life, and also for influencing his attitudes towards Zionism and Israel in positive ways.

Rabbi Stroh, 66, has seen Har Zion grow from eight families when he took on the new position in 1971 to more than 600, although he said congregants still see it as a "small, heimish, family synagogue. That's the atmosphere we want to have."

The temple is known for its good relationship with its longtime Muslim neighbour, the Ja'affari Islamic Centre, a subject that Rabbi Stroh and the centre's imam, Mohammed Rizvi, have been interviewed about together. The two buildings share a parking lot and have had joint programming. Last year, they raised money together for Montreal's United Talmud Torahs' elementary school, after library there was firebombed, and for the Al Mahdi Islamic Centre in Pickering, which was also the target of hate-related arson.

Rabbi Michael Stroh

Over the years, Rabbi Stroh has also seen changes in the Reform movement, most notably in its return to tradition and its pioneering role in ordaining women as rabbis. "When I first entered the rabbinate, I didn't even think in terms of female rabbis," he said.

Regarding the greater Jewish community in Toronto, he said he is saddened by the decreased amount of co-operation he sees between Orthodox and non-Orthodox rabbis.

"Reform and Conservative get along swell," he said. "We have differences of opinion, but we co-operate with each other."

But local Orthodox congregational rabbis do not join the Toronto Board of Rabbis (TBR), an organization of which Rabbi Stroh is a past president. He believes that in many cities, that is not the case, or that it wasn't the case in the late 1990s, when he found that many of his counterparts at a meeting of presidents of boards of rabbis were, in fact, Orthodox.

"I think it's a pity," he said. "It would be wonderful for the community if we could co-operate, and wonderful for the rabbis if we could talk to each other." Before he arrived in Toronto, he noted, the TBR's predecessor, the Toronto Rabbinical Fellowship, was founded by Rabbi Plaut, along with rabbis Stuart Rosenberg and Walter Wurzburger, representing the Conservative and Orthodox streams respectively. "That couldn't happen now."

Rabbi Stroh is also a past president of ARZA Canada (the Canadian Association of Reform Zionists), among his other involvements.

Throughout his career, his academic bent has been a constant thread, both at Har Zion and elsewhere. A past instructor in Jewish theology at the University of Waterloo, he has also taught at the University of Toronto's University of St. Michael's College and at HUC.

At the synagogue, he's had "wonderful teaching experiences, and I have been able to establish a growing group of people who are interested in studying on a very sophisticated level."

His rabbinate has been "wonderfully Jewishly satisfying," he said. "I don't regret for one moment that this is what I did."

Following his retirement, he will serve as part-time executive director of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and will also continue teaching at Kolel, the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning and Holy Blossom. Rabbi Michal Shekel, the temple's associate rabbi, will serve as interim rabbi.

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Abbas courting his own downfall

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas was scheduled to visit Washington this week. The diplomatic gesture on the part of the Bush administration is significant, because it gives Abbas a deference and overt respect that Washington never gave to his predecessor, Yasser Arafat. It is no coincidence that Abbas' visit precedes the elections for a new Palestinian legislative assembly slated for mid-July. The U.S. administration wants to boost Abbas' stature in the eyes of his people, and a highly publicized stroll through the verdant grounds of the White House alongside the president of the United States could be a good way to do so.

The Israeli leadership also wants to extend a supportive hand to Abbas if it will help him stave off the Hamas military, and now political, apparatus nipping at his heels. That's why, despite the fact that Palestinians fired some 14 mortars at the Gush Katif communities last Thursday, as well as four Qassam rockets at Sderot and anti-tank missiles at Israeli troops in Gaza, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, with the blessing of the army, approved a series of gestures to the Palestinians aimed at strengthening the PA leader against his rival Hamas.

Meanwhile, the *Jerusalem Post* reported last week that Palestinian Authority security officials told the paper that "a new Muslim terrorist group linked to Al Qaeda has started operating in the Gaza Strip."

The group, called Jundallah, or "Allah's Brigades," consists mostly of scores of former Hamas and Islamic Jihad members, the officials disclosed, who are opposed to Hamas' "pragmatic" approach to dealing with Israel. Jundallah is a radical Muslim faction with close ties to Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, said one PA official.

Abu Abdallah al-Khattab, a spokesperson for Jundallah in the Gaza Strip, said his organization would not honour the unofficial truce with Israel. "We don't attach any importance to this truce, because the occupation forces are continuing their crimes against our people," he added.

Also last week, Sharon's advisor Dov Weissglas met with Palestinian minister Saeb Erekat and called for an immediate halt to shelling attacks by Palestinian militants. Weissglas warned Erekat that if the Palestinians continue shelling Israeli targets in and around the Gaza Strip, the Israel Defence Forces will respond harshly.

A harsh response by Israel is precisely what Hamas and their fellow terrorists want, since violence directed against the Palestinians, they know, would sow more seeds of disenchantment against the PA establishment and diminish Abbas in the eyes of his constituents.

It is an old script, but the forces opposed to peace play it well.

In Washington, Abbas will surely complain about the Israelis for their alleged sins of omission and commission, and hope that the beautiful Rose Garden photos are beamed back to television sets in Ramallah. But if he fails to take steps against the radical terrorist elements within his own society, he will only have himself to blame when, inevitably, they train their guns on him, even if, or especially if, he defeats them at the ballot box.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

The Jewish graveyard called Poland

My 16-year-old daughter was in Poland as a participant on the 2005 March of the Living. Although intellectually I feel fulfilled that I have provided my child with a life-altering experience, I am grieving for her loss of innocence. She has travelled through the Jewish graveyard called Poland and the impact has undoubtedly been profound.

It is a bitter irony that Poland is now benefiting economically from this annual tourism pilgrimage after turning its back on the wholesale slaughter of its Jewish community.

Eric Gralnick
Cote St Luc, Que.

* * *

Unfairness to Poles

It is widely known that the history of World War II, and particularly the role of Poles, has been misinterpreted ("From Poland to Israel: revelling in nationhood," *CJN*, May 19).

Please be informed that Poles were the first people to risk their lives to bring photos and information about the extermination of Jews and about Auschwitz to the U.S. and British governments. Nobody wanted to listen to them.

I do not understand why so many unfair words have been written about the treatment of Jews by Poles, who feel the truest and deepest compassion for Jews, who among European and world nations keep the greatest remembrance of World War II tragedy, and who shared the pain and tragedy dying side by side with Jews.

Adam Rydz
Warsaw

* * *

Not in My Name (1)

Hashomer Hatzair and its summer camp, Camp Shomria, are Zionist, plain and simple. The parts about the camp in the film *Not in My Name*, noted in "A blunt message about the anti-Israel Jewish left" (*CJN*, April 14), provide an incomplete picture of a comprehensive educational program. While some of the Camp Shomria footage may cause discomfort, the suggestion that this might make Hashomer Hatzair a part of the "self-hating" or "radical left" is completely absurd and not borne out by the facts.

Hashomer Hatzair has been at the forefront of the Zionist movement since it was established in 1913. It has had a large stake in the betterment of Israel, and it remains a strong, principled voice for Israel. We established the kibbutz movement, strengthened and defended Israel's borders, and continue to work within the democratic political system of the Israeli parliament.

The organization Hashomer Hatzair examines its own as well as its members' views, relationships and identities surrounding Israel and Zionism in a critical way. We encourage a challenging engagement with all the issues precisely because of our firm foundation in Zionism.

Countering extremism from both the left and the right wings of the Jewish and Zionist communities continues to be a struggle that Hashomer Hatzair is committed to.

Daniel Roth
Toronto

* * *

Not in My Name (2)

I must commend the Toronto Jewish Film Festival for showing *Not in My Name*. It took most of the audience, and me, by surprise, as I expected to hear more criticism of Israeli policies. Instead, we heard that the extreme Jewish left has subdued the moderate Jewish left.

From the film, it also appeared that the left criticizes Israel because they want Israel to be like Canada, a non-sectarian state where everyone is equal and where Jews can live in peace. That, of course, is a good description of Canada, but it is not, nor was it ever intended to be, Israel. Israel was created as a Jewish state, a homeland for Jews, not for others.

When the left criticizes Israel for not being Canada, it shows its complete misunderstanding of the purpose of Israel's existence. The film made this very clear. Criticism of Israel for doing what is needed to maintain Israel as a Jewish state is inappropriate and should be left to non-Jews.

Jonathan Usher
Toronto

* * *

Calling all current or former olim

I am conducting a survey on the Israeli identities of North American immigrants to Israel and North American immigrants to Israel who have returned to North America (return migration) for a graduate research project. I would appreciate it if current or former North American olim (either in Israel or abroad) would take a few minutes to fill out a survey. It can be accessed online at http://aliyasurvey.250free.com/. For more information, please contact me at aliya.survey@gmail.com.

Avi Hein
Jerusalem

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Israel and Germany

40 years of diplomatic relations

The following remarks were delivered at a ceremony May 17 in Toronto marking 40 years of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel.

By YA'ACOV BROSH

This week, 40 years ago, in a process started by Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion and Germany's chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Israel and Germany established diplomatic relations. The relations were established in the shadow of the Holocaust – the terrible crime that was committed by the Nazi regime of the Third Reich against the Jewish people.

Ya'acov Brosh

The people in Israel will never be able to erase the memory of the Holocaust. At the same time, the relationship between Germany and Israel today is a special combination of the past and the future. For the memory of the people who died and for the coming generations, the two sides have an ongoing commitment to remember the past and to educate for the future, with special focus on the youth of today who will shape the societies of the next generation.

Today, the government and the people of Germany are vital partners with Israel is all areas. Germany has reiterated many times her commitment to the secure existence of Israel, and Germany acts bilaterally and in international forums to strengthen the position and the security of Israel. Germany is counted as one of Israel's strongest allies and closest friends. Germany helps Israel, not only in security issues, but also in negotiations for the release of Israeli soldiers who are held as prisoners in other countries in the Middle East. Germany also assists in locating Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Today, Germany is the leading country in Europe fighting against anti-semitism and leads a political line that supports Israel in the European Union. The trade relations, tourism, research and academic co-operation between Germany and Israel are among the most intensive that Israel has with any country in the world.

Despite the painful past, today we are speaking of a great friend of Israel. The government of Israel, which marked this week 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relation between the two states, has made it clear that Israel will continue to work hard to strengthen and develop the friendly relations, co-operation and understanding between our two countries.

Ya'acov Brosh is Israel's consul general for Toronto and Western Canada.

The following are excerpts from an address delivered at a ceremony May 17 in Toronto marking 40 years of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel.

By DR. KLAUS RUPPRECHT

It is by no means a matter of course that we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany tonight. In the past few weeks, we have been constantly reminded of the historical background for our relations.

The pictures of the celebrations of the 60th anniversaries of the liberation of country after country in Europe from Nazi occupation, the pictures of the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps, and finally the celebrations of the end of World War II in Europe have called into painful memory the sufferings of war and especially the horrors perpetrated against Jews by Germans.

Klaus Rupprecht

I am therefore deeply touched by the presence of those of you in the audience who have suffered in the concentration camps or who have lost loved ones in the Holocaust. Thank you for being here with us tonight. Your presence and the fact that you commemorate this evening together with us urge us and future generations of Germans to be mindful of this horrible past and to build a better future.

It has been said – by the German president, Horst Köhler, among others – that relations between Israel and Germany cannot be "normal" in the conventional sense of the word. History will always cast its shadow over our relations. In view of the horrors committed in the German name against Jews during the Nazi rule, we see it as a miracle that we can already look back at 40 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany.

Only 20 years after the end of World War II and all the horrors it brought to the Jews of Europe, farsighted politicians in both countries, namely Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion and German chancellor Konrad Adenauer, found the courage and strength to establish diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Since then, not only politicians but people from all parts of our societies have worked diligently on both sides to build an ever closer relationship. Today Israel and Germany are close partners – as close as our history allows. We, the younger generations, have to be mindful of the past and of the many efforts to overcome the past.

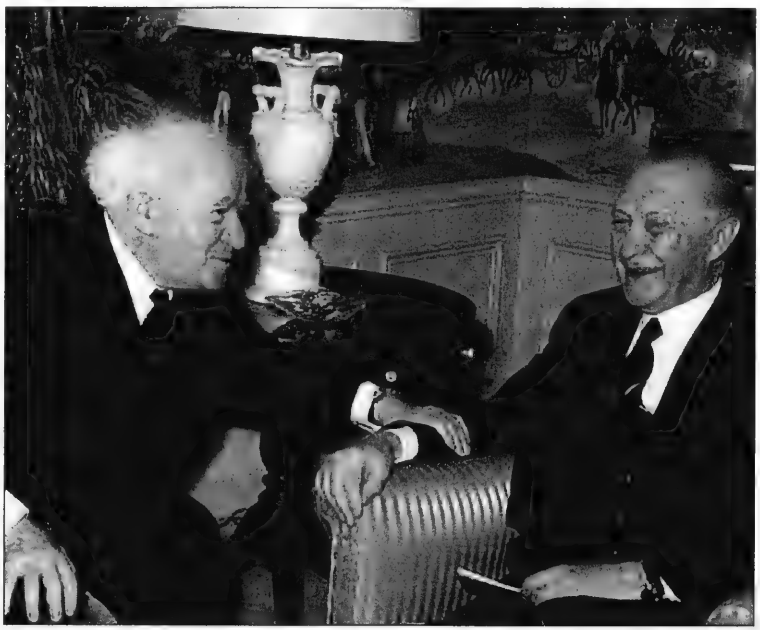
We cannot, however, rest on the work that has been done by people who came before us.

We have to make every effort to strengthen and to nurture our relationship.

On the German side, we have to remember the past and we have to vigorously fight racist and neo-Nazi tendencies that from time to time raise their ugly heads in our society. If we remain mindful of the past and vigilant in the future, I am confident that we can look forward to an ever deepening relationship between our two peoples and our two countries.

Thank you very much.

Klaus Rupprecht is the consul general in Toronto of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in New York 40 years ago [Photo courtesy of World Zionist Archives]

Opinions

Real vs. ersatz choices

We live in a world of choice. For the discriminating grocery shopper, an endless array of salad dressings, breakfast cereals and toilet paper awaits. On TV, there are hundreds of cable channels to entertain us. Or try painting your house – you'd be amazed how many shades of white there actually are. Even the banal act of ordering a coffee can become an overwhelming decision. Was that a grande decaf skim latte, or a venti soy chai?

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

But these are ersatz choices. We often expend a great deal of energy on these minor decisions, because we live in a consumerist culture, surrounded by advertising designed to convince us that meaningless minutiae matter. And while it's nice to have the option, in reality it makes no difference whether you paint your house in "winter white" or "white dove."

Free will is a common belief, based on our own perceptions of freedom of choice. However, many philosophers argue that there is actually no free will. They note that most people's lives are extremely predictable, and that their actions rarely stray far from the routine. While we might imagine we have the free will to choose a particular flavour of ice cream, in the end, whether you pick vanilla or chocolate, you'll still be the same old person. And for the most part, people don't change all that much.

Real choices change lives. If there is free will (and it's a fundamental Jewish belief that there is), it isn't about petty, meaningless decisions. We encounter free will in life's real choices: Will I break those old bad habits, or remain mired in mediocrity? Will I grow, or will I stagnate?

We can make real choices all the time. Dozens of times each day, we decide whether we will transcend the mediocre and act with genuine character. Even small gestures like stopping to shake a hand can be real choices, a small step on the road to personal growth.

Unfortunately, we are so bogged down by a multitude of phony, ersatz choices, that we often overlook the real choices we have to make. We worry about having the best handbag, the best watch, the best power tie, but what about having the best character?

In the documentary *9-11*, about a firehouse near Ground Zero, a firefighter is asked why he chose his career. He answered: "I wanted to be able to wake up in the morning and look at myself in the mirror and say I'm doing something with my life".

The next time you shop for paint, think of that firefighter, and remember that "mocha brown" is not a real choice.

A real choice is when you decide to actually do something with your life.

A peaceful way to snuff out terror

Ken Basnicki of Toronto, was the 48-year-old financial marketing director for a Canadian software company when Al Qaeda terrorists murdered him – and thousands of others – on Sept. 11, 2001.

His widow Maureen and his daughter Erica, now 25, understand that terrorism does not just affect others. It has ruined too many Canadian lives already. Dr. Yehezkel Goldberg, originally from Toronto, was a social worker extraordinaire, a beloved angel of mercy helping many needy clients, when a Palestinian police-officer-turned-suicide-bomber from Yasser Arafat's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade killed him and 10 others on a Jerusalem bus last winter.

Gil Troy in Montreal

His widow and seven children have to go through life wondering if any Canadian money helped kill their Canadian father, either through tax-deductible contributions that illegally funded terrorists, or Canadian governmental funds diverted from Arafat's Palestinian Authority to the Fatah terrorists who dispatched the suicide bomber.

These and other terror victims demand justice, not vengeance. They are pursuing a novel method to achieve it. In April, the Canadian Coalition Against Terror asked Parliament to allow terror victims to sue the organizations supporting terrorists and the rogue governments that fund them. The bill would amend the State Immunity Act to say that if any of the 35 groups that Canada has designated as terrorist entities kill Canadians and it can be proved that they received funding from governments, a Canadian civil court could hold those governments financially liable. The bill would also add a provision to the Criminal Code's anti-terrorism provisions to allow Canadian victims or their survivors to sue terror groups in Canadian courts.

This clever legislation aims to choke off the money that sustains terrorists. If governments such as Iran and Syria suffered financially for supporting these mass murderers, if Palestinian Authority leaders feared paying millions of dollars in damages for supporting terror, they might stop financing terror. Moreover, if a Canadian court saddled terrorist groups – or their money-men – with huge liabilities, it could constrain some terrorists, or their Canadian fellow travelers.

The proposed legislation would encourage civil suits against terrorist groups and rogue governments financing these murders. Ultimately, victims or their survivors would have to make the case in court.

These last few years have shown that the fight against terror must be proactive. The terrorists should be on the defensive, not we, their innocent targets. Passivity and neutrality are often substitutes for moral blindness. To ignore the problem puts us all at risk.

Nevertheless, many Canadians are ambivalent about mobilizing the military might of the West against these brigands who have declared war on the West – and all of "crusading" Christendom, if you read Osama Bin Laden's fatwas.

But wherever we stand on that difficult question, we should all unite in declaring zero tolerance for financing terror. Here is an opportunity to demonstrate that the debate is merely tactical, not about the legitimacy of targeting terrorists. All of us who are committed to the rule of law – and who believe in peace, order, and good government – should applaud the Canadian Coalition Against Terror for devising a clever, constructive and peaceful way to fight terror.

Shortly after Sept. 11, a CBC radio interviewer challenged me about my call for an aggressive policy of zero tolerance for terror. "If we're too aggressive, won't the terrorists target us?" the interviewer asked. Of course, we knew then – and certainly know now – that "we " in Canada and throughout the West were already targeted. The Basnickis and the two dozen other Canadian families with loved ones murdered on 9/11 know that. The Goldberg family in Toronto and Jerusalem feels that daily. The hundreds of Canadian families whose lives were ruined in the Air India disaster understand that. We owe it to our fellow citizens, we owe it to ourselves, to be as aggressive as possible in rooting out this rot, in pushing Canada to pursue the 35 terrorist entities – and their immoral government funders.

Twenty years ago, Elie Wiesel protested then U.S. president's Ronald Reagan's plan to visit a German military ceremony with SS graves by warning that in extreme situations, when human lives and dignity are at stake, neutrality is a sin. Here is our chance to stand and say "No to terror." Neither we nor our political leaders can afford to be neutral.

CAUT by surprise

The British Association of University Teachers (AUT) voted just before Passover to boycott two Israeli universities.

The leading union for higher education in Britain, the AUT passed a resolution barring faculty members from Bar Ilan University and the University of Haifa from participating in research projects with British colleagues, or from participating in conferences under the aegis of member universities in Britain. According to the resolution, only Bar Ilan or Haifa faculty who voiced opposition to Israeli policies toward Palestinians would be exempted from the ban.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Many readers may not know of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Canadian counterpart of the AUT in Britain. The CAUT was founded in 1951 to represent the interests of the academic staff at Canadian institutions of higher education, and to defend academic freedom. The individual faculty associations at different Canadian universities come under the CAUT umbrella as member associations. As a professor at York University, I am a member of the York University Faculty Association, and thus CAUT represents me.

Since the AUT decision to boycott Israeli faculty members, a number of professional and international organizations have come out strongly against the resolution. The Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) – the international society representing professors and researchers in all areas of Jewish studies – has forcefully and publicly condemned the action of the AUT as an "egregious assault on academic freedom" based on an offensive, ill-informed and partisan focus on Israeli politics. The full text of the AJS statement is available on the web (http://www.brandeis.edu/ajs/aut-PR.pdf). Copies of the AJS statement were sent to other academic associations, asking for their endorsement.

As vice-president of the AJS and co-author of its statement, and as a Canadian professor represented by the CAUT, I forwarded a copy to the CAUT president, asking that she pass it along to members of the executive committee for their endorsement. Much to my surprise, within moments of receiving my e-mail, my request was refused. The CAUT, I was informed, "will not interfere in the deliberations of our international counterpart."

By contrast, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) – an organization dedicated to protecting academic freedom – issued a strongly worded statement of its own, deploring the AUT boycott of Israeli faculty as damaging to the free exchange of ideas. The AAUP found particularly deplorable the AUT's willingness to exclude from their ban any Israeli professor who condemned Israeli policy. Because such an exclusion "requires compliance with a political or ideological test in order for an academic relationship to continue," the AAUP noted, it "deepens the injury to academic freedom rather than mitigates it." (The AAUP statement may be read in its entirety at http://www.aaup.org/newsroom/press/2005/AUT.htm.)

As a Canadian professor, it grieves me that the union representing me and my colleagues falls short of the organization representing American professors. The CAUT calls academic freedom "the life blood of the modern university." It is the right to teach, learn, study and publish free of orthodoxy or threat of reprisal and discrimination. According to the organization's policy statement on academic freedom, "academic staff must enjoy freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, assembly and association." While the CAUT speaks for Canadian academicians, it intervenes and offers public comment on issues occurring outside of Canada when it sees fit.

The CAUT refusal to consider criticizing the AUT boycott of faculty at Bar Ilan and Haifa is particularly surprising in view of CAUT's earlier praise for the leadership of the University of Haifa and Hebrew University for "continuing teaching and research on their campuses even in the aftermath of suicide bombings and political unrest." In a 2003 statement deploring the closure of Palestinian universities in Hebron as a response to suicide bombing, the CAUT asserted its belief that "the exploration of all ideas – even revolutionary ideas – is vital to the achievements of peace." Affirmations such as this ring hollow, at best, when viewed alongside CAUT's silence regarding the action of their British counterpart.

Under pressure from some of its members, the AUT will meet to reconsider its April vote to boycott Israeli professors. Should they overturn that vote, as many hope they will, CAUT's response will be moot. But whatever the outcome of the AUT meeting, the silence of the Canadian professors' organization discredits it as an honest broker and genuine advocate for academic freedom.

The Kirshner File

The drama behind Operation Solomon

Fourteen years ago this week, in Operation Solomon, 14,310 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in 34 hours and four minutes.

It was an astonishing and inspirational event, fueled by the promise of Israeli arms to Ethiopia, greased by a hefty bribe to Ethiopian government officials, facilitated in part by the United States and carried out against the backdrop of a civil war in that ancient African nation.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The story of the mission, which unfolded on May 24, 1991, is skillfully told by Stephen Spector in *Operation Solomon: The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews* (Oxford University Press). It is based on interviews the author conducted with informants in Israel, Ethiopia and the United States.

Strangely enough, the chain of events that culminated in Operation Solomon began neither in Jerusalem nor in Addis Ababa, but in Moscow. Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian strongman, went to Moscow in the summer of 1988 to request further military aid from the Soviet Union. Facing serious uprisings in the northern provinces of Tigre and Eritrea, he was in dire need of an infusion of weapons for his badly battered army.

But on this trip to Moscow, the cash-strapped Mengistu was in for a nasty surprise. Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, said he would have to pay for additional weapons. Gorbachev advised Mengistu to seek weapons elsewhere or reach a negotiated agreement with the rebels.

Later that year, he asked China and North Korea for arms, but with little success. He next turned to the United States, but his initiative bore no fruit. Washington considered Ethiopia under Mengistu a pariah regime, on a par with Cuba. The U.S. president, George Bush, who had been involved in the airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Sudan in the mid-1980s in Operation Moses, refused to send weapons to prop up Mengistu.

What to do?

One of Mengistu's advisers suggested that arms might be obtained from Israel, provided Ethiopia reestablished diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. Under Arab pressure, Ethiopia had severed ties with Israel around the time of the 1973 Yom KIppur War.

Bowing to realities, the Ethiopian government renewed its relationship with Israel on Nov. 3, 1989. On Nov. 5, Mengistu dispatched an aide, Kassa Kebede, to Jerusalem. A better emissary could not have been chosen. He spoke perfect Hebrew, having been educated at the Hebrew University, and understood that the Ethiopian Jews, known as the Beta Israel, could be the key to the survival of Mengistu's regime.

Kassa met with a variety of Israeli officials, from then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir to deputy foreign minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He offered Israel the renewal of strategic bonds and the use of a Red Sea island for defensive purposes. As well, he dangled another carrot, the immigration of between 500 to 1,000 Jews to Israel every month, all in exchange for Israeli military equipment and munitions.

There was only one problem. The United States, Israel's chief ally and benefactor, opposed the arrangement. Cognizant of Washington's attitude, Israel proposed economic and agricultural aid and medical assistance.

Nonetheless, Israeli arms reached Ethiopia. In February 1990, the *New York Times* reported that Ethiopia had received 150,000 bolt-action rifles from Israel, and in March, *Ha'aretz* disclosed that Israel was militarily involved in Ethiopia. Israel refused to confirm or deny that it was arming Ethiopia, a back-handed way of saying that the news reports were, in fact, accurate.

Uri Lubrani, who had served variously as Israel's ambassador to Ethiopia, Uganda and Iran, was put in charge of Beta Israel emigration. He knew Ethiopia well and still had friends there. Lubrani worked in concert with the newly appointed Israeli ambassador in Addis Ababa, Asher Naim.

Spector, a professor of English at the State University of New York Stony Brook, credits Susan Pollack, the resident director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews in Addis Ababa, with having played a pivotal role in the success of Operation Solomon.

Pollack, who had worked on behalf of the Beta Israel since the early 1980s, convinced Lubrani that a gradual and orderly aliyah would be untenable. Having visited Beta Israel villages in the Gondar region and personally witnessed the diseases that were ravaging their ranks, she concluded that a swift operation was absolutely necessary. In the late autumn of 1990, Shamir gave Lubrani his approval to take dramatic steps to expedite the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

The Israeli government, which in 1975 had granted them right to immigrate under the Law of Return, was certainly interested in "repatriating" them.

Menachem Begin, a former prime minister, had made Ethiopian aliyah a high Zionist priority. He had followed the lead of Israel's chief Ashkenazi rabbi, who had determined that the Ethiopian Jews were halachically Jewish. Before, Israel had been somewhat cool toward Ethiopian Jews. It feared that their departure might jeopardize its relations with Ethiopia's legendary ruler, Emperor Haile Selassie.

As Spector suggests, Operation Solomon could not have happened without the involvement of the United States. He writes: "Dedicated and effective officials at the U.S. embassy in Addis, the State Department and the National Security Council worked in virtual collegial harmony with the Israelis." Among these Americans were Bob Houdek, a diplomat at the U.S. embassy, and Senator Rudy Boschwitz, a Jewish refugee from Germany in 1938.

The levers of Operation Solomon were cranked into action on May 6, 1991 with the visit of Israel's deputy chief of staff, Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, to Addis Ababa.

Mengistu threw a spanner into the works just two days later by demanding a payment of $180 million in U.S. currency. Lubrani was shocked. He had allocated upward of $12 million (US) for the mission. The Ethiopians came back with a counter-offer: $60 million. The Americans applied pressure on Mengistu to be reasonable, but to no avail.

Ethiopian immigrants disembark from a Boeing jet after arriving in Israel in May 1991.

After prolonged negotiations, both sides agreed on $35 million. It was a figure Houdek had originally suggested, Spector notes. That amounted to $2,446 for each Jew to be flown to Israel. Washington threw in an extra $13 million for the cost of the airlift.

As these machinations unfolded, the Jewish Agency activated 49 absorption centres to receive the Beta Israel and reserved over 250 buses to transport them from Ben-Gurion Airport to their new homes in Israel.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army assigned a squad of elite soldiers to secure Bole Airport, just outside Addis Ababa. They were also given the task of escorting the Beta Israel from the grounds of the Israeli embassy to the waiting aircraft.

The first Israeli plane bound for Addis Ababa, a turboprop-driven Hercules C-130 Rhino, lifted off before dawn on May 24. The flight plan called for the planes to reach their destination, 1,560 miles away, in five or six hours. The route took them southeast over the Red Sea, south across Eritrea and on to Addis Ababa.

Shahak's team set up a command post at Bole Airport. According to Spector, the Israeli army virtually assumed control of the airport on May 24. The rebels besieging Addis Ababa gave Israel 24 hours to complete the airlift.

Several minor glitches, described briefly by Spector, threatened to play havoc with the operation. But in the end, it went off smoothly. The first Israeli aircraft from Bole Airport landed in Israel that very afternoon. The arrivals were greeted by the prime minister, prominent politicians, including Ariel Sharon, and top brass from the army, notably Ehud Barak. News of the operation in Israel was censored. But the BBC World Service broke the story.

All in all, 41 military and El Al planes were used in the mission: 18 Hercules C-130s, 12 Boeing 707s, three 747s, five 767s and three 757s. One Ethiopian Airlines jet made a single round trip. Eight babies were born on the various flights.

Many Jews, particularly the Falash Mura, whose ancestors had converted to Christianity decades before, were left behind in Addis Ababa. Israel had decided to leave them out of Operation Solomon.

Powerful voices in Israel, including religious nationalists who saw them as a reservoir for populating settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, called for their inclusion in the airlift. Their views ultimately prevailed. In the past few years, thousands of Falash Mura have been resettled in Israel, and today, Ethiopian Jews, numbering some 94,000, comprise nearly two per cent of Israel's Jewish population.

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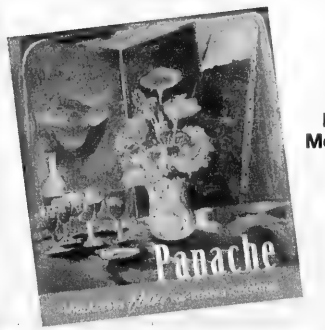

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Generous gifts announced for Tomorrow Campaign

Donors ensure success of new community campus in York Region

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation recently broke ground on the new state of the art, 50 acre, Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, where close to 300 community members and politicians gathered to honour Joseph and Wolf Lebovic for their continued philanthropic leadership. The generous lead gift provided by the brothers has inspired other community donors to support the project.

Honey and Barry Sherman have come forward with an unrestricted gift to the Tomorrow Campaign, chaired by Larry Tanenbaum and Gerald Schwartz, which is raising funds for the Lebovic Campus and two other Jewish campuses in the GTA.

(l-r) Larry Tanenbaum, Paul Morton and Barry Sherman.

Through a generous gift from the Kimel family, the Lebovic campus will become an internationally celebrated centre of Jewish education. Their gift will ensure the establishment of the Kimel Family Education Centre; the new home for the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) on the Lebovic Campus. The Kimel contribution is believed to be the largest ever designated for Jewish education in Canada.

"Our family saw a great need in the community," said Warren Kimel. "The Tomorrow Campaign provided the perfect vehicle for our family to make this important gift of quality education for the leaders of tomorrow."

A gift from Gerry Schwartz and Heather Reisman will ensure the building of the Schwartz/Reisman Centre, an exceptional cultural, social and recreational facility, also to be built on the Lebovic site.

"Only one generation ago, the creation of a Jewish campus in York Region was an improbable notion," said UJA Federation Board Chair Leslie Gales. "However, as our Jewish community continues to grow and expand, our visionary leaders realized that we needed a new way of doing business. The new Lebovic Campus is an historic undertaking that demonstrates our commitment to York Region's Jewish community as well as to the Greater Toronto Area."

(above, left to right)Mario Racco, MPP, Larry Tanenbaum, Barry Sherman, Honey Sherman, Leo Goldhar, Ted Sokolsky, Susan Kadis, MP, Lou Greenbaum, Joseph Lebovic, Rabbi Shmuel Spero, Wolf Lebovic, Vaughan Mayor Michael DiBiase, Warren Kimel, Debbie Kimel, Leslie Gales.

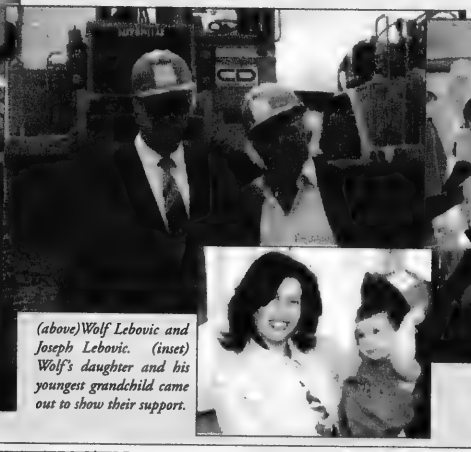
(left, l-r) Lou Greenbaum, Mayor DiBiase, Wolf Lebovic, William Fisch, Regional Chair and CEO, York Region.

This new facility will feature a diverse range of family and social services; fitness, sports and health programs; cultural agencies, plus facilities for child care, education, camping, conferences and meetings.

York Region, with a rapidly growing Jewish population of 60,000, represents the third largest Jewish community in Canada behind Toronto and Montreal.

It was history in the making!

(l-r) Joseph Lebovic, Wolf Lebovic and Leo Goldhar.



(above)Wolf Lebovic and Joseph Lebovic. (inset) Wolf's daughter and his youngest grandchild came out to show their support.

Rabbi Avichai Zehavi and the CHAT Choir performed at the groundbreaking.

Groundbreaking photos by Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications

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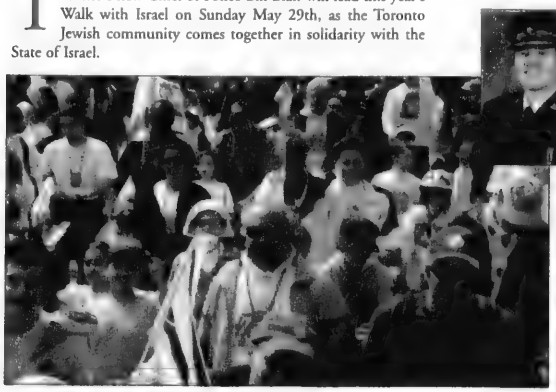
Toronto Police Chief to Lead Walk

Thousands expected on behalf of Israel

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

Toronto's new Chief of Police Bill Blair will lead this year's Walk with Israel on Sunday May 29th, as the Toronto Jewish community comes together in solidarity with the State of Israel.



Last year's Walk saw 15,000 members of the community join in solidarity with Israel (inset) Toronto's Chief of Police, Bill Blair will be leading this year's Walk.

Chief Blair received first-hand knowledge of Israel and the many challenges she faces when he recently participated in the Ontario Police Security Personnel Mission to Israel, sponsored in part by UJA Federation. Blair, who believes in diversity and tolerance, will be a valued guest at the Walk.

"I was honored to be asked to participate in the Walk with Israel and to be able to walk with the Jewish community," Blair explained. "This will be a great opportunity to meet with the Jewish community; for me to get to know them and for them to get to know more about me."

Walk registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park, Lakeshore and Strachan, southeast of the Princes' Gates. The Walk itself starts at 10:30 a.m., ending at Ontario Place with the RioCan Festival.

One member of the community who Chief Blair will meet is 87-year-old Rachel Kanner. This will be Kanner's 31st consecutive year at the Walk, where over the past three years she has raised several thousand dollars for Israel.

"For the last three years I reached the goal of being a Chai Walker [someone who raises $1,800]" Kanner said. "I hope to do the same this year."

Brothers Motek and Gregory Kanopny will also be out in full force at the Walk on Sunday and are willing to use their office supply business, Office Super Centre, to enlist more support from the community. With a booth at both Coronation Park and the RioCan Festival, the brothers will be handing out thousands of kits which will enable participants to register for prizes and raise money for Israel.

"With a special card enclosed in the kits, people can go online and register for the Win & Win contest, which makes them eligible to win one of three fantastic prizes from Sony," Motek explained. "But even more importantly, when a registrant orders online for the first time, 10% of the money they spend will go directly to UJA in the form of an Israel Bond. Every subsequent order will donate 5% to Israel Bonds which can then also be donated back to UJA."

Five hundred companies are involved in this project nationally and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised to purchase Israel Bonds. The brother's initiative is two years old and going strong.

"We are just really interested in helping the State of Israel and the Toronto Jewish community," Motek said. "This is a terrific way to do both."

For further information about how to get involved, visit the Walk website at www.ujawalkwithisrael.com

A Celebration of Survival

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue played host to a special tribute to our community's Holocaust survivors last week on the 60th anniversary of their liberation.

"A Celebration of Survival" - chaired by Gerda Frieberg - featured a musical program highlighted by a number of well-known performers, including Jacques Israelievitch, Senya Trubashnik, and Cantor Benjamin Maissner.

A special presentation was made by renowned Toronto personalities Harvey Atkin and Marilyn Lightstone.

Ontario's Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman and Toronto Mayor David Miller also participated in the program.

The event - presented by the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto - celebrated the remarkable contributions of the survivors, despite having lived through the horrors of the Holocaust.

(Pictured L-R) Harvey Atkin, Marilyn Lightstone, Gerda Frieberg and Lieutenant Governor Bartleman.
(Photo by Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications)

Standing ovation for George Will

Pulitzer prize winning columnist speaks at UJA Federation dinner

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

Combining the keen intellect of a university professor with the concise, clever language of a journalist, popular American columnist George Will received an enthusiastic reception last week from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's leading donors.

Will, the keynote speaker at the UJA Federation Top Gifts dinner, is, in fact, a commentator with strong academic and journalist credentials. After earning his doctorate at Princeton, Will once taught political philosophy at the University of Toronto, among other universities. Today, his twice-weekly newspaper column appears in nearly 500 publications.

In his remarks, Will heaped praised on Israel for its courage in combating terrorism and establishing a genuine democracy in just 57 years, in contrast to its neighbours.

"Israel was founded," he said, "on one, one-sixth of one percent of what is misleadingly called the 'Arab world', where there are 21 countries and not one democracy."

Then, using a series of one-liners, Will offered his own perspective on recent Middle East history.

- " Barak [former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak] demonstrated that the most Israel could give is the least that Palestinians could accept."
- "The astonishing fact is that the great breakthrough to peace, if peace ever comes, is the death of a Nobel Peace Prize winner [Yassir Arafat]."
- "The hostility to Israel was not born in 1967 and will not be removed by a return to 1967 borders."
- "Israel is not being provocative. Israel's being is provocative to all of its enemies."

Will also called Saudi Arabia "a nation governed by 3,000 cousins," and included the country among many other nations which, he says, are "organized around antisemitism."

The dinner, chaired by Irving and Toddy Granovsky, was also an introduction to the upcoming UJA Federation Campaign 2006, which is being led by Warren Kimel and Honey Sherman.

"UJA Federation Campaign 2006 is about the future of Jewish youth and the future of Jewish life," said Sherman. "Our campaign is devoted to creating new opportunities for Jewish young people, whose needs have been overshadowed by the worldwide impact of Israel's emergency situations."

The campaign has already raised $11 million, before it even officially begins.

The dinner also featured outgoing UJA Federation Chair, Leslie Gales, who is completing her two year term to be replaced by David Engel.

Gales called the past two years "an arduous journey that has yielded remarkable results."

(Above)Top Gifts Dinner Chairs Irving and Toddy Granovsky. (inset) George Will.
(Photos: Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications)

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Chabad rabbi killed by GO train in auto accident

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

It started out like any other morning for 25-year-old Rabbi Levi Bialo.

He got in his car to drive to Shacharit services at nearby Chabad of Markham synagogue, but he never got there.

Just after 7 a.m. on May 16 at a level crossing on Green Lane east of Bayview Avenue, his car was hit by a southbound GO train and dragged nearly 200 metres. Rabbi Bialo was pronounced dead at the scene.

Sgt. David Mitchell, who is in charge of York Regional Police's collision reconstruction unit, is leading the investigation of the accident. A reconstruction of the event was being carried out as this article was being written, but Mitchell said it appears that all of the crossing's safety equipment – including four sets of flashing lights, two control arms and warning bells – and the horn and bell of the train were working properly.

"The sun was coming up in the east, and was very bright," Mitchell said. "It appears that [Rabbi Bialo] was not wearing sunglasses, and that the sun visor of the car was not down."

The rabbi may have been blinded by the sun, or distracted by something, he said.

He saw the train coming, Mitchell said, and tried to avoid it. But when the hood of the car hit the control arm, the car was perfectly lined up with the path of the train.

Everything happened in a matter of a few seconds, Sgt. Mitchell said.

No one among the train's crew or its nearly 500 passengers were hurt, but many, especially crew members, were very upset by the accident, he said.

> ***'For him, the performance of mitzvot was not an obligation, but rather an enthusiastic honour'***

GO trains have video cameras mounted on their fronts and backs, and the films will be examined for more information. Also, police are conducting interviews with witnesses.

Rabbi Bialo's death stunned the community at Chabad of Markham, where he worked as a fifth grade teacher in its cheder, said the shul's spiritual leader, Rabbi Avraham Plotkin.

His special responsibility was working with young adults ages 18 to 26.

"He was very successful," said Rabbi Plotkin.

He described the young rabbi as "charismatic, an amazing communicator. He had a genuine, sincere faith in God, and was able to project that."

Rabbi Bialo's father-in-law Michael Konsker described him as sweet, sensitive and gentle.

"Nobody didn't like him," Konsker said. He had a great sense of humour and a sharp wit, he added. He loved sports, and liked to play basketball with the young people of the community.

Rabbi Bialo was the oldest of nine children in a close-knit Cleveland family. He married Torontonian Shira Konsker 2½ years ago, and the couple has a 15-month old son, with another child expected in the fall. About two years ago, he and his family moved here from New York City as a Lubavitch shaliach (emissary).

Goldie Plotkin, the rebbitzen of Chabad of Markham, said other shlichim are mourning him as one of their own.

"Shlichim all over the world are having special events in his memory."

Shul president Richard Steyn said that Rabbi Bialo's "special charges, the young adults of our community, were the recipients of his light, as he drew them into Judaism with honesty and companionship.

"For him, the performance of mitzvot was not an obligation, but rather an enthusiastic honour, and his passionate love of all things Jewish and of Jews infected all of us with that same passion."

Melinda Paiken, who with her family spent Rabbi Bialo's last Shabbat with him and his family, called him a "special angel." She was especially impressed with "his adoration and respect for Shira… He held on to her every word with love and affirmation."

The rabbi's sudden death has left his wife and child in serious financial straits. A Shira Bialo Relief Fund has been set up at the Toronto Dominion Bank, and donations can be made at any branch. Rabbi Plotkin also offered to forward any contributions sent via Chabad of Markham.

Rabbi Bialo is survived by his wife Shira, son Zalman, parents Shlomo and Gitty, and eight brothers and sisters.

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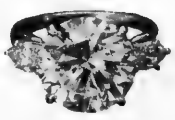

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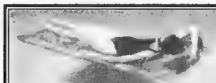

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Jewish Life

A subtle message

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Lag b'Omer, the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer stands as a unique day. On this day we change our usual solemn "Omer" behaviour by celebrating it as a holiday. Within a few short weeks, we will be celebrating the holiday of Shavuot, commemorating the revelation at Sinai and the receiving of the Torah. On their own, each of these days holds significance, but brought together they speak to us of focus and expression.

Lag b'Omer is the day on which we believe Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son left the cave in which they had been hiding from the Romans for 13 years. With a death sentence pronounced against them, father and son had to live in isolation in order to survive. Tradition teaches that during these 13 years, Rabbi Shimon was writing the corpus of Jewish mysticism that became the central text of the Kabbalah.

Upon leaving the cave, the rabbi encountered people going about their daily lives. Some were tilling land while others were conducting business. The rabbi was appalled to see Jewish people neglecting their spirituality by filling their time with mundane matters. In fact, he was so appalled as to set fire to everything he saw with a mere glance. The Talmud then states that God admonished him for burning parts of the world and banished him and his son back to the cave for another 12 months.

Upon re-emerging from the cave, the rabbi meets an old man holding two myrtle branches and hurrying home to greet the Sabbath. When asked what the branches are for, the old man explains that they are for Shabbat. But why two, he is asked, and the man responds that one is for the commandment to "keep" the Sabbath while the second is to commemorate the commandment to "remember" the Sabbath. At that point, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai tells his son to remember this moment and learn from it.

Receiving the Torah is a cause for celebration. Knowing what to do with it and how to implement it in the world is the challenge addressed by Lag b'Omer. If one is involved entirely in spiritual matters and explores only the wonders of Jewish mysticism, as Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son did, a danger emerges. It is not the danger of misusing the secretive powers of the Kabbalah, rather it is the danger of viewing the whole and neglecting its parts.

By focusing on the mystical truths of the universe, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai did not value the details of the universe. Tilling the soil involves us with God's creation and connects us with the Divine. Engaging in commerce builds our society into a healthy and respectful structure in which people are valued and useful. Again we are dealing with God's creations and are connected with the Divine. God personally admonishes the rabbi for destroying parts of creation and sends him back to refocus his knowledge.

It is the image of the old man who pays attention to expressing the details of the Torah that stands as the true lesson. While going about our daily routines, we must remember that it is often the subtleties of life that define the moment. Judaism is not the understanding of the grandeur of secret phrases and formulas, it is the recognition that God is in the details.

Celebrating Jewish mysticism

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

How can one day remind us of Judaism's links to mysticism, be a time to mourn and a time to dance, and also be an Israeli pilgrimage that is reminiscent at times of Woodstock?

Lag Ba'Omer, which begins on May 26, is all of those things. The seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot is a time of semi-mourning, but on the 33rd day, Lag Ba'Omer weddings are permitted and the day is celebrated with bonfires, parties and haircuts.

If Lag Ba'Omer is identified with one person, then it is Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. He was a student of Rabbi Akiva, whose 24,000 students perished during the Roman conquest of Jerusalem 1,900 years ago because, as the Talmud tells us, "they did not show proper respect for each other." **[www.ou.org/chagim/sefira/mystery.htm]** Rabbi Shimon was one of the very few scholars to survive.

The Aish Hatorah website explains how Rabbi Shimon and his son sought refuge and studied Torah in a cave for 12 years. Rabbi Shimon is believed to have died on Lag Ba'Omer, but just before his death he revealed the Zohar, Judaism's great kabbalistic work to his students. Because of his legacy, Rabbi Shimon's yahrzeit has become a day of celebration. **[http://tinyurl.com/e49mn]**

One of the most popular Lag Ba'Omer traditions is to light bonfires. The Ohr Somayach site explains why: "On the day of Rabbi Shimon's passing, a great light was revealed to his students when he uncovered many of the hidden secrets of the Torah. This was written down in the Zohar. The bonfires symbolize the light of the hidden wisdom that Rabbi Shimon revealed on Lag Ba'Omer." **[www.ohr.org.il/special/omer/light.htm]**

Some of the biggest bonfires take place in Meron, a small town in northern Israel. Meron is believed to be the burial place of Rabbi Shimon, so every year it becomes the focus of a mass pilgrimage as tens of thousands of Jews come to celebrate and dance.

"Was this Meron or Woodstock," asked Judith Fein. "The town was like an Orthodox carnival. From makeshift booths, vendors sold crafts, religious objects, clothes, books, dates, nuts and soft drinks. Families camped out in tents. Men with long beards asked for charity or offered blessings.

"According to tradition, if a couple cannot conceive a child on Lag Ba'Omer, the man distributes drinks until he has served 18 bottles of wine to cure the barrenness. In the street, young men pressed glasses of wine on us. We drank, of course. It would be rude not to honor their desire for children." **[http://tinyurl.com/87htb]**

You can find another account of the trip to Meron at the Shema Yisrael site. **[http://tinyurl.com/98qsy]**

There are several great Lag Ba'Omer sites aimed at kids, such as the one from Jewish Theological Seminary. In addition to the history of the day, there are rabbinic tales and essays to spark discussions. **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/kids/together/lagbaomer/]**

Over at Orthodox Union, there are links to a Lag Ba'Omer poem and an explanation why the day is associated with playing bows and arrows. **[www.ou.org/chagim/lagbaomer/]** And the National Jewish Committee on Scouting has created an entire bonfire lighting ceremony that focuses on the historical relationship Jews have had with fire **[http://tinyurl.com/dp53q]**

After you've been through those sites, you can test your knowledge with the Lag Ba'Omer quiz. **[http://tinyurl.com/8dxe5]**

For most Israelis, Lag Ba'Omer is a great day to get out, have a picnic and throw a few potatoes on the fire. Joni Schockett's menu is a bit more exotic. It includes Focaccia with Tomatoes, Feta and Garlic. **[http://tinyurl.com/b836k]** Daniel Rogov's picnic boasts Chicken and Artichoke Salad and Arak Cookies. **[http://tinyurl.com/ 8zo6g]** Over at KosherKorner, they're dining on Papaya Slaw and Sweet and Spicy Chicken with Tropical Fruits. **[http://tinyurl.com/yv3tp]**

While you're feasting at your picnic, why not break into a rendition of traditional tunes? Lag Ba'Omer songs may not be as famous as Pesach or Purim melodies but they do exist. So, if you really want to impress the folks over at the next bonfire, brush up on holiday songs from Tunisia, Greece, Iraq and Galicia. **[http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/music/lagbaomer/]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com

Jewish Life

Longtime educator to make aliyah

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

By the end of this summer, the Toronto Jewish community's loss will be Israel's gain as Rabbi Howard Sacknovitz and his wife Esther fulfil their 36-year-old dream of making aliyah.

Rabbi Sacknovitz, a mainstay at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) – where he is now director of guidance – for more than three decades, said he is both excited and nervous to uproot himself from the city where he has spent most of his life.

"While it has always been a dream of ours [to make aliyah], once you get settled in a place, it's difficult to make that jump," he said.

"We're certainly excited and anxious because although we know Jerusalem and we know the life that we're going to, closing a home after 36 years and giving up residence and moving to another place is difficult – especially after spending it in an environment where I have been very, very happy, both at Shaarei Shomayim and at CHAT."

Rabbi Howard Sacknovitz

A big incentive to make the move is to be with his growing family. Both his daughters have made aliyah, and his son, who now lives in New York City, also plans to make the move in the future.

"We're not leaving because we have to leave. Things are really wonderful in Toronto. It is to concretize the dream we've had and to be with our children and grandchildren."

Rabbi Sacknovitz, who earned his smichah and master's degree in education from Yeshiva University in 1968, began his career at Shaarei Shomayim in 1969 as a youth educator before he got a job teaching at CHAT.

The shul is holding a tribute weekend in his honour, beginning this coming Shabbat, May 28, when there will be special services in the morning and Rabbi Sacknovitz will give a class in the afternoon.

"I wanted to summarize my being in Toronto by having a class that's going to deal with some of the things we've learned over the years."

The next night, on Sunday, the shul will host a dinner to celebrate Rabbi Sacknovitz and his contributions to the shul and the Jewish community.

"There will probably be a lot of speeches. It'll go with singing and dancing. It'll be a nice program. I'm looking forward to it," he said.

Rabbi Sacknovitz has mixed emotions about leaving a city that has been home for so many years for Jerusalem, the city where he has always longed to be.

"Toronto has a very vibrant Jewish community and there's a calmness to life here that is quite different to Israel. There's a vibrancy, obviously, to life in Israel, but there's a calmness here that makes it nice living in this type of environment," he said.

"We're going to Israel because metaphysically, emotionally, Jerusalem is where Jews belong. We were just there for Pesach, and there is a normalcy of observing holidays in Israel. In Toronto, we superimpose Pesach on the society around us. In Israel, it is so much more normal – holidays in general."

But he emphasized that the decision to leave had nothing to do with Toronto itself.

"We've been very happy in Toronto. We're not escaping anything, except maybe the weather," he said with a laugh.

"We've met a lot of friends, we've contributed, we felt, significantly to Shaarei Shomayim and to the city."

Rabbi Sacknovitz, who helped found and still leads Shaarei Shomayim's alternative downstairs Shabbat and Yom Tov minyan, said he is proud to be linked to a shul that shares his values.

"Shaarei Shomayim has been a home to us and we've associated ourselves with that shul because we believe strongly in the message that the shul stands for. Those would be messages of Zionism, how we relate to other Jews in society, how we relate to non-Jews in our society, how we relate to secular knowledge."

While he plans to focus more on his family when he moves to Israel, he still wants to educate others and himself.

"My goals are more personal and familial ones. My oldest daughter was married last year and now has a baby, my younger daughter is getting married this summer. It's time to reconnect with the family, to reconnect with my learning and get involved with some Jewish education component there."

Synagogue's USY chapter wins awards

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Shaar Shalom chapter of United Synagogue Youth (SSAUSY) was presented with two awards at the recent Eastern Canadian region USY's spring convention in Barrie, Ont.

Adam Goodman, SSAUSY adviser, said the chapter received a religious programming award in recognition of its Torah with Twist program, a discussion group with Cantor Ben Silverberg following Shabbat morning services, which addresses teen life issues.

More than 25 teens attend the monthly group, Goodman said, to talk about such things as body image, sexuality, drugs and alcohol, and homosexuality.

Also at the convention, the award of excellence was presented to chapter president Aaron Marmer, for the chapter's social and educational programs and for a fundraising event for Tikkun Olam, USY's charity.

The chapter was recognized as well for maintaining an innovative web site, (www.ssausy.org), sending a number of members to USY's international convention in Chicago and sending the largest delegation in the region to the spring convention.

"For a small synagogue, we have a group of dedicated teens who, in addition to social issues, are interested in learning about our religion," said Goodman, a student at Osgoode Hall Law School.

"It's been a great experience working with the kids, and it is exciting for them to be recognized for their work."

Members of Shaar Shalom USY are seen with Cantor Ben Silverberg, centre, at the recent regional convention in Barrie.

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Reunion to unite Harbord's classes, '59 to '64

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Former students of Harbord Collegiate are holding a reunion for the graduating classes of the years 1959 to '64.

It takes place at the Miles Nadal JCC on May 28, and several teachers will be attending.

Until the end of the '50s, Harbord, in downtown Toronto, was a hub of Jewish life. The dawning of the '60s brought demographic changes and the families of Jewish immigrants began moving north.

In the '60s, the Jewish student population at Harbord Collegiate dropped to less than 50 per cent, whereas in previous decades, Jews had filled more than 90 per cent of its classes.

"We are planning a display of memorabilia and a spontaneous program with plenty of time to talk and to exchange stories," says Gary Posner, a chartered accountant and member of the reunion's organizing committee.

Posner notes that "doctors, lawyers, judges, politicians, media notables and many other successful professionals" attended Harbord in the late '50s and early '60s.

"I am sure we will have many good laughs" talking about the past, he says.

He recalled that it in 1964 the principal cancelled the longtime tradition of presenting a Christmas skit that mocked the teachers. "It was called off for being too distasteful and never presented again."

Posner remembers that once after football practice the team charged into the pool when the girls' synchronized swimming team was using it. "The boys were nude as they always swam nude."

He says that once when the Harbord Cadets put on an exhibition at the old armories, their commanding officer erred and gave them orders to march into a wall.

The Harbord reunion's organizing committee includes Posner, Helen Fisch (Brief), Alf Kwinter, Harvey Mandel, Paul O'Connell, Bo Lawrentiw, Dennis Shewchuk and Nestor Wolicki.

For more information or to make a reservation, e-mail harbord_reunion@ yahoo.com or call Shewchuk at 416-410-6110 or Gary Posner at 416-922-5959.

GIMME AN "R": Montreal comedian Joey Elias, middle right, and TSN host Michael Landsberg, back row centre, joined the Toronto Argonauts Cheerleaders to entertain more than 850 guests at Le Parc Banquet Hall May 12 in celebration of the upcoming wedding of Adina Schiff to Steven Libfeld, front row, second from right. The event raised more than $250,000 for Reena's respite and enrichment programs. Pictured with Libfeld are, from left, Reena Foundation chairman Murray Klein, Al Libfeld, and Argo co-owner Howard Sokolowski.

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Greater Toronto Area

Centenarian's positive outlook stressed

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Centenarian Naomi Bogomolny is seen with her daughter, Edith Monson. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

For the invitation to her "100 Years Young" birthday party, Naomi Bogomolny chose an anonymous poem titled *Life Owes Me Nothing*.

On June 3, Bogomolny will celebrate her 100th birthday surrounded by more than 100 members of her family and friends.

Bogomolny was interviewed at her seniors residence, along with her daughter Edith Monson, an Ottawa artist who moved to Toronto six months ago. Monson's painting of her mother is also on the invitation.

"My mother is as sharp as ever," Monson says, although Bogomolny has some difficulty speaking since suffering a series of mini-strokes.

"My mother has a very optimistic outlook. She always taught her children that when you get up in the morning, 'you comb you hair, put on your lipstick, and you are prepared for anything throughout the day.' To this day, her appearance is still very important to her."

Recently, Bogomolny went to a dermatologist to have some marks removed from her face, saying that she wants to look nice at her 100th birthday. She notes that her dermatologist is Dr. Rochelle Mandelcorn Monson, her granddaughter-in-law.

Continued on page 27

Corrections

In "Survivors honoured at Queen's Park" (*CJN*, May 19), MPP Ted Chudleigh's political affiliation should have been stated as Progressive Conservative.

***

In "Jewish Food: The World at Table" (*CJN*, May 12), the recipe Salouf should read 4½ cups flour instead of 1½ cups. *The CJN* regrets the error.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Josh Foreman wishes his sister Hailey a happy eighth birthday and his cousin Alex Beder a happy first birthday.

Congratulations to Joshua Shumak on his fifth birthday in South Carolina. We all love you and miss you. From the Melniks, Shumaks, Tators and Warfe families.

Raffi & Roberta Laras announce the birth of Ronen Yosef on April 8. Sisters, Michal and Orit. Grandparents, Yosef Wally Laras, Yehuda Laura Chaim.

Ty's one...happy birthday buddy - you've brought so much joy to our lives and to your safta, saba, bubbie and zaidy. love, mom and dad.

Happy 50th birthday Murray. He's our dad and he's so cool, still looks like he just graduated from school. Love, Jeremy, Dayna and Hailey Einhorn.

Congratulations Josh Adler Grade 12 honours graduate. Spread your wings and fly! We are so very proud. All our love, Mom, Melanie, Michael and Bubbie.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, May 30, is the deadline for June 9 issue, Monday, June 6, is the deadline for the June 16 issue and Wednesday, June 8, is the deadline for June 23. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 26

NEW TORAH CELEBRATED

Temple Sinai Congregation celebrates the completion of a Torah scroll with letters written by members of the congregation. **Rabbi Eric Yoffie**, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, joins the celebration. 7 p.m.

Friday, May 27

RABBIS FETED

Join Beth Emeth Congregation for a Kabalat Shabbat experience with **Rabbi Howard Morrison, Rabbi David Bauman** and **Cantor Aaron Bensoussan**. 7 p.m. 416-633-3838.

Saturday, May 28

TORAH AND THE JEWS

Temple Har Zion hosts **Rabbi Arnold Wolf**, of Chicago, as scholar-in-residence today and tomorrow. The program, "Torah and the Jews," begins at 9 a.m. each day. Sunday breakfast $8 for non-members. 905-889-2252.

Sunday, May 29

WALK WITH ISRAEL

Join UJA Federation and the whole Toronto Jewish community for the world's largest solidarity walk on Israel's behalf. Registration 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park. Celebration continues at the end of the walk at Ontario Place with the Rio Can Festival. 416-631-5700 or www.ujawalkwithisrael.com.

WINGATE BREAKFAST

The Wingate Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion all-members breakfast meeting takes place at 9:15 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024.

GARAGE SALE

The Golda Meir chapter of Jewish Women International is holding a fundraising garage sale at 69 Talbot Rd. Yonge and Finch. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

JUDAISM ON THE SILK ROAD

Adath Israel Dynamic Singles presents "Judaism on the Silk Road," with **Rochelle Carraday**. 11:30 a.m. $15 prepaid, $20 at the door. RSVP to **Rachel** at 416-635-5340.

TRAGEDY AND BLESSING

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum and **Loretta Tanenbaum** lead a study group on "Tragedy and Blessing: A New Perspective" at Congregation B'nai Shalom of Halton-Peel. 2 p.m. 905-469-4344.

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh Group meets at 7 p.m. for videos and discussion on Jewish life. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942.

PATH TO ETHICAL LIVING

Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb lectures on "Derech Eretz: The Path to Ethical Living" at Temple Kol Ami's Sunday night lecture at Chapters at Yonge and Steeles. 7:30 p.m. 905-709-2620.

Monday, May 30

MEDITATION MONDAYS

The Caring Committee of Temple Har Zion presents Meditation Mondays with **John Fleming, Karen Kaufman** and **Rosalind Smith.** The program is designed to support the practice of meditation in the Jewish community and is intended for the curious, the novice and even those with a well-developed meditation practice. 7:30-9 p.m. Non-members $5. 905-889-2252.

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

Adath Sholom Sisterhood holds an information night for its trip to Atlantic City, June 27-30. 7 p.m. at 864 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-633-9691.

HARVARD AT BETH TZEDEC

Jon D. Levenson, Albert A. List

Continued on page 21

Israel Day at the Square
Sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation
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Anne Dublin - *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*

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Martin Lockshin - *Rashbam's Commentary on Deuteronomy*

POETRY - Isa Milman - *Between the Doorposts*

YIDDISH TRANSLATION
Goldie Morgantaler - Chava Rosenfarb's *Survivors: Seven Short Stories*

BIOGRAPHY - MEMOIR
James Laxer
Red Diaper Baby: A Boyhood in the Age of McCarthy

CANADIAN JEWISH HISTORY
Jill Culiner - *Finding Home: In the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers*

Books will be available for purchase and authors will sign their books.

Reception Following - Free Parking - Free Admission

KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS
JCC

Continued from page 20

Professor of Jewish Studies at Harvard University, speaks tonight and tomorrow night at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Tonight his topic is, "What was Biblical Monotheism?" Tomorrow's lecture is, "The Conversion of Abraham to Judaism, Christianity and Islam." 8 p.m. 416-781-3511.

ZORNBERG ON JOSEPH

Dr. Aviva Zornberg gives a lecture on "Does Joseph Hate Us? Closing the Book," at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 8 p.m. $18. 416-789-3213.

WHEN ISRAEL IS 1, GOD IS 1

James A. Diamond, University of Waterloo, speaks on "When Israel Is One, God Is One," the Sone Lecture at Adath Israel Congregation. 8 p.m. 416-635-5340.

Tuesday May 31

LUNCH AND LEARN

Beth Tikvah Synagogue hosts **Rabbi Avraham Feder** lecturing on "Ingathering in Israel: Ethiopians, Russians and North Americans." Lunch 12:15 p.m., learn 1 p.m. $8. To reserve, call 416-221-3433, ext 0.

YOU & YOUR ADOLESCENT

Jewish Family and Child Service presents **Joe Rich**, parenting expert, speaking on "You and Your Adolescent" at CHAT, 200 Wilmington Ave. 7:30 p.m. $10. 416-638-7800.

SAR-EL INFORMATION

Find out about Sar-El, an opportunity to volunteer on an Israeli supply/maintenance base. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089.

CHUG HATANACH

Irving Matlow leads a discussion of chapters 51 and 52 of Psalms. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

Wednesday, June 1

ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBIT

Bernard Betel Centre arts and crafts exhibit and sale includes pottery, paintings, knitted and crocheted items and specialty crafts. 1-8 p.m. 1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

ATERET KAVOD AWARDS

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism honours **Rabbis Avraham Feder, Joseph Kelman** and **Erwin Schild** with the Ateret Kavod Award for their many years of dedicated commitment and service to the Conservative movement and the Toronto community. Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 7 p.m. $60. To reserve, call 416-667-1717 or e-mail canadian@uscj.org.

PARENT TO PARENT

Parents of child with special needs are invited to socialize, share ideas and information, ask questions and join a discussion on "Making Your Child's Leisure and Recreational Time Work for Them and You," with panellists, **Sari Grossinger**, of the Ontario Camping Association, **Jason Stulberg**, integration co-ordinator at Vaughan Parks and Recreation, **Ann Szabo**, of the Reena Foundation, **Megan Macdonald**, of the Special Olympics, and **Melisa Clare**, North Toronto recreation co-ordinator for integration services. 8 p.m. at the Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313. For information, call **Debbie Galdstone**, 416-631-5835.

Other news

FEAR OF POLISH

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada presents **Kalman Weiser**, of York University, speaking on "Fear of Polish: Yiddishism, Folkism and the Holocaust," at the the 10th annual Louis Lenkinski Memorial Lecture. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at the Barbara Frum Library. 20 Covington Ave.

BBYO WEEKEND

Join teens from the Toronto and Buffalo at Camp Lakeland for a weekend conclave June 3-5. Call the BBYO office at 416-398-2004.

SINGLES SHABBATON

Jewish Futures and SEC are holding a kosher Northland Experience Shabbaton for young adults 22-32, June 3-5. Cost including transportation $200. 905-882-6755 or jfutures@rogers.com.

VENDORS WANTED

Ve'ahavta Chaverim Vaughan Chapter, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, is looking for vendors for its "Bizarre Bazaar," Sunday, June 5, at Earl Bales Park Community Centre,10 a.m.-4 p.m. Funds raised will support Ve'ahavta's homeless programs in Israel and Toronto. 416-964-7698, ext. 19.

BETH EMETH CONCERT

Join Beth Emeth Synagogue for its Jubilee Concert featuring the Sons of Sepharad, **Rex Benincasa, Aaron Bensoussan, Gerard Edery, Emmanuel Mann, George Mgrdichian** and **Alberto Mizrahi**. Wednesday, June 8. Patrons $136, sponsor $54, general admission $36. Purchase tickets in advance at 416-633-3838.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

Join the eighth annual Zareinu Moveathon, a full-day fundraiser supporting Zareinu, a day school and treatment centre for children with physical and developmental disabilities. Events include 100 km and 50 km bicycle rides, 20 km family ride, 10 km run, 2 km clergy-on-the-move fun loop, carnival and community picnic with **SpongeBob SquarePants** and **Dora the Explorer**. Sunday, June 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Earl Bales Park. 416-661-1800 or www.moveathon.com.

MOUNT SINAI WALK/RUN

Mount Sinai Hospital's third annual walk/run for the best medicine is a 1 km stroll, a 5 km run/walk and a 10 km timed run at Queen's Park in Toronto, Sunday, June 19. Contact **Miriam Myers** at 416-586-3192 or ww.mshwalk.ca.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants are held every Tuesday morning 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to join a JIAS Conversation Café. Practise your English in a casual and friendly environment with other newcomers and JIAS volunteers over coffee. For a location, call **Jodi** at ext. 30.

Join JIAS on Monday, June 16, for guest speaker **David Bornstein**, author of *How to Change the World*. For information, call Jodi at ext. 28.

JIAS needs volunteers for Conversation Cafés and family-to-family matching program. Call Joanna at ext. 30.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 246.

Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour: A five-session group for parents with children who frequently demonstrate behaviours such as temper tantrums, aggression, talking back and not following your rules, as well as having trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays beginning July 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, June 5; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 8, 29. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

The Association of Jewish Seniors "To Your Good Health" Tuesday, June 21, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Earl Bale Community Centre. Keynote speaker **Tim Hurson**, entertainment **Marie GoGo**. Lunch served. Members free, guests $3. Reserve by June 9. Call **Debbie** at 416-635-2860.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Out-of-towners coffee club, meet new people every Thursday at 2 p.m. For info, call ext. 105.

"Karaoke and Sing-Along With **Ron Rosenberg**," Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Non-members $3.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m May 31, lecture.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Smile Theatre will preform the musical *Os De Genou: The Saga of Tom Kneebone*, Friday, May 27, 1-2 p.m.

"The Power of Laughter" a lecture, Tuesday, May 31, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Members $2, non-members $5.

Stained-glass class begins Tuesday, June 7, at 10 a.m. $16. Call **Gail**, ext. 2939.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The BJCC computer lab, which specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+, offers night classes. Beginning in June, "Getting Started on Your Computer," "Using the Internet and E-mail" and "Internet Safety and Maintaining a Healthy Computer." Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

"Jerusalem's Magic," an exhibition dedicated to the celebration of Jerusalem Day, includes the works of Jerusalem artist **Peter Gur**. June 3-14 in the Loggia, Koffler Centre of the Arts. Opening and reception Sunday, June 5, 2-4 p.m. For information, call ext. 296.

The third annual golf tournament takes place Thursday, June 23, at Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club. Call ext. 371.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Volunteers needed for the MNJCC checkpoint for the Walk for Israel on May 29. Call ext. 154 or e-mail ilanah@mnjcc.org.

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Harry Wayne	May 6/05	1555 Finch Ave.E.
Kelvin Winkler	May 6/05	471 Lakeview Drive
Bertha Minden	May 6/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Bessie Swaigen	May 7/05	83 Olive Avenue
Saundra Mann	May 11/05	18 Old Forest Hill Road
Bill Sniderman	May 11/05	282 St. Clair Ave W
Jacques Moscovici	May 11/05	123 Silas Hill Drive

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jacqueline Rejskind	May 11/05	1755 Victoria Ave
Edward (Rusty) Ungar	May 12/05	64 Stately Way
Jack Winthrop	May 13/05	26 Madron Cres
Ilie Farkas	May 13/05	149 Viewmount Ave
Nancy Pauline Sniderman	May 13/05	645 Castlefield Ave
Shmuel Benis	May 14/05	6040 Bathurst St

HEDREW BASIC

Ray Wiener	May 11/05	718 Sheppard Ave, West

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MARTIN ABRAMS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Tikvah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MAX DIAL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chenstochover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK KLEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ELEK KLEMENSBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Cemetery
986 Wilson Avenue
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARNOLD (ADISH) NIRENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th, 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEO KON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

SNIDERMAN, Nancy Pauline - On Friday, May 13, 2005 at Humber River Regional Hospital - Church Street. Nancy Sniderman, beloved wife of the late Max Sniderman. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Barbara Lee Sniderman, Susan Felicia and Michael Crystal, and the late David and Marlena Sniderman. Dear sister and sister-in-law of Leon and Pauline Gould, Sylvia and the late Max Gould, and the late Estelle and Harold Mayzel. Devoted grandmother of Lill Haydn, and Ben and Sara Crystal. Nancy will be dearly missed by all who knew her. At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Avenue West (3 lights west of Dufferin) for service on Sunday, May 15, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. Interment Junction Synagogue section of Lambton Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Dysautonomia Society 905-882-7725 or Toronto Hadassah-WIZO, 416-630-8373.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOSEPH SINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 11:45 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Apter Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JUDITH (JUDY) ELAINE TEPERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 1:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Adath Israel "M" Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

In our deep pain & sorrow the 2nd year anniversary we remember our dear beloved son
DR. MARTIN EINES ז"ל
Mom & Dad, Toby, Ron, Emily, Marsha, Leah, Sarah & Melanie
WILL NEVER FORGET

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EUGENE SANDORFY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shomrai Shabbos Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

IN HONOR OF EDITH SHERMAN
Our sincerest thanks and appreciation for the acts of kindness, memorial donations & messages of sympathy & love from our family & friends on the loss of our beloved sister.
Esther Sword, Bob Lawrence, Jack & Irving Lebofsky.

The Family of the late
DANNY SALSBERG ז"ל
Express heartfelt gratitude to family and friends for their acts of kindness.
Your compassion will help us through this difficult time.
Sharon, Chelsea and Rachel

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Obituary

Gold brought a rare humanity to resolving disputes

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The key to Alan B. Gold's success over his long, distinguished legal career was his ability to allow both sides to feel they had been treated fairly and could walk away with their dignity intact, Marc Gold said in eulogizing his father at a funeral attended by over a thousand last week. He died at age 87 on May 15.

Gold was chief justice of Quebec Superior Court from 1983 to 1992, the only Jew ever to occupy the position. But he was nationally known as the deft and determined mediator and arbitrator of strikes and other disputes involving the post office, the railways and airlines, the ports, the native peoples and other areas of the public and private sectors.

His most memorable and probably toughest assignment was mediating the Oka Crisis, the 78-day standoff among Mohawks, Quebec police and the army in 1990, a violent clash that attracted the world's attention.

As much as he loved the law, Gold did not hold any high-flown ideals about it, his son said. "The law was not something abstract to him, but a practical answer to human relationships and workable solutions to life's problems. Often he viewed it as the lesser of two evils in seeking justice in an imperfect world."

That he was trusted by all parties in often rancorous conflicts was his greatest pleasure, Marc said. The confidence placed in him stemmed from his genuine liking and interest in people, whoever they were, he said.

Gold is remembered for the skill and wisdom he brought to his profession, his down-to-earth, engaging personality and his realism about human nature and the way the world worked.

"He knew that life was not fair; therefore, he felt the obligation to treat people fairly. That was the golden thread that ran through his life," Marc said.

He treated everyone the same, no matter what their station, and had an intuitiveness that enabled him to understand people, Rabbi Reuben Poupko said. (Colleagues can attest to this; he frequently addressed them as "boychik" or some other affectionate nickname.)

A great believer in making the law accessible to all, Gold was a founder of the Legal Aid Bureau of Montreal in 1957. In his time off over the years, he quietly counselled those who could not otherwise afford a lawyer. His judgments were known for being understandable to the lay person, not just lawyers.

Marc described his father as "a very proud Jew" who conveyed Jewish values without labelling them as such to his three children.

Rabbi Poupko said "his life was a source of honour for every Jew in this city." Gold earned wide esteem in Quebec society, especially among francophones.

Former premier Lucien Bouchard, who attended the funeral, told *The CJN* that Gold, his law firm colleague for the past four years and next-door neighbour, was accepted by Quebecers as one of their own.

Gold, he said, achieved that rare thing in public life, especially one that was so long: he not only made no enemies, but no one had anything bad to say about him.

"He had a way of connecting with people, across all the lines. It was not possible to meet him without feeling an intimacy with him. He had an intelligence of the mind and of the heart," Bouchard said. "That's why he was so successful."

Bouchard particularly appreciated Gold's off-beat sense of humour. "You would ask him what the odds were on a case. He would go 'well, well,' be non-committal, then say, 'They are 60-40, but I don't know on what side.'"

Gold was born in Montreal in 1917 and spoke only Yiddish until age six. The family had a deep appreciation of language and culture, especially music, two passions that remained with Gold throughout his life.

McGill University's quota on Jews at the time almost thwarted Gold's ambition to be a lawyer. Instead, he went to Queen's University for his BA and earned a law degree cum laude from the Université de Montréal in 1941, an experience that made him comfortable in the francophone milieu. He then served in the Royal Canadian Artillery for four years.

Many years later, from 1978-82, he served as chair of McGill's board of governors, and was chancellor of Concordia University from 1987-92.

He received his first judicial appointment in 1961, becoming a district judge and first vice-chair of the Quebec Labour Relations Board. Four years later, he was appointed associate chief justice of the Provincial Court and, in 1970, chief judge of that body, which had been renamed the Court of Quebec.

From 1966-83, he was the chief arbitrator between the Quebec government and its employees, who were affiliated with one of the most militant unions on the continent.

After his retirement from the bench in 1992, Gold became a full-time mediator and arbitrator. He was also a senior counsel to Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg.

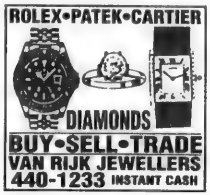
In the '90s, he served voluntarily as president of the Jewish Public Establishments Commission, which represented the community health and social-service institutions to government.

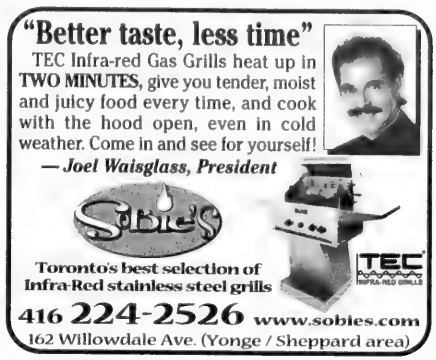
Lawyer Ian Solloway, past president of the Lord Reading Law Society, described Gold as an "icon" of the profession. "He was tough as nails and had a mind like a steel-trap, yet was gentle at the same time. He was always a pleasure to be with, whether in court or socially. Just a terrific human being."

Gold received numerous national, provincial and city honours, as well as five honorary degrees and the Canadian Jewish community's highest citation, the Samuel Bronfman Medal.

Two years ago, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his admission to the Quebec Bar, his friends and colleagues created a scholarship fund in his name at the U of M law faculty. Gold's contribution to the justice system as well as to forging ties between diverse communities, unions and bosses, the native peoples and the Quebec government were recognized with that honour.

In addition to Marc, Gold is survived by his wife of 55 years, Lynn Lubin, and their children Nora and Daniel, and their families.

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On Campus

Friends of Bar-Ilan to mark school's 50th year

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

The Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University are setting forth to celebrate 50 years of achievement and contribution to the success of Israel's largest university.

The 140-acre campus with six faculties, 25 libraries, 130 laboratories, a student body of 33,000 and 59,000 alumni is touted as a school that has successfully balanced scientific research with Jewish studies.

"Bar-Ilan University is Israel's only institution of higher learning founded on the principle of integrating academic excellence with an appreciation of Jewish heritage. [It] is dedicated to fostering intellectual leadership, scientific progress and human values for the benefit of Israel, the world Jewish community and all humanity," states the school's official website.

Dov Altman, the national executive director of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University (CFBIU), is part of a world-wide team that raises funds and awareness about the university in Ramat Gan and is proud of the contributions that Canadians have made in making it such a success.

Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA Center) was founded by Canadian Thomas Hecht. The gender studies program at Bar-Ilan, the only one of its kind in Israel, was also founded by Canadians, said Altman, as was the Cancer, Aids & Immunology Research Institute in Israel.

The CFBIU will participate in a trip to Israel, a Jubilee celebration, that is meant to be both educational and fun.

The trip will feature Bar-Ilan researchers who will guide participants through the Golan and Sinai. As well as celebrating 50 years of achievement, participants will also have the opportunity to study with Israel's best scholars and meet some of Israel's top leaders.

Bar-Ilan boasts a large Jewish studies program, which offers more than 1,000 courses, and it is the only university that requires students to minor in Jewish studies. The university has also garnered attention and acclaim for its work in nanotechnology (the science and technology of building electronic circuits and devices from single atoms and molecules).

"Bar-Ilan University is listed as number 13 in all of Europe in nanoscience literary citations," Altman said.

Because of this, the university has attracted more grants and funds to further research.

Altman said CFBIU was instrumental in building a university that has a student body that has grown by 90 per cent over the past 10 years.

Before the dream of creating a school that combined the latest in scientific technology with the richness of Jewish culture became a reality, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, was skeptical that Torah and science could mix.

"Back in 1954, '55, Ben-Gurion said a school like that was unnecessary and that we should build a yeshiva instead. He said if the school could get 2,000 students, it would be a success," Altman said.

Today, Bar-Ilan is the largest university in Israel with the fastest growing PhD program.

Bar-Ilan also accommodates many Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) students, "which gives them the ability to do both [study and serve] without having to choose one over the other," he said.

But Altman said the mission of CFBIU is to unite Jews of all levels of observance and educate them about Jewish heritage.

"We are a Zionist university. We believe in a Jewish state, not just a democratic one."

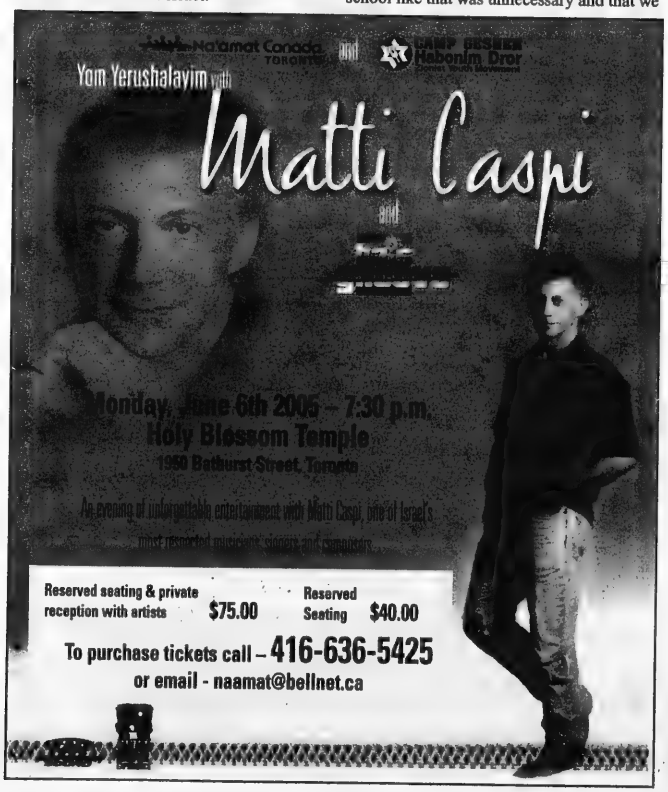
He said that 60 per cent of the students are secular and the rest are religious and that the students are attracted to the university's focus on Jewish values.

"Bar-Ilan is the only university to teach the importance of a Jewish state and about what we've given to the world as Jews," he said.

"On campus, you see girls with mini-skirts and tank tops walking with women in full-length skirts, and men wearing kippahs walking with men who don't wear kippahs. The goal is to bring the two groups together and to create an understanding and respect for one another."

The Jubilee celebration takes place June 6-11. For more information, call 1-888-248-2720 or e-mail admin@cfbiu. org.

TEENS DO COMMUNITY SERVICE: Teens from BBYO, Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror, United Synagogue Youth, National Conference for Synagogue Youth and Canadian Young Judaea took part in Tikkun Toronto, a recent day-long community service event. En route to help at the MS Walkathon are, top row from left, Omer Eshel, Gillian Geller, Leah Rosenberg, and Miriam Braun, and bottom row from left are Sharon Markowitz, Becca Dreezer and Emily Teichman.



SHAAREI SHOMAYIM'S
ADULT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

invites the community to a lecture by

DR. AVIVAH ZORNBERG
of Jerusalem.

Dr. Zornberg, a pre-eminent female Torah scholar, is a world famous teacher, author and lecturer.

Monday, May 30, 2005

8:00 P.M.

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
470 Glencairn Avenue

Lecture Topic: What if Joseph Hates Us – Closing the Book

Cost: $18.00

Coast to Coast

Alberta, Israel commit $1M each to water research

By NEIL LOOMER
Special to The CJN

EDMONTON — The Alberta government and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) have signed a memorandum of understanding to contribute $1 million each for research into the innovative design, construction and rehabilitation of water management and irrigation infrastructure.

In announcing the province's contribution at a meeting of JNF business leaders in Edmonton, Alberta Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Lyle Oberg and Environment Minister Guy Boutilier heralded the deal as an important step in exchanging technology and other expertise between Alberta and Israel.

"Water is a precious resource for both Alberta and Israel," Oberg said. "This partnership establishes links between the two jurisdictions to share information, expertise and best practices related to water conservation and irrigation."

Oberg, who represents a riding in southern Alberta that has many of the same climatic conditions as Israel's Negev region, said there has been a drastic reduction in the flow of the Bow River in Alberta, and Israeli research and innovation can help with the irrigation problems affecting farmers and ranchers in the area.

Boutilier noted that knowledge gained through the partnership will be used to support Alberta's "Water for Life" water management program and to enhance provincial water infrastructure such as dams, canals and storage reservoirs.

Emphasizing the importance of water conservation to both jurisdictions, Boutilier said that in Alberta, water is referred to as "blue gold," while in Israel it's sometimes called "mayim shel zahav" (water of gold).

The University of Lethbridge's Water Institute for Semi-arid Ecosystems and the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association will partner in the initiative and carry out the research activities.

Avi Gafni, the co-ordinating researcher of the JNF Land Development Authority and a recognized expert in the de-salinization of land, will assist the province in renewing land that has been poisoned by salt deposits caused by years of bad irrigation techniques.

Gafni told the audience he is eager to do research in Alberta, which unlike Israel has vast areas of land available for research and experimentation.

The agreement was spearheaded by Rami Kleinmann, the JNF's emissary to the Prairies, who said JNF is looking "forward to sharing our 104 years of knowledge and experience with environmental issues – namely water, soil, and forestation – with the government and people of Alberta."

He said he plans to take Oberg, Boutilier, and representatives from their departments and the University of Lethbridge to Israel this fall for a first-hand visit to irrigation and de-salinization projects.

Bogomolny to celebrate 100th birthday

Continued from page 19

Bogomolny was born Naomi Bronstein in 1905 in Zvanetz, Bessarabia, then part of Russia. Aaron Bogomolny escaped Russia in 1922 and went to work as a salesman in Winnipeg. Five years later, he brought his bride and they were married.

They moved to Kapuskasing, Ont., where Aaron managed Bucovetsky's Department Store, now called Buc's. He went on to open a men's wear store and a restaurant.

Their three children, Nancy Levine, Monson and Hersh Bromley were born in Kapuskasing.

When the children were still young, the family moved to St. Catharines, where Bogomolny worked with her husband in their men's wear store, She became active in Hadassah-WIZO and served as chapter president in St. Catharines.

"My mother was very courageous," says Monson. "When she came to Kapuskasing, although she was in her mid-20s, she enrolled in Grade 1 to learn to read and write English."

That was the beginning of a self-taught education. Highly articulate and an avid reader of literature and poetry, she ultimately began writing for her own pleasure. Over the years, she has written poems, stories and greetings cards for family and friends.

Bogomolny's first published work appeared in the Kapuskasing daily. It was titled "Bottoms Up," and was followed by a poem, *What's in a Greeting Card?*

Aaron Bogomolny died 20 years ago. Two years later, Naomi moved to Toronto where she became active at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living participating in the literary groups where she wrote poetry.

Despite the fact that Bogomolny's speech has been affected, Monson notes that she has exceptional hearing and vision. "She can hear a tap leaking, and her doctor says that if she was driving, she wouldn't have her licence taken away because of her eyesight. And I believe she takes less pills than anyone else at Forest Hill Place."

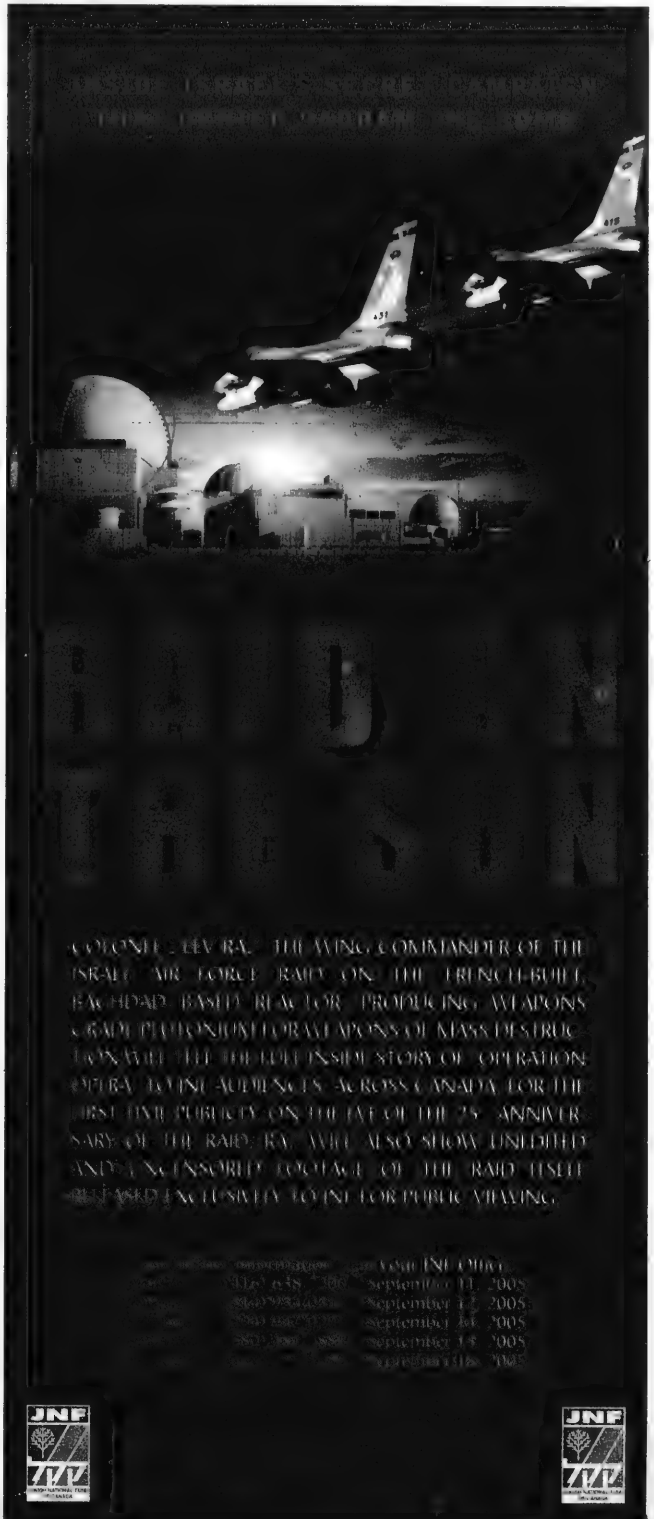
On the weekend of her 100th birthday, Bogomolny's great-granddaughter Hannah Simpson will celebrate her bat mitzvah. People will be coming from New York, Boston, St. Catharines and Ottawa for the weekend's celebrations.

At the party for the centenarian, four generations will be present. Her children, six grandchildren and their spouses, and 19 great-grandchildren will participate with speeches, songs and recitation of poems.

Until recently, Bogomolny has spoken at all family simchahs.

Quoting from her poem *What's in a Greeting Card?*, Bogomolny concludes, "Yes, it's just a piece of paper,/ And it costs no big amount,/ But it proves that old, old saying,/ 'It's all the little things that count.'"

It is this philosophy that has made Naomi Bogomolny's 100 years full of joy and gratitude.



Coast to Coast

Some truths are not so pleasant

In his May 2 article in the *Jerusalem Report*, "Fair Game, Then and Now," Moshe Negbi, legal commentator for Israel Radio and a columnist for the *Report*, wrote about the absence of law and order that prevails in some areas of the West Bank.

The problem is particularly egregious around the two cities of Nablus and Hebron, where small groups of radical Jewish settlers have allegedly engaged in what he termed "violent harassment" of their Palestinian neighbours, and of "the failure of the army, police and judicial authorities to deal with them."

This is a topic that has received a substantial amount of Israeli media attention, but also some foreign media coverage as well.

On May 11, the CBC's Adrienne Arsenault did a story from the Palestinian village of Tuwani, near Hebron, where sheep have become sick or died from poison that had been spread on their fields. The villagers claim the poison was placed there by Israeli settlers. The settlers deny any involvement.

Arsenault reported: "[Palestinian] villagers are so sure it was the Jewish settlers… because it fits an old pattern of abuse and violence in the Hebron hills. These are hardly comfortable neighbours. Blood has been spilled on both sides. [The] problem [is] so acute the Israeli police now escort Tuwani's children to school after the kids were attacked by settlers… International and Israeli activists now roam these fields to act as watchers and shields for the farmers."

Some media monitoring organizations and individuals in Canada took strong exception with Arsenault for doing this story when there have been no arrests or firm determination of who was responsible for the poisoning.

However, Negbi, who also teaches constitutional and media law at Hebrew University, said in a telephone conversation: "In my view there doesn't have to be absolute evidence, only reasonable ground for doing this story." He referred to the *prima facie* evidence, including a pattern of behaviour of intimidation and harassment that appears in this case.

Arnon Regular, who covers the territories for *Ha'aretz*, said in conversation that the CBC story was not only valid, it was important. He added: "I was told by a police officer in the Hebron area that there is no doubt in their minds that the settlers are involved, even though they have problems catching the people responsible."

The "problem" is that it appears that the Israeli authorities – the police – are unable to handle and properly investigate the complaints by the Palestinians.

Both Regular and Negbi explained that only a very small number of settlers are involved in the attacks and intimidation, a point Arsenault should have emphasized. These are people living mostly in outposts considered illegal by Israeli law and who have been in constant friction, some of it violent, with nearby Palestinian farmers whose land claims they do not recognize.

Yet another Israeli journalist, Oni Yablonka of *Ma'ariv*, wrote (May 6) that "the number of violent incidents by settlers against Palestinians and [Israeli] forces has risen sharply by 52 per cent, as indicated by Samaria and Judea District Police data. From the beginning of January 2005 and until the end of April, 265 files against settlers were opened for alleged disturbances and violence of varying degrees towards Arabs, soldiers and police. In comparison, in the same period last year, only 174 files were opened against settlers."

Yablonka cited the Settlers Council reply: "We do not justify violence of any sort, and if the data indicate anything concrete, then it is ugly and contrary to Judaism and our strong tradition."

There are occasions when media items about Israel may make us uncomfortable and lead us to an immediate reaction of denial. We must recognize, however, that it is not journalistically irresponsible for reporters to deal with unpleasant truths. Quite the contrary, in fact. What we must guard against are the genuine distortions of reality that are indeed inimical towards Israel. Attacks on fair media stories diminish our credibility when we need to take issue with coverage that is anything but fair.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Israel offers conciliatory gestures to PA

Continued from page 1

They also opened light arms fire. Following an exchange of gunfire with IDF troops securing the area, one of the militants was killed. The other two, one of whom was wounded in the gun battle, escaped.

The mortar fire was intended as a diversion tactic to cover the Palestinians approaching the settlement and firing anti-tank missiles, military sources said. The militants were also seen with a bomb that had not been detonated.

Palestinians also fired at least 10 mortar shells at settlements and IDF posts overnight throughout the Gaza Strip, Israel Radio reported.

Despite the continued barrage of mortar shells and rockets, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz approved a series of gestures to the Palestinians, over the objections of the Shin Bet security service.

Shin Bet Chief Yuval Diskin opposed the proposal to approve the gestures, on the grounds that there are too many warnings of terror attacks. But the IDF supported the decision. At a meeting with Mofaz, senior officers warned that if Israel did not act to strengthen Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, "he'll fall, and then we'll have to give more abatements to Hamas, which will gain power in his stead."

The measures, which will be brought to the cabinet for approval after Sharon returns from the United States later this month, involve steps that Israel originally promised at February's Sharm el-Sheikh summit: freeing an additional 400 Palestinian prisoners, allowing the return of wanted Palestinians deported to Europe following the standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity in 2002, and allowing the return of Palestinians deported from the West Bank to Gaza.

The U.S. security co-ordinator, Gen. William Ward, had pressured Israel to take these steps in recent days. "You complain that the Palestinians are not fulfilling their commitments," he told his Israeli interlocutors. "But what about your commitments?"

The decision to approve these steps now is also related to Abbas' planned visit to Washington this week. Thereby, Sharon hopes to deflect Abbas' expected complaint to U.S. President George W. Bush that Israel is not helping him.

Sharon approved the gestures despite the ongoing escalation in Gaza. Palestinians fired at least 14 mortars at the Gush Katif settlements last Thursday, and four Qassam rockets landed in Israel – including one in the courtyard of Sderot's municipal offices. The shelling caused property damage but no casualties. Palestinians also shot at IDF troops in Gaza and launched anti-tank missiles at the troops.

The IDF did not respond to the shelling, even though the government has authorized it to respond to mortar and rocket launches, particularly if Hamas seems to be trying to cause escalation. Israeli intelligence believes that while Hamas does want some escalation in the run-up to new local elections in Rafah, it also does not want the ceasefire to collapse. Last Thursday's shelling, therefore, was not carried out by Hamas, but by other Palestinian factions – primarily the Popular Resistance Committees, a Fatah breakaway, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

It is possible that Hamas is financing, or even giving orders for, shelling by other groups, army sources added, but Hamas leaders seem to want to end the current round of violence – which is why Israel responded to the shelling mainly with threats rather than action. Hamas did not even attack, as the IDF had expected it would, when a Hamas operative wounded in an IDF air strike died of his wounds.

Despite the Gaza escalation, the IDF believes that abatements should continue in the West Bank, because the PA has begun security co-ordination with Israel – albeit not against the terrorist organizations. The army proposes removing roadblocks and allowing more West Bank residents to work in Israel. It also recommends preparing to hand Qalqilyah over to the PA once the latter makes progress on collecting weapons from wanted men in the two cities it already controls, Jericho and Tul Karm.

Sharon's adviser Dov Weissglas met with Palestinian minister Saeb Erekat and called for an immediate halt to shelling attacks by Palestinian militants.

Weissglas warned Erekat that if the Palestinians continue shelling Israeli targets in and around the Gaza Strip, the Israel Defence Forces will respond harshly.

Palestinian sources said Weissglas told Erekat, however, that the IDF won't escalate the fighting in the Gaza Strip.

The two also agreed in principle to a June meeting between Sharon and Abbas.

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Uzbek Jews feeling scared but safe, say leaders

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — Jewish leaders in Uzbekistan say members of their community feel safe and that no Jews have been hurt in recent unrest that has hit parts of the country.

But speaking off the record, some Jews told JTA that Jews could begin leaving Uzbekistan later this year if the situation continues to deteriorate.

In an interview published earlier this month, Uzbekistan's main Jewish religious authority said it was business as usual for his community, and he condemned those responsible for anti-government protests in the Central Asian nation of 26 million.

"The Jewish community of Tashkent and other cities continues to live a normal life," David Gurevich, a Chabad emissary and chief rabbi of Uzbekistan, was quoted as saying by AEN, a Russian Jewish news agency affiliated with the Chabad-led Federation of Jewish Communities, a leading sponsor of Jewish life in Central Asia.

"The Jewish community condemns any disorders against the existing authorities," he added.

Violence erupted earlier this month in the eastern city of Andijan when armed men stormed a jail and took control of the local administration building. The rebels were joined by thousands of people who took to the streets to protest the trial of 23 local businessmen on charges of Islamic extremism and to complain about poverty and unemployment.

Government authorities blamed the turmoil on radical Islamic groups, and troops opened fire on the crowd.

Uzbek authorities said soldiers shot only at gunmen from a radical Islamist group, but later added that more than 150 people had been killed. Opposition sources said the death toll was closer to 800.

The unrest later spread to the eastern border town of Korasuv, where locals seized control of government buildings Saturday.

Andijan, where the turmoil started, is home to some 500 Jews, Gurevich said.

"No members of the Jewish community took part in the unrest," said the rabbi, adding that the small synagogue in Andijan remained open.

A Moscow-based Jewish official said his organization has been in touch with the Uzbek Jewish community and that there had been no calls for urgent help.

"There is a certain sense of stability now after what happened in Uzbekistan, and although I don't think this will last long, at this point there is absolutely no panic or sense of urgency within the community," said Roman Spektor, a spokesperson for the Moscow office of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress.

Nearly 90 per cent of Uzbekistan's estimated 20,000 Jews live in Tashkent, the capital, which has not been hit by protests.

"In Tashkent, everything is quiet, as if nothing is happening anywhere in the country," a Jewish activist, who asked not to be identified, told JTA last week in a telephone interview from the Uzbek capital.

"When the government point of view dominates the press and airwaves here, we don't even know exactly what is going on," the activist said. "Rumours seem to be the most reliable source of information."

The Federation of Jewish Communities, which operates synagogues and day schools across the former Soviet Union, said it will increase the budget for Uzbekistan to make sure the Jewish community has enough security.

"We are sending them additional funds to set up more armed guards around schools," said Avraham Berkowitz, the federation's Moscow-based executive director. "They are actually in a lot of fear, but the leaders of the community are trying to calm down the people."

Since independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has been ruled by autocrat Islam Karimov. Despite his increasingly poor record on human rights and democratic issues, Karimov has earned a reputation in the United States as a leader able to keep a tight rein on Islamic fundamentalists in an area plagued by radical and separatist trends.

Apparently as part of his campaign to please the West, Karimov has made many overtures to the Jewish community, allowing Jews to open synagogues, schools and charitable centers.

"Karimov's government has always been very helpful to the Jewish community, allowing Jews to practise freely, to be public, to educate their children," Berkowitz said.

A Moscow Jewish woman who has family in Uzbekistan said she urged her relatives to pack up and leave as soon as they can.

"I called my sister in Tashkent the day it all began," said Mira Rivlina, a pediatrician. "I asked her what else needs to happen to make her understand she doesn't have to sit there any more. But you know, she has family, two kids, and it's hard to make a quick decision unless someone breaks into your own apartment one day."

While there's now no indication that Uzbek Jews are planning to leave, "if the situation drags on for months, we can expect more people will go on aliyah or move to Russia," Berkowitz said.

Brief history of Uzbek Jewry

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — A large indigenous Jewish community – known as Bukharan Jews, after the Uzbek city of Bukhara – lived in what is now Uzbekistan for many centuries, involved in crafts and local and international trade.

Beginning in the late 19th century, when the region fell under the Russian influence, Ashkenazi Jews from the European sections of Russia also settled in the region. Many were engineers, doctors or lawyers, and they provided the area's first generation of local intelligentsia.

After the advent of Communism and its war on religion, Jews in Uzbekistan, like those in the other remote parts of the Soviet Union, found it easier to keep their traditions alive than did Jews in the European part of the Bolshevik empire. There, Jewish religion and traditions were subject to persecution.

Many religiously observant Jewish families took advantage of the area's relative religious freedom, living Jewish lives and educating their children in Judaism. That was particularly true of the Lubavitch Chassidim, who came to the area both before and after World War II, either because they had been sent into exile or because they had fled there to avoid Communist repression.

The community grew substantially during World War II with the arrival of thousands of Ashkenazi Jewish refugees and evacuees from Nazi-occupied parts of the Soviet Union. The two communities, Bukharan and Ashkenazi, still retain their distinctive features, and they rarely intermarry.

Most Bukharan Jews, who value the tradition of living as extended families, emigrated to Israel or the United States in the 1970s and in the years following the collapse of Communism in 1991.

–L.K.

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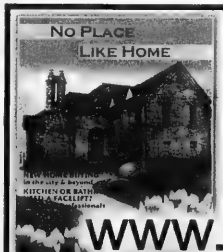

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Tourism to Israel up 25%

Newly released figures show that 373,000 tourists arrived in Israel in the first quarter of 2005, a 25 per cent jump over the comparable quarter in 2004. The increase exceeded expectations and paves the way for Israel to welcome 1.8 million tourists in 2005, according to Israeli Tourism Minister Abraham Hirchson, who encouraged airlines to lower airfares and provide more passenger seats.

Settlers given deadline

The Israeli government gave Gaza settlers a week to accept a special relocation deal. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni told an inter-ministerial committee that 426 settler families, roughly a third of those to be evacuated from Gaza this summer, have signed up to move to Nitzanim, a few miles north along the coast. She warned the rest of the settlers that if they don't do the same within a week, they could lose such privileges as priority housing and choice of schools for their children. "Time is very short and the settlers must understand that if they don't give us a green light very soon, we will be unable to put these solutions at their disposal," she said.

***PA pulls* Protocols**

The Palestinian Authority pulled a link to the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* from one of its websites. The move came after the Anti-Defamation League wrote the PA demanding that it remove the link from its site. As part of the "road map" peace plan, the Palestinians have pledged to stop inciting against Israel, but Israeli officials contend that changes are not coming fast enough. But PA Information Minister Nabil Sha'ath said he ordered the suspension of Sheik Ibrahim Mdaires, a Gaza Strip imam who told his congregation last week that "Jews are a virus resembling AIDS."

Soldier jailed for shooting

An Israeli soldier was sentenced to jail for shooting an unarmed Palestinian. The conscript, who shot a Gaza Strip resident in the leg as he was installing a TV antenna in 2003, was found guilty of grievous bodily harm last week and sentenced to 20 months in jail. He was also found to have lied to investigators and was demoted from sergeant to private. Two Israeli border police officers were jailed for eight months after being found guilty of abusing Palestinians at a checkpoint.

Jewish Agency candidate

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's candidate for the next chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel received preliminary approval. The Jewish Agency's advice and consent committee unanimously approved Ze'ev Bielski, mayor of Ra'anana, as the candidate for the JAFI chairmanship. Bielski is expected to be approved in late June. He would succeed current JAFI chairman Sallai Meridor, who resigned from the post last week.

Files from JTA

Former Toronto rabbi speaks in Tehran

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

In 1993, Rabbi Lawrence Troster moved from Toronto to New Jersey, where he has been based ever since. Earlier this month, he embarked on a much less likely journey: a quick trip to Tehran for a two-day environmental conference.

Rabbi Troster – the rabbinic fellow at the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and a participant in the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment of UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) – was the only rabbi among 50 invited guests to the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue Among Civilizations and Cultures. The event was co-sponsored by UNEP and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Although he admits to having had some doubts about accepting the invitation, the Canadian-born rabbi – who served at Shaareh Haim Synagogue in Richmond Hill (now known in its more recent incarnation as Beit Rayim) and then Beth Tzedec Congregation – felt a responsibility to go, and he said he is glad he went.

"One of the reasons I'm in this work is that I feel it's one of the most critical issues that faces humanity," he said in a telephone interview. "I think our tradition has a lot to say [about environmental issues]."

As well, Rabbi Troster said, although "the [Iranian] government is not doing everything we particularly like," there are moderates within the government who are trying to keep connected to the rest of the world.

The fact he is a rabbi was no secret to the 70 participants from more than 30 countries, as well as about 100 local participants. Among them were university students and professors, ministers of the environment, ambassadors, non-governmental organizations and representatives of the world's major religions.

"People were quite interested to talk to me," Rabbi Troster said. Among them was an Iranian American who grew up during the revolution in Iran, and who had had many Jewish friends in high school. "Especially in Tehran they know about Jewish people."

In a paper Rabbi Troster presented on "Environmentalism as the Foundation of Dialogue between Civilizations," he talked about the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, the Jewish concept of tzedek, and related Torah laws such as letting the land lie fallow every seven years.

"I never felt any hostility [at the conference]," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on his return. "And nobody asked me about Israel."

The environment can be "a good way of bringing together people who usually face off on opposite sides of issues," he added.

The connection between security, peace issues and the environment is very important, said Rabbi Troster. Issues addressed at the conference included the impact of war on the environment, such as the health problems caused by depleted uranium weapons that poison ground water.

Nonetheless, the rabbi remains optimistic that "if humanity really wants, it can solve this problem."

The conference put together a document, the Tehran Communique, that will be submitted to the United Nations and delivered to the Millenium Review Summit, a large-scale event the United Nations is planning for September.

The rabbi's brief trip and the busy conference agenda left him no time to meet the local Jewish community. He did, however, see two Chassidim, fresh from a meeting with the country's president, Mohammad Khatami.

Rabbi Troster quickly realized that they were members of the anti-Zionist Satmar sect.

"They weren't participating in the conference, but they were welcome because they were anti-Zionist," he told JTA. "It was the last place I expected to see a Chassid, but you never know who you are going to run into at these things."

With files from JTA.

IN SOLEMN MEMORY: Israel's Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon lights a memorial candle at the Old Jewish Cemetery in Warsaw last week. [Israel Sun photo]

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילוזער

י. ל. פרץ — צום 90סטן יאָרצייט

פון ש. סימכאָוויטש

ניינציק יאָר זיינען פאַרביי זינט יצחק־לייבוש פרץ איז אַוועק פון דער וועלט חול־המועד פסח 1915. און אַוועקגעפאַלן איז ער ביי זיין שרייבטיש נאָכן אַנשרייבן די ערשטע צוויי שורות פון אַ ניי ליד. זיין אָרון צום גענשער בית־עולם אין וואַרשע האָט באַגלייט אַ הונדערט־קעפּיקער עולם. מיט צען יאָר שפּעטער איז אויף זיין קבר אויפגעשטעלט געוואָרן דער „אוהל פרץ", וואָס איז על־פי־נס ניט צעשטערט געוואָרן דורך די דייטשישע וואַנדאַלן.

י. ל. פרץ האָט זיך אויסגעטיילט פון די אַנדערע צוויי קלאַסיקער פון דער מאָדערנער ייִדישער ליטעראַטור — מענדלע מו"ס און שלום עליכם — מיט זיין הויכן אינטעלעקטואַליזם און פאַרטיפטע פאַרמולירונגען פון זיין ייִדיש־וועלטלעכן אַני־מאמין. ווי די אַנדערע קלאַסיקער האָט אויך פרץ אָנגעהויבן שרייבן אין העברעיִש און אַפילו שפּעטער פאַרעפנטלעכט מאַמרים אין העברעיִשע צייטשריפטן, ווי אויך איבערגעזעצט זיינע ייִדישע שריפטן אין העברעיִש. אין דער זעלבער צייט איז ער געווען איינער פון די איניציאַטאָרן פון דער טשערנאָוויצער שפּראַך־קאָנפערענץ, וואָס האָט דערהויבן ייִדיש צו אַ נאַציאָנאַלער שפּראַך, זייט ביי זייט מיט העברעיִש.

אַזוי ווי מענדעלע און שלום עליכם האָט פרץ געשריבן וועגן די שאָטן־זייטן פון דעמאָלטיקן ייִדישן לעבן און האָט קריטיקירט צב"ש די היפּאָקריטסטווע און צביעות פון טייל פאַרפרומטע ייִדן, ווי אין די דערציילונגען „דאָס שטריימל", „די פרומע קאַץ" א.אַנד. פרץ איז אָבער ניט געבליבן שטיין ביי דער משכילישער קריטיק, נאָר געגראָבן טיפער אין ייִדישן פאָלקס־לעבן, כדי אַרויסצוברענגען דאָס העכערע און דאָס דערהויבענע אין ייִדישן שטייגער, געשיכטע און טראַדיציע ווי, למשל, דאָס טרייע פאַמיליע־לעבן אין „שלום בית", אָדער די מסירת־נפש פאַר דער אייגענער אמונה און קולטור אין „דריי מתּנות". אַזוי אַרום איז י. ל. פרץ, דער וועלטלעכער ייִד, אין זיינע „פאָלקסטימלעכע געשיכטעס", דערגאַנגען נאָענט צו אידעאַליזירן חסידיזם ווי אין די דערציילונגען „אויב נישט נאָך העכער", „צווישן צוויי בערג" און אַנדערע.

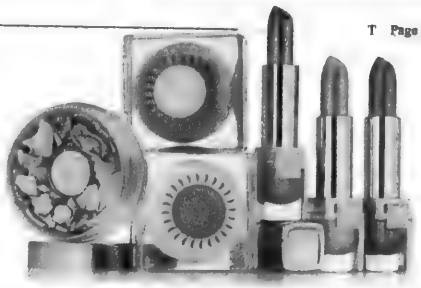
אויסער דערציילונגען האָט פרץ אויך געשאַפן אין אַנדערע זשאַנערן. זיין פּאָעמע „מאַניש" איז געבליבן ביז היינט ווי אַ פּאָעטישער שעדעווער אין דער ייִדישער דיכטונג. זיינע דראַמעס „ביינאַכט אויפן אַלטן מאַרק" און „די גאָלדענע קייט" זיינען געשפּילט געוואָרן אויף די בינעס פון ייִדישע טעאַטערס אין אַלע וועלט־טיילן. אויסער דעם איז פרץ געווען אַ באַגאַבטער פּובליציסט און עסייִסט און אַ מדריך פון אַ נייעם דור ייִדישע שרייבער. אין זיין הויז אויף צעגלאַנע גאַס אין וואַרשע האָבן זיך אויסגעוואַרעמט אַזעלכע גרויסע טאַלאַנטן ווי שלום אַש, איטשע מאיר ווייסענבערג, אַלטער קאָציזנע און אַ צאָל אַנדערע.

אין זיינע דערציילונגען האָט פרץ זיך אָנגענומען פאַר דער עוולה קעגן די אָרעמע און דערשלאָגענע, ווי אין „באַנטשע שווייג", אָדער פאַר דער ביטערער מערכה פון דער ייִדישער פרוי, ווי אין „דער כעס פון אַ ייִדענע". אידעיִש איז פרץ געווען נאָענט צו דער ייִדישער אַרבעטער־באַוועגונג און געווען טעטיק אין ייִדיש־געזעלשאַפטלעכן לעבן, ספּעציעל אין די יאָרן פון דער ערשטער וועלט־מלחמה, ווען עס זיינען געווען אַזוי פיל געליטענע און היימלאָזע ייִדן וועמען מען האָט געדאַרפט העלפן.

אין די געטאָס און טויט־לאָגערן בשעת דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה, האָבן די געפּייניקטע ייִדן געשעפּט טרייסט און דערמוטיקונג פון פרצעס שאַפונגען און געגלויבט, אַז די נאַצישע ממשלה פון מאָרד און לית־דין וועט קומען צו אַ סוף, ווי פרץ האָט עס אַזוי בולט אויסגעדריקט אין זיין באַרימט ליד „מיין נישט":

מיין נישט די וועלט איז אַ קרעטשמע — באַשאַפן,
מאַכן אַ וועג מיט פויסטן און נעגל...
אָ, מיין נישט, לית דין ולית דיין!

Summer Fashion



Beauty products from Estee Lauder

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

BEAUTY NEWS: Kaleidoscopes of colour decorate this summer season with dollops of juicy lavenders, peaches and pinks. Sultry eyes are defined with blacker than black eye pencils, and lips are luscious with glazes that glisten with delight.

If you are going outside, be sure to have your sun block on, but if tanning is not for you, then try out all the wonderful new sunless tanning products. Have fun during this colourful season and try something new.

BEAUTY SHOP
BY CAROL WISE

SPAMEDICA: Dr. Stephen Mulholland, cosmetic surgeon for SpaMedica, recently appeared on the *Today Show* with **Katie Kuric** and **Matt Laur** to speak to an audience of more than 50 million people. You might ask yourself why a Canadian plastic surgeon is receiving so much attention? The answer is ThreadLiftT.

Clinique: Overflowing with bronze tones

ThreadLiftT is a non-incisional, minimally invasive, suture-based facelift that has been developed, pioneered and championed by Mulholland over the past four years. Mulholland, one of Canada's most recognized and respected cosmetic plastic surgeons, has recently expanded his Los Angeles-based offices to address the tremendous demand for his ThreadLiftT procedure. The procedure has been known to make patients look up to 15 years younger!

Mulholland has some bold things to say about his procedure and has trained over 300 U.S. physicians to perform his technique. "The ThreadLiftT is a wonderful procedure – 70 to 90 per cent of a facelift effect in less than two hours, with no cuts, scars or general anesthetic, which is why the ThreadLiftT has become so popular," he says. "The procedure has minimal recovery, and unlike Botox and fillers, you do not need to keep coming back as the lift effects last for three to five years."

MAURICE FIORIO: For hair this summer, looks are soft, flowing, natural and easy to style. Natural is where it's at for cut and colour. Tone on tone colour creates natural-looking, shiny, bright hair. Warm tones enhance this. Wash'n'go styles created by texturizing the hair create movement, volume and softness.

Styling is scrunch dried to enhance curl and to create texture and softness. **Revlon Professional's** Equave 2Phase conditioners are a great way to minimize hair damage caused by the ever increasing sunlight! The spray-on, leave-in conditioners come in two formulas – one for extra dry and one for volume. Both sprays have UVA and UVB filters.

Come in to Fiorio and treat yourself to Flash Soleil – a hydrating self-tanning treatment that provides overall exfoliation in a tanning cream without the harmful rays of the sun (includes a smoothing hydrating scrub and a self-tanning massage for face and body). Or, to get your face back in order after a long winter, try the **Escale Beauté** beauty break facial – a complete, short and sweet facial treatment.

CAROL'S TIPS

SKIN CARE: Estee Lauder introduces Re-Nutriv Revitalizing Comfort Crème that uses advanced anti-aging technologies to restore vitality to the skin and reduce fine lines and wrinkles.

Shiseido introduces the Essential Steps to Amazing Skin at any age, an advanced skincare concept that will change the way you think about caring for your skin. Shiseido is now offering a new starter kit for each skin type that includes the products needed to cleanse, soften and moisturize your skin – the three universal truths of skincare.

Skin Smoother Pore Minimizing Makeup by **Clinique** creates a comfortable, smooth canvas on skin, diminishing the look of visible pores immediately. This oil-free formula is airy and transforms into a powdery, silky finish.

Lancaster introduces the Revolcanic deep moisturizing cream for dry to very dry skin. It works to help maintain skin hydration and to restore skin suppleness and density.

Dermaglow's Butter Miracle Replenishing Body Cream replenishes and hydrates skin from top to bottom making it feel smooth and silky.

SPA: DermaGlow, the creators of NuVectin advanced wrinkle treatment and their fabulous Lip Plumper, is now treating us with their brand new Eye Therapy – just great!

Clinique launches Moisture Sheer Tint SPF 15, a light, tinted moisturizer designed to hydrate and protect the skin. Ideal for oily

Continued on page 35

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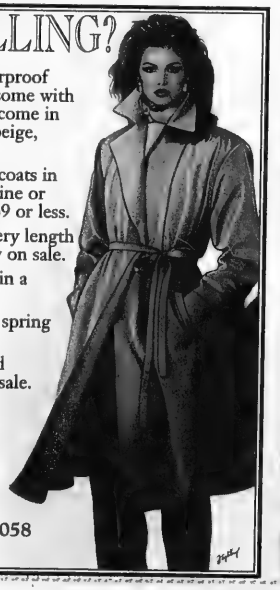

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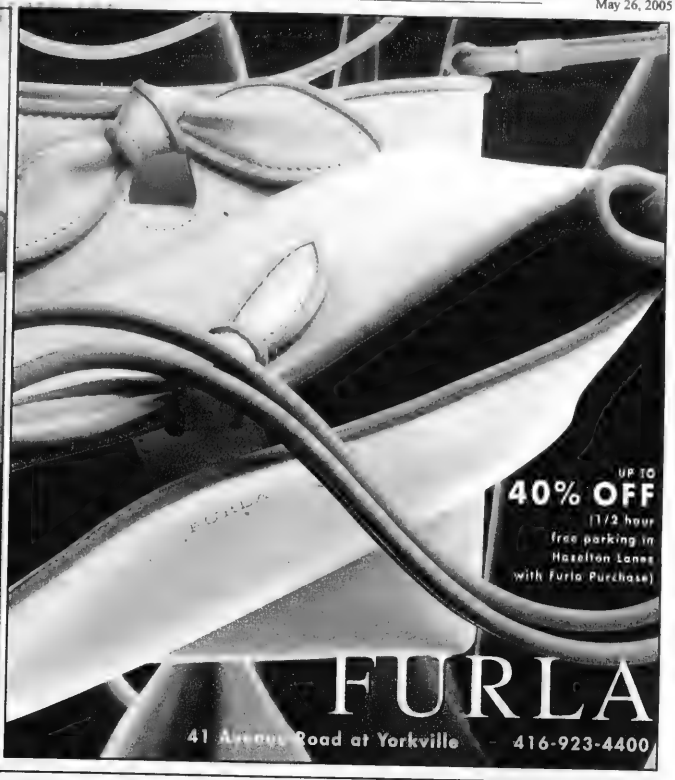

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Continued from page 33

or acne-prone skin, Body SPF 15 Gel Sunscreen by **Clinique** provides protection from damaging UVA/UVB rays in a light, oil-free, water-resistant formula that instantly absorbs.

Introducing **Biotherm's** new slimming innovation! Expert in body care, **Biotherm** brings you Drain'Choc, a slimming, anti-water retention body concentrate that contours the body and improves skin quality; Celluli-Choc to help stimulate the elimination of stored fats and transform and refine skin texture to look and feel softer; and Abdo-Choc, which helps eliminate fat and has an anti-storage agent that helps prevent the storage of excess sugars, ensuring a firm and toned stomach. Don't miss it!

Also from **Biotherm**, Age Fitness Power 2 has high-performance olive tree extracts that work to combat the first signs of aging and increase skin fitness.

Lancôme introduces Rénergie Microlift, a new cream that produces "microlifters," which work on different points of the face to give a lifting effect. More natural and replumped facial curves look as if they have been remodelled to defy the laws of gravity.

For younger, healthier looking skin, **L'Oréal** introduces ReNoviste, a revolutionary glycolic peel system that is easy to use and enhances the natural production of collagen and elastin. In only five minutes, the three-step ReNoviste system erases the effects of time! **L'Oréal Paris** launches Perfectslim Day and Night. Perfectslim Day contributes to the elimination of fat. Perfectslim Night combats excessive fat accumulation while you sleep – just fabulous!

Forget about the high heel crunch with new **Airplus** for her. These fascinating clear gel insoles are life savers! The gel Arch Support and Hug My Heels Liners are quite the crowd pleaser, and there is something for everyone.

Perfectslim from L'Oréal.

HAIR: To complete its exceptional line of products for coloured hair, **L'Oreal Professionnel** is launching the vitamino colour protection cream from Serie Expert. This quick and easy to use product controls and nourishes the hair fibre and protects coloured hair, leaving it shiny and soft.

Clairol and **Pantene** Pro-V Colour Expressions help you express your colorful style. **Clairol's** Nice 'n Easy Root Touch Up allows you to blend in root re-growth in just 10 minutes! **Pantene** Pro-V Color Expressions is the answer for everyday colour maintenance, whether you have blonde, brunette or red hair, with its complete line of shampoos, conditioners, treatments and styling products.

This summer, the focus is on natural beauty! Earthy, tropical and exotic, **Goody Products** Summer 2005 Naturals Collection offers a selection of beautiful hair accessories that make you look stylish.

FOUNDATION: Clinique's True Bronze Summer Trend Collection 2005 is overflowing with bronze tones. Bronzers including the new True Bronze Pressed Powder Bronzer and Loose Powder Bronzer add an all-over bronze shimmer, while the new Bronzing Gel enhances the face with an ultra-sheer amber glow.

Chanel makes it easy to have a healthy summer glow with The Voile Universel/Ultra Sheer Makeup that is featherlight and glides on easily. It features sun protection with an SPF 15, vitamin E, vitamin A and vitamin F.

The latest concealer from **Smashbox Cosmetics** hides uneven skin tones, under-eye circles and unwanted shine – a perfect base for foundation.

Simply striking describes the new Amber Bronze Sienna Earth Powder by **Estee Lauder**. This bronzing compact is speckled with layers of bronze shades to form a powder – you'll almost want to admire it rather than use it!

BLUSH: Estee Lauder introduces the New Limited-Edition Extravagant Bright Blush Petals, an innovative blushing concept featuring a mélange of loose pink, lavender and silver blush "petals," artfully positioned around a white flower-pressed pan centre that serves as an all-over face highlighter.

MAC says that cheeks need to be rouged, but not traditionally. Instead use creamy soft-shine shades of the new vibrantly coloured Blushcreme.

EYES: Introducing three new vibrant and undoubtedly feminine shades of Couleur Folle Loose Powder Eye Shadow by **Lise Watier**. The new shades include Folie Orange, Folie d'Amour (fuchsia) and Folie Soleil (golden yellow). Cast a look of a thousand luminous rays with Gold, the latest shade of Eye Shine Metallic Eyeliner by **Lise Watier**.

Estee Lauder brings an Illusionist Waterproof Maximum Curling Mascara that gives lashes dramatic curl and lift, a Pure Color Liquid Eyeliner to add some flirtatious drama to your eyes, and the New Limited-Edition Pure Color Eye Shadow Duos in Lilac Kaleidoscope and Yellow Kaleidoscope that delivers a silky, high-impact color.

MAC introduces lids that shimmer in Illicit Iced Absinthe and Outre Orange. On the eyes, a singular line of beauty is needed, as silky deep Forest Green Fluidline becomes "the new black" for underscoring and adding drama.

LIPS: The universe of **Chanel Beauté** explodes this summer with two new product introductions,

Chanel Beauté lip gloss, colouring pencil and Sugar Gloss for nails.

Cristalle Gloss Waterlight Lip Gloss and Le Crayon Gloss Sheer Lip Colouring Pencil, which ensure a splash of summer-perfect lips. Just to add to this, **Chanel** has introduced Sugar Gloss and Abricot Gloss for candy pink nails.

Skin Loving Colors by **Biotherm** introduces Aquatic Shine Glossy Lipstick Intense Moisturization. Aquatic Shine is a meltingly soft, moisturizing lipstick that gives your lips a luscious glow with all the incredible shine of a gloss.

Rouge Gourmand by **Lise Watier** invites you to discover its two new, refreshing lipstick shades that are simply bursting with vitality – Papaya and Pasteque (Watermelon). Their hydrating formula nourishes the lips, helping to restore softness. What's more, Rouge Gourmand features Maxi-Lip, a magic ingredient that stimulates collagen production for lips as juicy and inviting as tropical fruit!

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Film looks at education in Israel and the West Bank

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

When educators talk about their school's culture, they are usually referring to pre-approved mission statements carefully honed by trained administrators. In public, they are happy to discuss official curricula, carefully reviewed teacher training programs, and the significance, or insignificance, of their dress codes.

Yet, students are often more affected by the unofficial culture of the school, the learning that isn't recorded in schoolbooks and approved curriculum. Many a filmmaker, and parent, would cherish the opportunity to capture the discussions that take place in school staff rooms, beside teenage lockers or inside the caretaker's office.

Lessons in Fear, a feature documentary film produced by James Cullingham and co-produced by Igal Hecht, explores the official and hidden curricula behind the education of Israeli and Palestinian students. As the narrative progresses, the camera slowly reveals how the conflict is presented to children on both sides of the divide through the teachings of educators and the observations of their students.

One of the teachers portrayed is third-generation kibbutznik Mahal Arel. Her perception of Israeli history is presented to her high school class through formal question and answers. Arel asks her students to think about whether it was necessary to take away basic rights from the Arab population in Israel between 1948 and 1967. Her students discuss the balance between security for their country against terrorism and the consequential impact on the Arabs inside Israel and on the West Bank and Gaza.

But Mahal also wonders how far she can push her students. In an environment where suicide bombings are a fact of life, can she teach her students about the similarities between the Palestinian and Jewish people? Can she show them that, like the Jews before the State of Israel, the Palestinians are now not wanted by anyone and are forced to live in ghettoized communities? Mahal wonders if she can tell her students, in good conscience, that once they have a state, Palestinians will live with Israelis in peace.

History is also presented through the perspective of Palestinian teachers and their students. Inside a Grade 10 West Bank classroom, students are queried on why the Jewish movement chose the Palestinian nation for their homeland? Why not Uganda or Sweden or Belgium, they're asked.

The answer, a young girl responds, is "because by invading Palestine, Israel could influence the rest of the Arab world. By being influential, Israel could be in a strong position and access surrounding Arab countries. Secondly," she says, "there was the historical importance of its churches and other holy places."

As the history class continues, the Palestinian students learn that "Britain gave the Balfour Declaration because the British needed Jewish financial support and because the Jews have influence in the United States and control the media."

"Why has America always supported the Zionist movement?" the teacher asks her students. "Because the United States is mostly under the control of the Zionists that reside in the States," a student responds.

In an area plagued by violence, the film attempts to analyze the effects of the conflict on both sides of the wall. It portrays Israelis, who are traumatized by several years of suicide bombings, and Palestinians, who see no end to occupation and a world where few adults have control over the outcome of their lives.

The complexities of the problem are explored by academics and experts and efforts are made to discuss the myths presented on both sides. Some academics suggest that Israelis are guilty of the sin of omission by not teaching about a significant Palestinian presence in pre-1948 Israel.

Students either accept or reject the messages brought into the classrooms by politicized teachers. For those who accept the messages of hate, the path to radicalism is clear.

Haifa University professor Ilan Pappe suggests that Israelis need to honestly confront their past and teach about the 1948 expulsion of the Arabs. Pappe has since become recognized for his part in organizing the British Association of University Teachers boycott of two Israeli universities, Bar Ilan University and the University of Haifa.

On the Palestinian side, Hadeel Rizq-Qazzaz, a curriculum specialist in Ramallah, notes that it would be naive to ignore the hidden curriculum that is brought into the classrooms by politicized teachers in the West Bank. In the end, students either accept the messages or reject them, she adds, alluding to the fact that for those who accept the messages of hate, the path to radicalism is clear.

In the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Development in Tantur, focus on teaching the teachers brings an element of hope into an otherwise bleak situation. Given the cultural emphasis that Israelis and Palestinians place on the importance of education, the film illustrates that much more attention needs to be placed on teachers and their hidden agendas.

Lessons in Fear, produced by Tamarack Productions in association with Seneca College, will be aired on ichannel on May 29, at 8 p.m.

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Daughters of the Ark

Continued from page 1

An emerald binds together Debritu's story with that of Aleesha, a young girl from Jerusalem in the time of King Solomon who travels to the court of the Queen of Sheba in Ethiopia. Aleesha and a group of priests from the Temple in Jerusalem accompany Prince Menelik, who according to legend, was the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

The idea for the book started to percolate, Morgan said, when, two years ago, she interviewed Shula Mola, then director of the Israeli Association of Ethiopian Jewry. "I found her stories of her work and her journey fascinating." The book is based on Mola's experiences.

Feeling that people don't know as much as they should about the Jews of Ethiopia and their epic journey, she began to research the topic.

"I read about Ethiopia, about Jews there and their journey [to Israel], as well as books about young girls in eastern Africa."

In December 2003, Morgan said, she spent a week interviewing Mola, looking at Ethiopian churches in Israel and talking to their monks and nuns, in order "to get a sense of what happened, through a different perspective."

Last year, she spent three weeks in Ethiopia to do more research and to see what the country was like where Debritu (and Shula Mola) had come from.

She decided to write Mola's story as a work of fiction, because it "allowed me to describe characters and the environment in a freer way."

She wrote for children because "it is important for them to hear stories of other kids – especially, in this case, to see what the Ethiopian children went through to get to Israel."

She also felt it was important for them to see that in many ways, children are children the world over. For instance, When Debritu tells her younger brother that they are to leave their village and everything and everybody they know to go to Israel, he doesn't respond like a saint. He throws a temper tantrum.

The story of the emerald, which Morgan says she made up, begins with Aleesha, who takes an emerald from the breastplate covering the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem. The jewel is kept by Aleesha's descendants, and when Debritu leaves for Israel, she is given the emerald to return to Jerusalem.

Morgan's family, husband Ed, an associate professor at the faculty of law at the University of Toronto and national president of Canadian Jewish Congress, and children Jenny, Jacob and Orly, students at Columbia University in New York, Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and the Heschel School respectively, were very supportive, and proud of her accomplishment, she said. Although, she confided, "maybe they are a little tired of the whole process."

While she isn't planning a sequel at the moment, she does want to learn and possibly write more about Africa, especially the effect of the AIDS epidemic there.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

LORD OF THE RINGS SYMPHONY COMING TO KITCHENER AND TORONTO

Canadian **Howard Shore's** *Lord of the Rings Symphony* is slated for performance in Kitchener and Toronto soon by the **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra** and a chorus of some 250 voices from the Kitchener-Waterloo Philharmonic Choir and other choirs.

"This is a real coup for us," said artistic director **Howard Dyck,** noting that the K-W choir is the first choral organization in Canada to mount a production of the monumental score. Born in Toronto, the 57-year-old Shore has composed scores for more than 60 feature films and recently received a Golden Globe award for *The Aviator.*

Centre in the Square, Kitchener. June 4, 7:30 p.m. 519-578-1570 or 800-265-8977. Also at Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto, June 5, 2 and 7 p.m. www.centre-square.com

* * *

What's Doing in Cabbagetown: The upcoming Cabbagetown Fresh Slaw Festival of short, original works features **Janice Israeloff**'s one-woman comic monologue *I've Been Trying to Pass My Driving Test Since 1978,* as well as **Michael Rubenfeld**'s witty slice-of-life piece, *Bury Barry.* Israeloff runs an arts camp for children and Rubenfeld is a noted actor and playwright who recently appeared in the **Drew Barrymore** movie *Fever Pitch.*

The festival also features **Ron Fromstein**'s *Graveyards, Vantex and Me,* the opus that won the 2004 Toronto Fringe 24 Hour Playwriting Contest. Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre, 454 Parliament St. June 2 to 4 and June 8 to 11. $10-$15. 416-921-3406.

* * *

Literary Luncheon: Book reviewer **Anne Balaban** reviews *The Outside World,* by **Tova Mirvis**. Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Luncheon, members $13, non-members $16. Wednesday, June 8, noon. Book review $5 (begins approx. 1 p.m.). Last day to purchase luncheon tickets, June 6.

* * *

Names in the News: A production of **Henrik Ibsen**'s *Hedda Gabler*, featuring **Yanna McIntosh** and **Alon Nashman**, is at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre until June 12 (www.volcano.ca) … **Frieda Sohn**, a 94-year-old Lithuanian-born artist whose works are displayed in museums around the world, was among the artists represented in a recent exhibition at Forest Hill Place, her Toronto retirement residence. Others included 91-year-old **Francis Wintrob**, who didn't begin painting until her senior years. Art instructor **Martha Johnson** conducts twice-monthly art classes at the residence… Canadian authors **Chava Rosenfarb** (*The Tree of Life*) and **Anne Dublin** (*Bobby Rosenfeld, The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*) and Winnipeg poet **Carol Rose** give readings this month at the Vancouver JCC.

* * *

Repeat Broadcast: *Canada's War in Colour*, a three-part documentary series that aired on CBC in 2001 and more recently on Newsworld, is to be shown again by the CBC on May 25, June 1 and June 8 at 9 p.m.

The series, which was directed and edited by **Karen Shopsowitz**, uses original colour film and letters and diaries to tell the story of World War II from a Canadian perspective. Films came from archives and libraries across Canada and from private home-movie collections.

Continued on page 38

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JULY 3-17
JULY 10-24
JULY 18-AUG. 1
JULY 31-AUG. 14
AUG. 18-SEPT. 1
DEC. 17/18-JAN. 1/2
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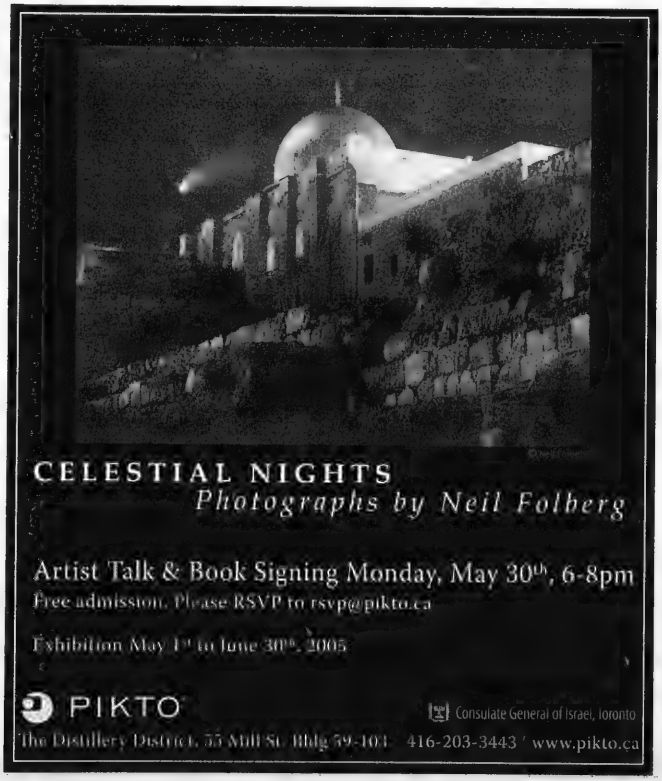
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Continued from page 37

Several local families contributed letters and films for use in the series, including **Norman Rabkin**, who was stationed in India during the war years; **Cyrel Troster**, who loaned her father's letters written on the eve of D-Day; and **Milt** and **Jean Goldstein**, who provided a film of Milt's homecoming party.

The series was produced by YAP Films of Toronto; executive producers were **Elliott Halpern** and **Pauline Duffy**.

* * *

Play Readings: Tarragon Theatre's Coldax Festival features rehearsed public readings from an international selection of recent full-length political plays. Pieces include *Homebody/Kabul* by **Tony Kushner**; *The Pyramids* by **Judith Thompson**; *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America* by **Stephen Sewell**; *Back of the Throat* by **Yussef El Guindi**; *The Murder of Isaac* by **Motti Lerner**; and *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook* by **Robin Soans**. Co-hosted by **Ross Manson**, **Andy McKim** and **Jason Sherman**. Free admission. May 26 to 29. www.thewreckingball.ca

* * *

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Arts in Brief

• The Israeli film *Campfire* (*Medurat Hashevet*) opens May 27 at Bayview Village Cinema and Canada Square. Writer-director **Joseph Cedar**'s bittersweet story of an Israeli family going through change has won many awards, including five 2004 Israeli Academy Awards. He also made the highly acclaimed *Time of Favor*.

• The Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations presents Yiddish jazz diva **Theresa Tova**, in concert at Humber College's north campus, main lecture hall, Finch and Hwy. 27. Adults $25. May 28, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

• **Orchestra Toronto** presents the last of its 50th anniversary concert series focusing on "The Three B's" – **Beethoven**, **Bach** and **Brahms**. Adults $30. Toronto Centre for the Arts, George Weston Recital Hall, Sunday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. A pre-concert talk by music director Errol Gay begins 6:30 p.m. 416-872-1111.

• **The Exultate Chamber Singers** perform a one-hour program of English, French and native Canadian folksongs accompanied by the enormous Gabriel Kney mechanical-action pipe organ. Roy Thomson Hall, Monday, May 30, 12 noon. Free admission; tickets not required. 416-872-4255.

* * *

At the Galleries: Four Toronto galleries – the Art Gallery of Ontario; Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House; the Textile Museum of Canada; and the University of Toronto Art Centre – jointly present "Isaacs Seen," a series of interconnected exhibitions on pioneer art dealer-collector **Avrom Isaacs** and his impact on the Canadian art scene. "Isaacs Seen" explores the Isaacs Gallery's positive influence on the careers of many painters, sculptors, filmmakers and photographers. On view until September.

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

KOLEL HOSTS WOMEN'S MISSION 'IN THE LAND OF THE RED TENT'

See Israel through women's eyes via In the Land of the Red Tent, a one-of-a-kind educational trip with Kolel, The Adult Centre For Liberal Jewish Learning, led by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Jan. 24 to Feb. 1, 2006. The focus is on women's experiences in the government, army and religious establishment. Participants tour the Land and learn its rich history and biblical roots. They also see new sights (and old favourites) from a different angle and meet extraordinary women doing extraordinary things.

Spaces are limited. Free information night at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W., Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m. Kolel is also planning a first-timers' mission and a 2007 Egypt to Israel Passover mission. Details, 416-485-7007, ext. 231.

* * *

Yiddish Conference in Minnesota: "They Came to the Goldene Medine: The Immigrant Experience" is the alluring title of the 9th annual conference of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs, meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., June 2 to 5. The gathering includes three evenings of freileche musical performances, three scholarly keynote addresses and 24 workshops filled with Yiddishkeit. For details, contact Roz Baker, 612-377-5456. E-mail blitzpost@iayc-minnesota.org.

* * *

Couples or Singles Travel to Israel: Peerless Travel of Toronto is offering a high-quality Couples Tour to Israel this summer, geared for married couples while their children are at summer camp.

"If you visited Israel during your teen years, this is the trip for you, to reconnect with the Israeli society and land," the company advises. The itinerary includes the pre-Israel independence Palmach Museum, the new Yad Vashem, the Galilee, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Masada. July 6 to 18.

Peerless is also offering the Jewish Singles Festival, geared for singles 25 or older – tours are organized by age groups. The itinerary includes a Bedouin *hafla* (feast), visits to the Dead Sea and Masada, a party at the Carmel Winery, a Mediterranean tour and more. July 25 to Aug. 1. For details on either tour, phone 905-886-5610, ext. 344, or e-mail peninah@peerlesstravel.com

* * *

Springtime in Tel Aviv: The Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel and Towers is offering a three-night spring vacation package, with room rates starting from US $208 per night, double occupancy, including service charge and Israeli breakfast buffet. The package is available until June 30; minimum three-night stay required.

The hotel features two swimming pools, a sea-view sundeck, lobby lounge and bar, an acclaimed restaurant, a health club with spa facilities, good beachfront and central location. Phone 972-3-5211155 and request the EAMEPRO1 package.

* * *

New Israel Travel Initiative: Melitz, a leading provider of informal educational services in Israel, has launched Lech Lecha Initiatives, which it describes as "a new approach to travel to Israel." Lech Lecha offers a variety of "travel modules" to Israel, allowing individuals and groups to strike the desired balance of outdoor activities from biking to sailing, intermixed with cultural and night-life opportunities, educational touring of important historic or religious sites and travel experiences on other themes.

The company "aims to place decision-making by the North American Diaspora regarding travel to Israel on the same plane as decisions to travel to the Caribbean, Europe and Asia." It also aims to build ties between the Diaspora and Israel that lead to "a lifelong sense of engagement with Israel and... a sense of involvement with Judaism and the Jewish people."

Melitz is offering Lech Lecha Initiatives travel in collaboration with the Prometheus Foundation, a New York not-for-profit corporation seeking new solutions to social issues affecting the Jewish people. Website, www.ThePrometheusFoundation.org

* * *

Travel Notes

• Uniworld Travel and Tours of Toronto is offering an assortment of kosher tours this summer to the Canadian Rockies, Italy, the Baltics and Russia, the Norwegian fjords, Alaska, Great Britain, Spain and Portugal, and other destinations. Sailing dates vary. Contact David Freudmann, 416-493-3322, ext. 356. E-mail david@uniworldtravel.com

• The exhibition "Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust" continues at the Spertus Museum, Chicago, until July 31.

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You've got Lacoste and Polo? Now try 'kosher'

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

Put that Kabbalah bracelet aside. There's a new way to wear your Jewish identity on your sleeve.

Sure, Jewish clothing has occasionally been secularized – like a Spiderman kippah. But now secular clothing is being "Jewified."

A new craze in chic clothing has got Jewish written all over it – literally – and many companies are now jumping on the bandwagon.

One T-shirt from Jewcy.com says, "Make bagels, not war." The JewishFashionConspiracy.com sells tees with a tree logo that says, "Yo Semite." And there's the Jerry McGuire lampoon shirt, "You had me at Shalom," from Jewishcouture.com.

There are undergarments and tees, blouses and shorts. And for those who want to start kosher couture at a young age or pass down their fashion sense to the kids, there are Hebrew bibs, too.

Marc Schapiro, 30, owner of KosherKlothing.com, explains that the impetus for his clothing line was the popularity of Jewish words frequently being tossed around by the general population. In one example, he noticed that gentiles were often using the word "kosher" as a phrase-substitute for something good.

The record company marketing director from Brooklyn, N.Y., jumped at the chance to promote kosher kitsch.

"I wanted to take advantage of that opportunity. The people who know the real meaning of kosher will get it, and those who don't will like the shirts anyway."

Shirts featured at Kosher Klothing are a woman's tee that says "Shiksa," another one with "Nice Jewish Girl Gone Bad," and one with a picture of a pig with the word "Kosher" on it.

Since 2001, he has received hundreds of hits per day on his website. Most of the feedback he's received has been positive, he says, even from an Orthodox Jew who works with him.

But some people, he says, are a bit uncomfortable. "A couple of people said they can't believe I put a pig on a shirt and called it kosher."

Kosher couture isn't just a U.S. phenomenon, either. Toronto outlet Sidereal Designs has sold tees for a few years saluting the Israel Defence Forces. Italian clothier Elisha's seductive line features form-fitting finery with pseudo-suggestive messages borrowed from Hillel the Sage: "If not now, when…?" A shirt from Elisha.it costs an average of $175 (US) plus shipping, travels thousands of miles to get to you, and is evidently selling quite well.

Do its buyers know something the rest of us don't, or do they simply have more dollars than sense? Then again, no one ever said the fashion industry has been synonymous with cheap.

In a rare instance of reverse assimilation, British fashion designer Alexander McQueen is bringing menschwear into menswear. McQueen's new winter line features black slacks, white shirts, and black frock coats – the long jackets worn by Chassidim worldwide. He is evidently taking his inspiration from Jean-Paul Gaultier, whose 1993 men's collection included the long black coats, fur hats, and shirttails designed to look like tzitzit. (Jewish-American fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi also at one time tinkered with the idea of creating a trend with the same concepts, but Gaultier beat him to the catwalk.)

Though McQueen's fashion line has left out the *shtreiml* (black fur hat), there's nothing to stop a resourceful vogue-minded wannabe Chassid from paying a visit to a Crown Heights haberdasher.

Peregal: Post-modern expressionism

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

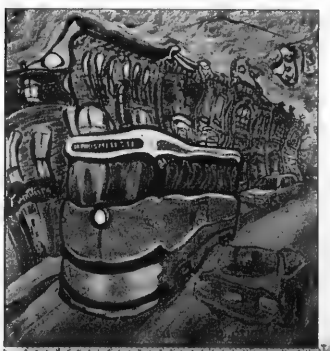
e-Scapes, a solo exhibition by Paul Peregal at the Mittica Gallery, 903 Queen St. W., reveals the artist as very much his own person.

He says the violent brushstrokes of his works on canvas in this show "evoke a postmodern expressionism and not the chaos of the so-called 'neo-expressionism' of the '80s."

This postmodern expressionism is his and his alone.

Born in Portland, Maine, raised in Montreal and now living in Toronto, Peregal was fortunate to attend the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' School of Art and Design, directed by Group of Seven painter Arthur Lismer, who instructed him in colour theory. He also studied painting, sculpture and design at Montreal's École des Beaux Arts.

Paul Peregal



Motion and symbolism define Peregal's works as they seem to burst from the subdued walls of the Mittica Gallery.

A series of three streetcars on the Queen Street route plumb Peregal's personal sense of symbolism. They move, yes, but they are fixed to the track, can't get off the circuit. This represents the artist's sense that he cannot make a radical change in his life.

"Ideally, I'd like to live in London, England," he says, "but I can't. It's too expensive. I can't get to experience that freedom and inspiration. For me, it takes a tremendous effort to change my life."

There is a different symbolism in Peregal's attitude toward houses. He is attracted to what is architecturally fine, but more than that, he sees houses as feminine and sensual. Often there is mystery as well. Who lives here? What happened? Are there spirits lurking?

A stirring example is a medieval home, Pablo Picasso's Château Vauvenargues, in an exquisite setting at the base of Mont Saint Victoire in Provence, France. Of all his chateaux, Vauvenargues was the great one's favourite, although his wife, Jacqueline, noted that visits there were brief because the ancient structure was bitterly cold, almost impossible to heat adequately. Nevertheless, Picasso chose the grounds for his final resting place and he was buried there.

Peregal, moved by the beauty of the site and the link to the man who was also his own person, has created a stunning painting in tribute to one who always dared.

The exhibition continues to June 18. Gallery director is Eva Monique Varga. For information and hours, phone 416-703-3800, fax 416-703-3038 or go to www.mitticagallery.com.

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Books & Authors

Schulz and the Nazi assault against Jewish creativity

Regions of the Great Heresy – Bruno Schulz: A Biographical Portrait, **by Jerzy Ficowski, Norton.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

No 20th-century Jewish writer has a more compelling biography than Bruno Schulz. He has become a cultural hero in certain circles, based on two slim, eccentric collections of poetic short stories. But the events of his life also draw a kind of obsessive attention.

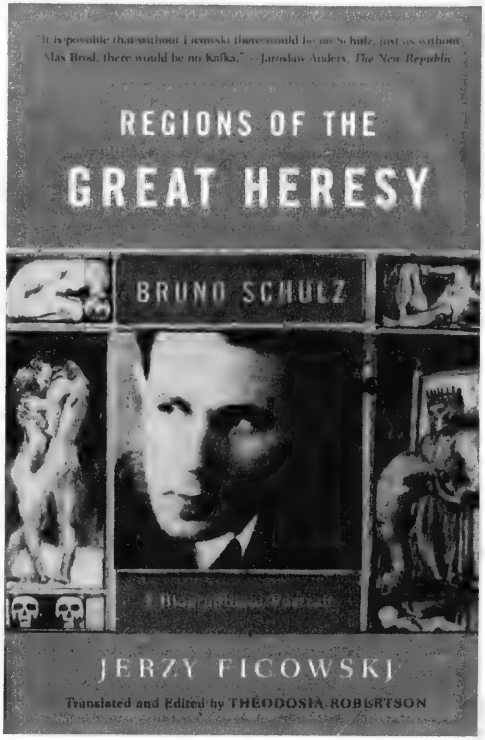
Norman Ravvin

Born in 1892 in the Galician oil town of Drohobycz, a dissatisfied art teacher in the local gymnasium, Schulz was recognized by the cream of Polish inter-war modernist writers upon the appearance in 1933 of his first volume, *Cinnamon Shops*.

Figures as illustrious as Julian Tuwim, Stanislaw Witkiewicz and Witold Gombrowicz welcomed Schulz into a rarified group of experimenters and critics who were intoxicated by avant-gardist stances and high-flown esthetic philosophies. Schulz was an odd companion in such circles – a shy, congenitally worried and physically frail man, he seems to have been pampered by his more famous colleagues, the way the keepers of a child prodigy protect their charge.

The unsettled years prior to World War II increased Schulz's sense of vulnerability and dread. Under Soviet occupation, life in Drohobycz deteriorated, but nothing could have prepared Galician Jews for the arrival of Nazi occupation in June 1941. The German machinery of destruction was put in place, which included indiscriminate killings, forced labour and a ghetto.

Schulz's artistic abilities protected him and his family in important ways. The brutal commander of the local SS detachment fancied himself an esthete, and awarded Schulz the life-saving status of "Necessary Jew," which resulted in a special armband, special artistic assignments, and a relatively reliable guarantee against arbitrary violence. Schulz was put to work cataloguing the huge stockpile of books stolen by the Nazis from private collections, which were gathered in a building that had been a Jewish orphanage before the war. More importantly, Schulz painted frescoes on the walls of buildings the German occupiers had outfitted as their officers' club, casino and residences.


"It is possible that without Ficowski there would be no Schulz, just as without Max Brod, there would be no Kafka." – Jaroslaw Anders, The New Republic
REGIONS OF THE
GREAT HERESY
BRUNO SCHULZ
JERZY FICOWSKI
Translated and Edited by THEODOSIA ROBERTSON

It would take a "wild action," one of the days of indiscriminate street murders in response to perceived Jewish self-defence, to finish off Schulz. A competitor of Schulz's SS protector in the Nazi hierarchy found him in the ghetto and shot him twice in the head. Like much else in Schulz's biography, this event has attained the status of legend and reappears in fictional and memoiristic contexts in many books.

Jerzy Ficowski has pursued Schulz's story, his work and life, since before the war. In the postwar years, he sought out letters, lost manuscripts and interviews with figures who knew Schulz and might help reconstruct a sense of his life and work. The recent English translation and publication, *Regions of Great Heresy*, is part biography, part literary criticism, part cultural history, and a hundred per cent veneration. Ficowski's efforts in Poland and the Soviet Ukraine, as well as abroad, to pursue Schulz's ghost and further his reputation are remarkable. It is often claimed that without Ficowski, there would be no Schulz in postwar literature.

Among the failed efforts Ficowski describes in *Regions of Great Heresy* is his inability to recover the manuscript of Schulz's final unpublished novel, *The Messiah*. Cynthia Ozick, in her 1988 novel *The Messiah of Stockholm*, does a disappointing job of imagining what this final magnum opus might have been like. Schulz has appeared, as well, as the focus or as a haunting presence, in the work of Philip Roth, Aleksander Hemon, Salman Rushdie and Danilo Kis. His impact on postwar writers is not unlike that of Anne Frank; in different, yet equally heartbreaking ways, each of these unfinished lives symbolizes the loss inflicted on postwar culture by the Nazi assault on European Jewish creativity.

Ficowski's biographical portrait of Schulz offers a good introduction to the author's life and place in Polish letters. His effort to convey the specific magic of Schulz's fiction – in part by focusing on Schulz's notion of childhood as an "age of genius," the source of all creativity – is less successful. For anyone bent on appreciating Schulz's genius, the books *Cinnamon Shops* (called *The Street of Crocodiles in English* translation) and *Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass* are the sources that merit careful attention.

But Ficowski does convey the manner in which historical events transform a life's work. His own efforts with regard to Schulz stand as a kind of act of resistance to the years of German brutality that devastated Polish Jewish life.

Norman Ravvin's recent novel is Lola by Night. *He is the co-editor of* The Canadian Jewish Studies Reader *and the chair of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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invites the public to a
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to discuss:
How to change the World
Speakers:
David Bornstein
Award-winner author of the book by the same name
Avrum Rosensweig
Executive Director, Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee
Thursday, May 26, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

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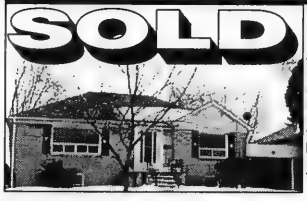

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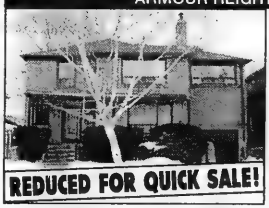

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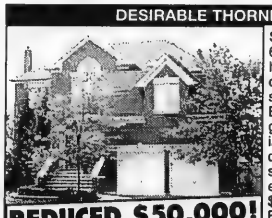

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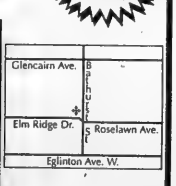

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Arts & Travel

THE BEAUTY AROUND US: An exhibition of Toronto-born Israeli artist Ron Gang's paintings at the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto consists mainly of landscape paintings executed near the artist's Negev Desert home, Kibbutz Urim. Despite the political tension in Israel, Gang prefers to keep the politics out of his work. "Although one cannot bury his head in the sand," says Gang, "there are more levels of reality and life than just politics. If we lose sight of the beauty around us, what is the value of living?" Gang's paintings are about love for the land and creation.

Gang was born in Toronto in 1950, where he received his early art education at King Edward Public School and Central Tech. In 1972 after graduating from University of Toronto in philosophy and Middle Eastern studies, he followed a dream and went to Kibbutz Urim in Israel, subsequently marrying and raising a family. His early years in the kibbutz were spent farming, forming his first bonds with the land. His art studies continued in Israel, graduating from the Tel Aviv (Kalisher) School of Art in 1987. The exhibition will be held at the Holy Blossom Temple Art Gallery, 1950 Bathurst St. The opening reception is on Sunday May 29 at 2:30 p.m. The exhibition runs until the end of June. For times call the Temple's office at 416-789-3291.

Stand-up comedy show supports anti-racism

By PAM CLAVIR
Special to The CJN

Want some hot accounting tips? Just ask comedian Jon Steinberg, who, if he was really writing a book on accounting, would change his name to Moses Steinberg Goldstein in a bid to increase business.

That joke was one of several the 25-year-old comic told at a recent stand-up comedy show promoting anti-racism, held at Ontario Place.

The Ottawa-born comedian had the honour of being the only Jewish comic asked to perform at the first of its kind comedy show, The Most Races on Earth! presented at the Atlantis Theatre earlier this month. Some of the proceeds are going to the Canadian Anti-Racism Education and Research Society (www.antiracist.com).

The purpose of the show, which drew approximately 100 people of various backgrounds, was to promote multiculturalism and understanding within the GTA's various communities and beyond. The show was taped for an upcoming TV program, *The Most Races Show on Earth!*

Steinberg was one of seven people who represented various races and nationalities including Jamaican, Asian, Italian, Canadian (Newfoundland, in particular) and gay. Yes, in this edgy and entertaining show, gay was considered a race.

Steinberg was the only Toronto-area Jewish comedian chosen to perform, because of his deadpan sense of humour, a type of comedy similar to the one that put Jewish comic Steven Wright on the stand-up comedy map. Wright actually anglicized his name when he changed it from Reich to Wright.

Steinberg performs in Kingston, Windsor and anywhere in between, but his regular gig is at Yuk Yuk's in downtown Toronto where he takes to the stage two or three times a week. With a delivery that resembles Humphrey Bogart's and jokes that would do both Wright and Woody Allen proud, he's a mixture of all three famous personalities. He generates his ideas from television shows and by "accidentally" eavesdropping on other peoples' conversations.

"I listen to people on the streetcars," said Steinberg, who moved to downtown Toronto from Ottawa three years ago.

Saying his father has a terrible sense of humour, Steinberg admits to being pretty funny at family dinners, adding that his family is very encouraging about his choice of profession. Never the class clown, he says he was a fairly quiet student but caught the performance bug when he ran for high school president.

"I was really running as a joke," said Steinberg, who lost the presidential race by a small margin. "But I became hooked on public speaking."

Now, he takes his public speaking and his jokes quite seriously, working solely as a comedian. But with his deliberate and evenly paced style of speaking and unique set of pipes, he hopes to land a few radio commercials and is currently working on putting together a demonstration CD.

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Jewish kids gather for karate tournament

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Eitz Chaim Day School gym has probably not seen anything like it before. About 80 robe-wearing youngsters, along with their friends and families, crowded into the facility recently to participate in the first-ever Thornhill Friendship Tournament, an event sponsored by the BudoCan Karate School and Karate College.

The tournament brought together kids aged four to 16 from northern and southern environs in an event designed to strengthen friendships and motivate youngsters to improve their karate skills, said Michael Hirchberg, head sensei (instructor) and owner of Karate College.

Competing under the blue and white Israeli flag, the youngsters were put through their paces employing "kata karate," a discipline involving traditional routines. The "kumite," or fighting version of karate, will likely be added at next year's tournament, he said.

Alon Hircbherg, 6, first-place winner in the advanced 4- to 6-year-old group, and sister Aliyah, 8, first place winner in the advanced 7- to 9-year-old group, demonstrate some poses.

Along with Earl Tucker, instructor and owner of BudoCan, Hirchberg intends to make karate get-togethers a fixture on participants' sports calendars. Karate tournaments are a good way for Jewish kids to socialize and improve their skills, he said.

Hirchberg, a two-time member of the Canadian team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, said he and Tucker hope to develop future team participants. Since many of the members of the two karate schools are Orthodox, they are not able to compete in Karate Ontario tournaments, which are generally held on Saturdays. When the kids come together, they can improve their skills and eventually earn a trip to the Israeli games, he said.

There are plenty of benefits even for those who don't aspire to elite status, Hirchberg continued. Once they don the robes and take up the sport, they get an immediate infusion of confidence. The sport's discipline and structure are particularly good to help boost kids' self esteem, he said.

Israeli-born fencer wins provincial championship

To be a champion fencer, you need good hand-eye co-ordination, quick feet and a chess player's ability to anticipate an opponent's moves.

Though only 11, Shachar (Shon) Boublil of Montreal is well on the way to mastering those skills. The Israeli-born fencer recently scored a decisive 10-5 win over his next-ranked opponent to capture the gold medal, épée, at the Quebec provincial championship for kids 13 and under.

Boublil's victory was decisive and comes on the heels of last year's Vanquer Medal as the province's top-ranked fencer in his age group.

Boublil, whose family moved to Montreal when he was three, has been training competitively for only two years, but he has been exposed to the sport since he was a baby, explained his father, Ron.

Shon's mother, Helena, serves as an international referee with the Canadian Fencing Federation and his older sister, Sacha, 19, was once a Quebec champion in an under-15 event. Back in Israel, Helena helped establish the Maccabi Tel Aviv fencing club.

"Shon grew up in fencing clubs," said Ron. "Since he was born, he's been in the presence of fencers."

Ron believes that goes a long way – along with his karate training – to explaining his proficiency with the épée.

"Shon is very good at strategy," Ron explained. "He's unpredictable in terms of what he does and because he picks up his opponent's movements, it gives him an edge."

To keep sharp, Shon trains three times a week at Les Mousquetaires, a Montreal fencing club, and he practises karate twice more each week.

His past exposure to the sport keeps him on an even keel, even when he doesn't do well, his father believes.

With his accomplishments to date, there doesn't appear to be a limit to what Shon can accomplish with a sword.

Next year, he will continue his tough training regimen and enter nine or 10 tournaments. As well, he'll probably compete against older kids.

"He wants to take it as far as possible," Ron stated. "He's looking at the Olympics, but it's tough to tell at this age."

–P.L.

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Online auction to raise money for Maccabi athletes

With time ticking down to the July 6-24 Maccabiah Games in Israel, Maccabi Canada is launching an online charity auction to raise money for the more than 300 athletes who will wear Canada's colours in Israel.

The online auction features items such as autographed sports equipment, jewelry, cosmetics, a 50-inch plasma TV and a Niagara getaway.

The fundraiser, which is being managed by Auctionwire, an online auction management company, runs from May 22-29 and can be accessed through a link on Maccabi Canada's Website, www.maccabicanada.com.

For more information, call 416-413-4904 or e-mail Maccabi Canada at maccabi@auctionwire.ca.

Apology makes PETA leader a true hero

30 something
By MIRIAM PORTER

I was seven years old when Ingrid Newkirk co-founded what is now the largest and most powerful animal rights organization in the world. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), began in 1980 and now has more than 800,000 members. PETA is dedicated to establishing and protecting the rights of all animals. It operates under the belief that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on or use for entertainment. PETA works through public education, cruelty investigations, research, animal rescue, legislation, special events, celebrity involvement and protest campaigns.

Newkirk is currently PETA's president. She has written numerous books, her organization has a vast celebrity membership, and she has spoken around the world to raise awareness, including from the steps of Canada's Parliament Buildings.

When I was a teenager, I saved up $20 from my after-school job to become a PETA member and help make a difference in the world of animal rights. I wanted to be a part of something special and powerful. I admired Newkirk's courage, bravery and her ability to make a difference.

Then in 2003, to the horror of many Jews, including myself, PETA launched a campaign called "Holocaust on Your Plate." The controversial exhibit juxtaposed photos from factory farms and slaughterhouses with photos from Nazi death camps. Controversy also surrounded the PETA exhibit because it was funded in part by a Jewish philanthropist with the support of many prominent Jews.

Over the next two years, I experienced mixed feelings about PETA, and I even let my annual donation lapse. But I researched why it did what it did, I talked about it, I thought about it, and I debated it with friends and animal rights activists.

In March, I wrote a column headlined "My 'kosher' shoes," in which I referenced PETA and used a quote from its website about the cruelty of wearing leather products. In doing this, I finally forgave PETA for its Holocaust campaign. (I have also resumed giving donations to the group.) I knew from following its work for years that its intention is to help animals. I considered the many positive, wonderful and heroic acts that PETA has performed for animals around the world. PETA speaks for those who have no voice. I will never agree with its Holocaust campaign, but I made the decision to focus on the good work it does. Just like with people, sometimes you have to take the bad with the good.

Then on May 5, Newkirk apologized for the pain caused by the 2003 Holocaust on Your Plate Campaign. In a statement e-mailed to the Jewish press and Jewish rights groups to coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Day, she explained that the campaign "was designed to sensitize people to different forms of systematic degradation and exploitation, and the logic and methods employed in factory farms and slaughterhouses are analogous to those used in concentration camps. We realize that many people – Jews and non-Jews alike – cannot see through the pain and horror of what was done to human beings to agree, but to our minds, both systems are hideous and devastating."

Newkirk went on: "Hard as it may be to understand for those who were deeply upset by this campaign, I was bowled over by the negative reception by many in the Jewish community. It was both unintended and unexpected. The PETA staff who proposed that we do it were Jewish, and the patronage for the entire endeavour was Jewish. We were careful to use Jewish authors and scholars and quotes from Holocaust victims and survivors. And since Judaism has some of the strongest teachings regarding compassion for animals among the monotheistic faiths, I truly believed that a large segment of the Jewish community would support it."

Having explained the rationale for the campaign, she then said she is sorry.

"I have decided to apologize for the pain caused by the 'Holocaust on Your Plate' Campaign."

It takes a true hero to stand up in front of the world and apologize for causing pain to others. But in the world of animal rights, Ingrid Newkirk is not just any hero – she is, once again, my hero.

E-mail Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

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3/4 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 large eggs, at room temperature
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1 20 oz. can pie filling (any fruit)

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Bake on centre rack until puffy and set and slightly brown around the edges, 15-20 mins. Cool in pan on a wire rack. Top with dollops of pie filling and refrigerate before serving. Yield: 18.

Source: Melting Pot Memories by Judy Bart Kancigor.

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"Jews in history"

By JOE KING

Isaac Merritt Singer (1811-1875) borrowed $40 and manufactured the first sewing machine for home use in 1851 in Boston.

The first sewing machine was built in France in 1829 – 31 years before Singer produced his machine. Barthelemy Thimmonnier built a sewing machine for his own use, but a Paris uniform manufacturer found out about it and ordered 80 for his plant. However, workers in the plant feared they would lose their jobs to the device and destroyed all but one.

Isaac Merritt Singer

Singer was intrigued by an early Blodgett and Lerow sewing machine brought to him for repairs when he worked in a Boston machine shop in 1850. The inventor immediately realized that he could make the machine more efficient, and he had the marketing skills to make his machine a household word.

Singer was born in Troy, N.Y., to a large Jewish German immigrant family. He left home at 12 and worked at a variety of unskilled jobs. For a time, he worked in the theatre, as an actor, as a stagehand and in the promotion of plays.

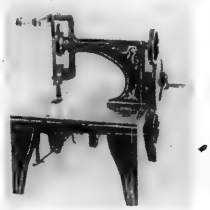
He had natural mechanical ability, however, and around 1850, he went to work to improve the sewing machine. He patented his new device in 1851 and began manufacturing it in Boston.

The Singer sewing machine became the top seller around the world and made its inventor a wealthy man. The onetime labourer flaunted his riches, often riding through New York's Central Park in a bright yellow coach.

After his retirement in 1863, Singer moved to England, where he built a mansion in the seaside resort of Torquay. In all, he had 24 children – both legitimate and illegitimate – and he was hospitable to all of them.

At his death, his estate was valued at $13 million, a huge sum in the late 19th century.

Excerpted from The Jewish Contribution to the Modern World.



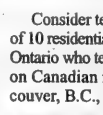
The 1853 model Singer sewing machine was sold worldwide.

Joe King is a veteran Montreal writer and publicist.

Tikkun olam in Canada

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



Throughout my education, I was never taught the magnitude of the oppression our native peoples suffered. Furthermore, from what I can determine today, just as most European countries don't include the Holocaust in their schools' curricula, so too has the Canadian education system erased the chapter on persecution of native peoples.

How many of us are truly familiar with the complexion of many native reserves in our country whose level of subsistence dips below poor and often reaches the level of Third World poverty? Who of us is familiar with the enormity of the persecution, execution, torture and mental and sexual abuse perpetrated against our Aboriginal People?

When have our leaders stood before us to rebuke us for our indifference to the plight of our native peoples? Why are we not devastated? Why are we, as Jews, not applying the Jewish imperative of tikkun olam (repairing the world) to our own indigenous people?

Consider testimony from scores of survivors of 10 residential schools in British Columbia and Ontario who testified under oath during tribunals on Canadian residential schools held in Vancouver, B.C., as early as 1998, under the auspices of the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, a United Nations affiliate.

Their memories include methods of discipline used on children as young as five years old in the residential schools, over a 60-year period, including tightening fish twine and wire around boys' penises; holding the boys over open graves and threatening to bury them alive; forcing them to eat maggot-filled and regurgitated food; telling them their parents were dead and that they were about to be killed; stripping them naked in front of the assembled school and verbally and sexually degrading them; forcing them to stand upright for more than 12 hours at a time until they collapsed; immersing them in ice water; forcing them to sleep outside in winter.

Today, eye-witnesses to murder, torture, sterilization and medical experiments at native residential schools have come forward to divulge a long, concealed history of genocide by church and state in Canada. In his report to Department of Indian Affairs superintendent Duncan Scott in May 1909, Dr. Peter Bryce, Ontario Health Commission, said more than 40 per cent of students were killed. Later reports indicate that by the time the last school closed in 1984, at least 50,000 students had died.

One witness, Harriet Nahanee, a survivor of a residential school in Port Alberni, B.C., told of a reverend who kicked her friend, Maisie Shaw, down a flight of stairs on Christmas Eve, 1946. She said she heard this terrible thud as she hid under the stairs and saw her friend lying still, with her eyes open. Her friend's body disappeared and no one ever saw her again. The Mounties said she died of "pneumonia."

In the new millennium, a UN human rights panel declared that Canada is in violation of international law for its treatment of native peoples and that the condition of Aboriginals is the most pressing human rights issue facing Canadians.

Some steps have been taken to repair the devastation. Former Assembly of First Nations president Phil Fontaine accepted the "apology" of Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart for the residential school "abuses." Natives, Métis and Inuit are spared the burden of federal taxes and education is generally free at a post-secondary school for individuals with "native status."

But until our school system publishes history books clearly saying that these painful truths occurred, and we publicly accept that within our borders, astonishing evil was and is perpetrated against native peoples, we will be living a lie about our Canadianism.

Next time you pass a weary native on the street know he or she once walked proudly. This image, these facts, must compel us to ask ourselves: where have we been?

Contact Rosensweig at avrum@veahavta.org

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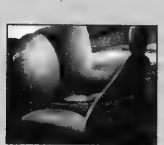
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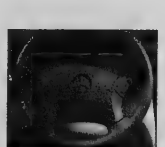
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This Week

National

Kahane Chai added to list of terrorist groups banned in Canada. *Page 5*

Gamma Knife radiation therapy arrives. *Page 7*

ICRF holds first fundraising fashion show. *Page 14*

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Dairy foods are a Shavuot tradition. *Page 36*

Arts & Travel

Canadian Idol judge has a knack for assessing talent. *Page 40*

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Parizeau wanted Bronfman quiet in 1995 referendum: ex-minister

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Former Quebec premier Jacques Parizeau would only agree to meet Jewish community leaders if Charles Bronfman promised to stay quiet during the 1995 sovereignty referendum campaign, an ex-Parti Québécois cabinet minister says.

In a published 15-page article about the referendum period, Richard Le Hir says Parizeau reneged on the deal, for which Le Hir acted as go-between, and he writes that as a result, the premier blew an opportunity to ease the difficult relationship between the PQ and the Jewish community.

Le Hir says he was approached by Jewish leaders to set up a meeting because he was considered a friend of the community. He writes that when he raised the idea with Parizeau, who had been PQ leader since 1988, Parizeau launched into a "diatribe" about his difficult relations with the Jewish community, and he blamed Bronfman in particular for having "contributed to the climate of fear" in 1980 that led to the defeat of the yes side in that year's referendum on sovereignty.

(On the eve of the PQ's first election victory in November 1976, Bronfman famously aired his fears about the possibility of a separatist government. In subsequent years,

Continued on page 49

More than 15,000 people took part last Sunday in the 35th annual Walk with Israel. The downtown march, organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, was a celebration of support for the people of Israel. [Benji Feldman photos]

British academics rescind Israeli boycott

U of T school of social work partners with Haifa U

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Only days before Britain's Association of University Teachers (AUT) repealed its boycott of two Israeli academic institutions, Haifa University and Bar-Ilan University, the school of social work at the University of Toronto passed a motion to develop an academic relationship with its faculty counterpart at Haifa U.

The AUT had initiated its controversial boycott to protest policies at the two universities, but the move was widely criticized as anti-Semitic for singling out Israeli universities and for restricting academic freedom.

While the social work faculty in Toronto was considering its options, the council of the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT) unanimously passed a resolution condemning the boycott for being "incompatible with academic freedom."

The council recommended the boycott be dropped, said MAUT president Michael Smith.

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Israeli airman Arad is dead, ex-German spy chief says— see page 35

The News in Brief

CANADA

Rabbi Addresses Rally

TORONTO — Rabbi Mendel Kaplan of Chabad@Flamingo in Thornhill, Ont., joined Muslim and Christian clergy and Tory politicians at a May 23 rally at Queen's Park against the federal government's bill that would legalize same-sex marriage across Canada. "When the prime minister put his hand on the Bible and swore to defend our values, what was he thinking?" the *National Post* quoted him as telling the rally, attended by some 4,000 people.

Israeli Too Sick to Talk

TORONTO — After pledging to co-operate with investigators, an Israeli who fled Canada for Israel in April after the collapse of a hedge fund he co-founded now says he's too sick to talk. At a hearing May 19 into the collapse of Portus Alternative Asset Management, a judge refused to reveal Boaz Manor's illness, though he said it appears real, Canadian Press reported. KPMG, named Portus' receiver after regulators closed the firm and froze its assets over financial irregularities, said there is no way to force Manor back to Canada and has called for a criminal probe, the *Globe and Mail* reported.

WORLD

Passport Case Backed

WASHINGTON — Fourteen U.S. congressmen, led by New York Democrat Anthony Weiner, filed an amicus brief in an appeal against a U.S. court ruling allowing the State Department to leave "Israel" off passports of Jerusalem-born citizens because it considers the city's final status as yet to be determined. A court ruled last year against the parents of Menachem Zivotofsky, U.S. citizens who tried to have his birthplace listed as "Jerusalem, Israel" on his passport. Canada has a similar passport policy.

New Survivor Funds

BERLIN — After negotiations with the Claims Conference that ended last month, Germany has agreed to pay an additional $11.4 million for home care for Shoah survivors, on top of a sum agreed to in negotiations last year. As well, survivors of several slave labour camps were added to those who can receive pensions from Germany. Survivors who were incarcerated for at least six months in certain camps in Hungary, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria are eligible.

Herzog Home Hit

DUBLIN — Swastikas were painted on the childhood home in Ireland of former Israeli president Chaim Herzog. SS insignias also were painted on the Herzog House, where Herzog lived with his father, Rabbi Isaac Halevy Herzog, chief rabbi of Ireland and later Askhenazi chief rabbi of Israel. The attack is the latest in a string of anti-Semitic acts in Ireland in the past month.

Former Envoy Dies

CLEVELAND — Milton Wolf, a Jewish leader and ex-U.S. ambassador, died May 19 of lymphoma in Cleveland at age 80. A real estate developer, he was U.S. ambassador to Austria from 1977 to 1980, chairman of Cleveland's Jewish federation from 1985 to 1988 and president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee from 1992 to 1995. As ambassador, he hosted the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Vienna attended by then-U.S. president Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Zionist History on Sale

NEW YORK — The only known autographed draft of the Balfour Declaration will be auctioned in New York June 16 as part of Zionist leader Leon Simon's archives. The 1917 document called for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The sale also features a letter from Israel's first president Chaim Weizmann asking colleagues to review the draft. The archive is expected to fetch $500,000 to $800,000.

Israeli Air Force Takes Part in War Games

OTTAWA — For the first time, Israel's air force is taking part in annual war games in Alberta.

Israel was scheduled to send 10 F-16 fighter jets and about 150 crew members to participate in the annual Maple Flag exercises over the sprawling Cold Lake weapons range in northern Alberta, Canadian Press reported. About 5,000 air personnel from 11 countries and NATO are taking part in the exercises, which began in mid-May and run to June 24.

A number of other countries, including Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, were invited to send observers.

Palestine House in Toronto objected to Israel's participation. "We don't support this Canadian initiative," spokesperson Issam Alyamani told Canadian Press. "The Israeli Air Force was used to destroy Palestinian houses and it was used against civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. I don't think this will help Canada to have a balanced position vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict."

But David Rudd, executive director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, said the invitation to Arab countries may help deflect criticism over inviting Israel.

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Abbas secures $12.2 million in aid from Martin

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

OTTAWA — Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas managed to collect $12.2 million in aid from Prime Minister Paul Martin during a brief six-hour stop-over in Ottawa last Friday.

Please see related stories
page 34

The money, announced at a joint afternoon press conference on Parliament Hill, includes $5 million for judicial reform, $5 million for housing support, $1.2 million to help with Palestinian Legislative Council elections and $500,000 for a scholarship fund for Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon.

In a short speech, Martin expressed his firm support for Abbas' leadership, but he said this new money was "just a down payment" and that Canada and other western nations will need to get more involved as Israel and the Palestinian Authority make moves toward peace.

"Since taking office in January [Abbas] has shown his commitment to peace. He has rejected terrorism and rejected violence, we commend him and he faces many challenges in reforming the Palestinian Authority," Martin said.

Speaking in Arabic, Abbas thanked the Canadian government for the money and stated that under his leadership, the PA is committed to democracy and rejecting terror. He also said Canada has an important role to play on the issue of refugees.

"We are committed to democracy as a way of life to Palestinians. The other ways will not lead to peace," Abbas said.

Canada has also pledged to send a 50-member independent delegation to observe upcoming elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Of particular interest will be Hamas, a group on Canada's list of banned terror groups that is growing in popularity and could secure many votes in elections.

"Hamas are terrorists and you are not going to have a multi-party system that is going to happen unless people are prepared to lay down their arms. Terrorism and democracy are simply incompatible," Martin said of the group.

For his part, Abbas said: "There needs to be only one authority on Palestinian land. There needs to be just one legal system and only one legitimate army, and [we] need to have a multi-party system."

Asked by reporters about Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, Martin said they are "simply not acceptable... they are illegal."

Abbas didn't meet with any Jewish officials during his visit, but the Israeli Embassy issued a statement saying Israel considers Abbas' visit to Ottawa and his meetings with Martin and Foreign Affairs Minister Pettigrew to be important and useful.

"Israel hopes that the Canadian government will impress upon the leader of the PA that without full cessation of terrorism, the peace process cannot move forward and peace will not be attainable," the release said.

Canada-Israel Committee chair Marc Gold, in a written statement, endorsed the proposal for Canada to extend material support to the Palestinians, but he suggested the funding should be tied to the Palestinians fulfilling their commitments under the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan.

The CIC also raised concerns about anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in Palestinian media, which it said poisons the atmosphere for genuine Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

Stockwell Day, the Conservative Party's foreign affairs critic, said he raised those concerns when he met with Abbas, and that he specifically discussed a speech by Sheik Ibrahim Mudeiris broadcast on Palestinian TV that called on Muslims to "finish off" the Jews.

"The president did not deny that that [kind of incitement in PA media] has taken place in the past," Day said, adding that Abbas told him he is working to ensure it doesn't happen in the future.

Abbas' stopover was the first visit to Canada by a head of the PA since former PA president Yasser Arafat's visit in 2000, and it came on the heels of Abbas' visit last week to Washington, where he secured $50 million (US) in aid from U.S. President George W. Bush.

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Cast-in-stone assumptions

From the editor's desk

It is unlikely that the publicity handlers of Palestinian Authority leader, Mahmoud Abbas, could have anticipated the soaring extent of the success of their leader's visit to Washington and Ottawa last week. Abbas filled to the top of the rim the two holy chalices of every politician's trip outside his country: substantive reward and positive optics.

In Washington, President George W. Bush promised his visitor an aid package of $50 million to bolster Palestinian infrastructure needs in the Gaza Strip. And as the two men faced the media last Thursday in the sunny Rose Garden of the White House, Bush spoke sternly about Israel's settlement building and the West Bank security fence. The harsh tone of the president's language surprised Israeli officials and Israel's supporters.

The JTA report described Abbas as "beaming" as he stood alongside the president during the press conference knowing that the crowded clutch of nearby television and video cameras were broadcasting the images of the stately visit into Palestinian homes halfway around the world.

And thus did Bush achieve one, if not *the* key objective, for the visit of the PA leader in the first place: to bolster Abbas' standing among Palestinians in preparation for the legislative assembly elections slated for mid-July.

In the highly visible process of, metaphorically at least, publicly wagging his finger in Israel's face, Bush may have also bolstered his own standing somewhat within the Arab world.

In Ottawa, the PA leader enjoyed much the same result.

This time it was Prime Minister Paul Martin who was beaming, obviously pleased that Abbas had agreed to stop by the Canadian capital for a few hours last Friday on his way home from Washington.

But Abbas was well rewarded for postponing by half a day his flight home. The prime minister promised to give his Palestinian guest $12 million in aid and enthused that the package was "just a down payment."

But there were aspects of the meeting between Martin and Abbas that were upsetting. They were illustrative of the cast-in-stone assumptions that suffuse mainstream understanding of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians and, they also suggest, alas, an utter failure to have any regard for the facts and the history of the conflict.

I will point out merely two.

The first jumped out from the report in the *Globe and Mail*. "The prime minister also had sharp words about Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory. 'They are illegal.' "

The reporter used the term "occupied" Palestinian territory. The more accurate terminology would have been "disputed" Palestinian territory.

The term "occupied" is loaded with legal implications and was used precisely because it has a meaning *de jure* above and beyond the *de facto* description of the presence of Jews in the West Bank.

The land that the reporter described as being occupied Palestinian territory was ruled by Jordan until 1967. Moreover, the border demarcations that differentiate the West Bank from Israel proper (the Green Line as it is sometimes called) are the armistice lines of the ceasefire that marked the end of the fighting in Israel's War of Independence, which was a defensive war fought by Israel after it was attacked by the armies of five Arab states who refused to accept the idea that a sovereign Jewish state should exist in their part of the world.

That Jews did not live there after the armistice was a result of the Jordanian law, still in effect, prohibiting Jews – not Israelis, but Jews – from owning land in Jordan.

No borders between the West Bank and Israel proper were ever formalized. That Palestinian Arabs live in the West Bank should not mean a reflexively automatic exclusion of any Jews being allowed to live there as well.

Surely, if Muslim and Christian Arabs can live in Israel proper, why cannot Jews live in a Palestinian state? The issue of Palestinian statehood in the West Bank is distinct from the issue of Jews being allowed to live there.

Yet, Martin's quick and mindless denunciation of Israeli communities in the West Bank as illegal, lends moral, if not legal, authority to the foul, and I would add obscene, notion that Jews ought not be allowed to live among Palestinians in a Palestinian state.

Then there was the statement in the *National Post* that "the aid package includes money for… Palestinian refugees in Lebanon…"

That Palestinians in Lebanon are still considered to be refugees after living there for nearly 60 years is a stain upon the Lebanese government that have steadfastly refused to allow Palestinians to become Lebanese citizens. There is no other conflict in modern history whose displaced persons remained refugees for three generations.

Like a field of newly sown seeds irrigated only with tainted water that yields twisted fruit, Palestinian leaders have cultivated nearly three generations of their children with the steady drip of hatred and contempt for Israel and the Jews.

It is a disgrace that Palestinian leaders have instilled in their people a self-identification as refugees and victims only.

It is a double disgrace that the western world, in particular the United Nations, has been complicit in cultivating this harvest of hatred.

— MBD

SeeJN

CHALLAH COVERS RULE:

She'arim student, Ronen Dumov, is helped by assistant teacher Naomi Moldofsky, centre, making challah covers while Mitchell Spitzer, takes note on strategy.

[Benji Feldman photo]

Canada puts Israeli group on terrorist list

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Kahane Chai (Kach), an Israeli-based extremist organization that promotes violence against Palestinians, has been added to the list of terrorist groups that are banned in Canada.

Anne McLellan, deputy prime minister and minister of public safety and emergency preparedness, announced last week that the Israeli organization, along with the Iranian Mujahedin-e-Khalq and the Afghani Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin, was added to the terrorist entities listed under the Criminal Code.

"Canada is committed to taking all necessary steps as part of the international effort to bring terrorists to justice and to ensure terrorists are denied access to funding," McLellan stated. "The listing of entities is an important part of that ongoing effort."

Kahane Chai (Kach) "is a group of Jewish terrorists whose overall aim is to restore the biblical state of Israel. To this end, the group aims to intimidate and threaten Palestinian families and mount sustained political pressure on the Israeli government," stated a news release issued by the Ministry of Public Safety.

A more menacing description of the organization was published in the United States by the Council on Foreign Relations (COFR). It described Kach and Kahane Chai (they are listed as a single group by the Canadian government) as "marginal Israeli groups that have used terrorism to pursue their goals of expanding Jewish rule across the West Bank and expelling the Palestinians. Both groups grew out of the anti-Arab teachings of Rabbi Meir Kahane, an American-born extremist who founded and led Kach."

Israel outlawed Kach in 1994 after Baruch Goldstein, a U.S.-born Kach supporter, killed 29 worshippers and wounded dozens in a machine gun attack in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, the COFR recounted.

The United States has also added Kach and Kahane Chai to its roster of foreign terrorist organizations.

Meir Halevi, a spokesperson for the Jewish Defence League (JDL) in Canada, said "there is no Kach or Kahane Chai in Canada to the best of my knowledge."

Kahane Chai did at one time attempt to start up in Toronto, but "it fizzled out."

An organization in Montreal, the New Kach Movement, likewise did not go far, he said.

The JDL, another organization created by the late Rabbi Kahane, is also out of business in Canada, Halevi said, but many JDL supporters continue to be active through the United Israel Action Committee.

Halevi said the JDL in Canada had distanced itself from Kahane Chai and Kach in Israel. "I've always been critical of certain elements in Israel who joined the movement," he said. "It was an unfortunate situation that you have people who are unstable or violent who joined.

"What I don't like seeing happening is Kach or anything associated with Rabbi Kahane made into a mirror image of Hamas. That was not the intention of Rabbi Kahane. [Kach and Kahane Chai] look like right wing, fanatic, religious groups, and it should not have degenerated into that," Halevi said.

Halevi acknowledged that Kahane was expelled from the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in 1985 for fronting a racist party and opposing democracy. He said the mainstream parties did so to "delegitimize his right to run," but Halevi maintained Rabbi Kahane was not a racist.

Rabbi Kahane warned of the demographic danger to Israel of controlling millions of Palestinians and the current Gaza withdrawal plan recognizes that danger, he said.

"It's clear that disengagement is a euphemism for separation. That's close to what Rabbi Kahane talked about," Halevi added.

TZEDAKAH READING: The Grade 4 classes at Leo Baeck Day School's Thornhill campus took part in Scholastic Canada's "Classroom Care" campaign. They needed to finish reading 100 books by May 31 so that Scholastic would donate 100 books per class on their behalf to children in need across Canada.

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Toronto travel agent suing El Al for $50 million

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

An organizer of tours and flights to Israel is suing El Al Israel Airlines and several of its top managers for allegedly pressuring travel agencies to not employ him.

Shalom Even, the founder of Shalom-K Tours, a Toronto travel agency that was petitioned into bankruptcy by El Al in 1999, is claiming $50 million in damages from the airline and its senior managers. Even alleges that El Al and its personnel have engaged in conspiracy and "interfered with [his] economic relations."

Legal documents filed in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice allege El Al or its representatives have acted unfairly and unlawfully towards Even "and intended to interfere and have in fact interfered with the plaintiff's [Even's] business," as well as with his contractual relations.

The documents also claim that Stanley Morais, the company's current Canadian general manager, libelled him in an interview with the *Catholic Register* in 2000.

Three days of court time have been set aside for the case, which was scheduled to begin earlier this week. None of the claims have been proven in court and El Al and its managers have denied all the allegations.

Even's lawyer, Allan Kaufman, said Even's statement of claim relies on a little-known tort that makes it unlawful to induce someone to breach a contract. He said El Al has worked to prevent travel agencies from employing Even in any capacity since Shalom-K went bankrupt, owing the airline $680,000.

"The question for the court is, can a big international airline, once owned by the government of the State of Israel, decide it's going to prevent one individual in his 60s from earning a livelihood in the only field in which he has considerable expertise?" Kaufman said.

The statement of claim, filed five years ago, names El Al as a defendant, along with Yoel Feldschuh, the former president of El Al's worldwide operations; Michael Mayer, the general manager of the airline's North American operations; Moshe Shamai, former general manager of its Canadian operations; Rami Fischer, Shamai's successor in Canada; and Morais.

Morais declined to comment on the case, but the statement of defence in the case denies Even suffered any damages as a result of the airline's conduct.

"These defendants plead that if the plaintiff has suffered damages, it is entirely due to the plaintiff's own activities which led to a bankruptcy and revealed he was not the kind of agent that the defendant, El Al Israel Airlines Limited, should deal with," the airline's legal documents state.

The statement of defence also says that "as a result of his activities, the plaintiff [Even] does not have a good reputation and has not suffered damage in respect of his activities as a vendor of Canadian tours and flights to Israel."

The defence also contends Morais' comments to the *Catholic Register* were fair comment and not libelous.

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Ve'ahavta chapter holds community bazaar

The Ve'ahavta Chaverim Vaughan chapter will be holding its first one-of- a-kind Bizarre Bazaar on June 5 at Earl Bales Park Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Items at the bazaar include baked goods, toys, clothing, china, jewelry, household and books. There will also be clowns, face painting, massage therapists, music and food. Miscellaneous items will be sold by silent auction throughout the day.

The bazaar's proceeds will benefit Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee's humanitarian work with Toronto's homeless, international medical missions and Ve'ahavta Israel.

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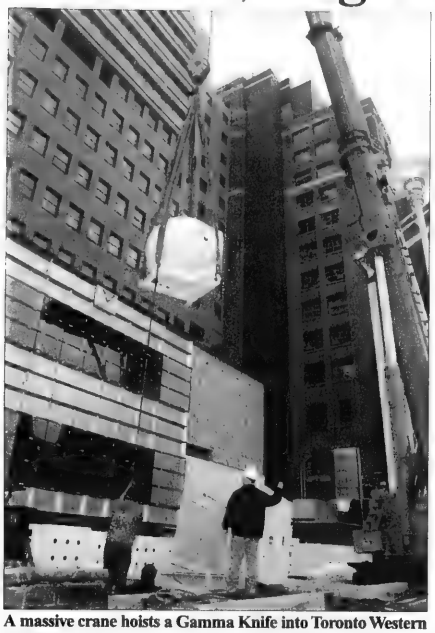

A massive crane hoists a Gamma Knife into Toronto Western Hospital. The device is a non-invasive radiation therapy machine that treats various ailments, including brain tumours. [Bryan Kautz photo]

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When Joey Tanenbaum learned that Toronto Western Hospital was $3 million shy of having enough money for a Gamma Knife – a non-invasive radiation therapy machine – his philanthropic instincts kicked in.

"The thing that got me was… that for $3 million, it will save 300 lives a year," Tanenbaum said, recalling his initial inspiration to contribute after hearing about the device last fall.

It has been effective at treating such ailments as brain tumours, malformations in the arteries and epilepsy.

"One thing the Talmud says is if you save one life, it's as if you're saving the world. So just imagine how good Toby [his wife] and I feel."

The president and CEO of Jay-M Holdings felt especially proud last week at the hospital when he watched a crane place the 22.5-tonne machine in its new home.

Others on hand for the ceremony showed their gratitude in emotional ways.

"A young lady came over to me at the installation and she said, 'Mr. Tanenbaum, I've got to kiss you.' I said fine, give me a kiss," Tanenbaum said, noting that just days earlier, he and Toby celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

"She said that… in 1984, she had an inoperable tumour and the hospital could not [operate]… so they sent her down to the United States to a Gamma Knife centre."

That situation will likely be averted for many patients now that the hospital has the new piece of equipment, which delivers targeted beams of radiation without damaging surrounding tissue.

A unique aspect of the device is that patients receive a single-dose treatment in a procedure that takes only one day.

Funding the Gamma Knife has had a personal dimension for Tanenbaum, who was treated for prostate cancer at University Health Network hospitals and was good friends with Harold Lederman, an active cancer research fundraiser who died of inoperable brain tumours.

Tanenbaum noted that while there are nearly 50 Gamma Knife centres in the United States, the one at Toronto Western is the first and only one in Ontario, though additional centres are planned for Montreal and Winnipeg.

The provincial government is committed to providing about $1.1 million each year to operate the equipment, but Tanenbaum said more should come from government coffers to support such initiatives.

"The fact that the government… doesn't give the money for the capital expenditures of equipment of this type is absolutely unconscionable," he said.

The Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Family Gamma Knife Centre will begin treating patients in September.

Gala to support brain tumour research

Sponsors, patrons and guests will be transported into a glimmering, shimmering world of fun and fantasy in support of a great cause at Sparkle, this year's annual Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust Gala.

For the event, designer Nicholas Pinney will transform the Governor's Room at the Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex at Exhibition Place in Toronto into a sparkling Crystal Palace, a mosaic of crystal, mirrors and candlelight.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. on June 2, patrons will dine on gourmet treats, dance to their favourite '70s tunes by The Travoltas and browse through an all-new outdoor market of spectacular silent auction prizes under the stars.

As always, proceeds from the gala will support brain tumour research and fund programs and services for brain tumour patients and their families at the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Tumor Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Individual tickets are $225 per person. Event organizers expect more than 1,000 patrons and net proceeds even greater than last year's $500,000.

"Recently, The Pencer Brain Tumor Centre was at the core of a significant breakthrough in the treatment of brain tumours. A new drug protocol has been shown to dramatically improve the prognosis for newly diagnosed patients, offering desperately needed hope to patients and their families, not only at our facility in Toronto, but around the world," said Holly Pencer Bellman, Sparkle co-chair and executive director of The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust.

The trust, a not-for-profit organization with a mandate to make a difference in the quality of life of people living with brain tumours, is the primary source of funding for The Pencer Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital.

For more information about the Sparkle event or to purchase tickets, call 416-923-2999, or visit the website www.pencerbraintrust.com

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Dry Bones
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WE CAN SEE LIGHT AT BOTH ENDS OF THE TUNNEL
BUT THEY'RE BOTH FROM ONCOMING LOCOMOTIVES!

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Inspiring FAST action

From the earliest of mishnaic times, our ancient sages taught us to acknowledge the good that others do for us. Where possible, good deeds should not go unrecognized. This principle is called *hakarat hatov*, literally meaning, recognition of the good. The "good" in the expression, of course, refers not only to the benefit that is conferred but also to the individual or individuals who actually confer that benefit. In the spirit then, of the simple civil and human decency that underlies the notion of *hakarat hatov*, it is incumbent upon us to thank Elizabeth and Tony Comper.

The Compers have organized a coalition of influential Canadian business leaders which they call FAST (Fighting Anti-Semitism Together). They are well-positioned to prevail upon their friends and others in the corporate world. Tony Comper is the chief executive officer of the Bank of Montreal.

"I had to do something," Elizabeth Comper told *The CJN* recently in explaining why she brought the idea for the campaign to her husband. She had resolved to try to do something about the rise of anti-Semitic incidents that rocked Canadian society in 2004.

"This isn't just a Jewish issue. This is an issue of every single person living in Canada. If we can change or move one child, then it's all worth it," Comper said.

"We're sending out the message that the Jewish people are not alone," Tony Comper told *The CJN*. "We have a prestigious group associated with the project, an impressive roster. And we hope it will broaden over time."

With money collected from corporate donors and in conjunction with Canadian Jewish Congress, the Compers will launch an educational project this fall targeted at public schools that aims to educate both Jewish and non-Jewish students about eradicating anti-Semitism.

We wish the Compers every success in their campaign. And thank them for the goodness of their actions on our behalf, that is, on behalf of the tolerant, inclusive, multi-ethnic Canadian society that we hold so dear.

Marchers for Israel

We wish also to thank the organizers of and the countless participants in the many walkathons for Israel that are being held during this end-of-spring-start-of-summer season. In large and small communities across the country, thousands of Canadians turn out to publicly show their support for the State of Israel and its people.

The heart beats to a patriotic and exciting rhythm all its own at the sight of the blue and white Star of David being carried high and fluttering alongside the red and white Maple Leaf.

On these wonderfully uplifting occasions, the kinship between the two democracies is palpable and we take some comfort in hoping that however trying and difficult the road to true peace might be for Israel, so many Canadians will stand at its side against the inevitably impossible concessions that others will demand of the Jewish state.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Polish collaboration exaggerated

In "From Poland to Israel: revelling in nationhood" (*CJN*, May 19), David Lazarus writes that "the ghosts of three million Polish Jews haunt Poland," but these ghosts obviously haunt him even more. His way of coming to grips with the past is to resurrect former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's bigoted allegation that Polish children "imbibed anti-Semitism along with their mother's milk." Lazarus compounds the defamation by linking it with Nazi oppression of Poland, with the effect of devaluing real Polish suffering.

He also exaggerates the number of Poles who collaborated with the Nazis by conflating them with Poles who did nothing: "the great majority, either did nothing, looked away or fully supported the persecution of the Jews." The number of Poles who helped Jews, albeit a minority, was far greater than the number of collaborators. One could write with equal accuracy that the great majority of Poles either helped Jews or did nothing; only a few collaborated. Most Poles were innocent bystanders, not guilty of persecution.

I WANT ARTICLES ABOUT ISRAEL WITH DIFFERENT OPINIONS
DAILY NEWS
OKAY- I'LL BE CRITICAL
I'LL BE HIGHLY CRITICAL
I'LL BE EXTREMELY CRITICAL

Poles who are longtime residents of Lublin obviously would react to the familiar presence nearby of the Majdanek camp differently than Jewish visitors who are seeing Majdanek for the first time. If the Polish response seems less emotional and too casual, it implies no disrespect to the victims. After all, one-third of the Majdanek prisoners were non-Jewish Poles, a fact apparently unknown to March of the Living participants.

Charles Chotkowski
Director of research, Holocaust Documentation Committee, Polish American Congress
Fairfield, Conn.

* * *

Remembering the Holocaust

On May 8, it was V-E Day and 60 years since the end of World War II. With the passage of so many years, I know that you worry and wonder if future generations will remember you and the Holocaust, remember you even on quiet days, not just special commemoration days like Yom Hashoah or the anniversary of V-E Day.

I suspect you worry, especially today, when it appears that "the way we were" is the way we are and when the postwar "Never Again" has been replaced with "Not Again" and "Enough Already." After what you experienced in Hitler's death camps, or in hiding, you deserve better than another round of racism.

While I am not so foolish to believe that the spin cycle of anti-Semitism will soon stop turning, I am hopeful that the Holocaust will always be remembered. I believe this, even with the revival of anti-Semitism in Europe and as Canada feels the fires of hatred against the Jewish people.

I still have reason to hope that remembrance will be resilient and not fade away. My optimism resides in thousands of American, Canadian and international teenagers and an educational program called the March of the Living, which educates 16-year-olds about the Holocaust.

On Yom Hashoah last month, these teenagers and their chaperones, accompanied by Holocaust survivors, were in Auschwitz retracing the footsteps of the death march, walking the three-kilometre distance from Auschwitz to Birkenau. They walked where 60 years ago more than one million Jews took their final steps to the gas chambers. Surrounded by 18,000 participants from around the world, they marched not in fear, not in despair, but in a strong, silent affirmation of life and remembrance.

The teenagers not only went to death and concentration camps, they also learned about the vibrant life of European Jewry before 1939 by visiting Krakow and Warsaw.

Throughout the trip, Holocaust survivors, including Montreal survivors Rena and Mayer Schondorf, Terry Guttman, and Ella and Ernest Ehrmann, were present to share their testimonies with these teens. Because of the March of the Living, and these Holocaust survivors, I've been able to find a bright spot in a year hemorrhaging heavily with anti-Semitism.

I have another reason to be hopeful that the six million will not become a footnote in history. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in Rosemere, Que., committed itself to Holocaust education by granting paid educational leave to a colleague and myself so that we could participate in the March as chaperones.

I don't know where God and Man were during the Holocaust, but I do know that you need not worry that your testimonies and memories will be forgotten. The March of the Living and school boards like Sir Wilfrid Laurier help guarantee that the responsibilities of remembrance will be fulfilled by future generations.

Freda Lewkowicz
Montreal

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The eternal city for the eternal people

The following are excerpts from the address delivered by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) at Ammunition Hill, May 19, 2004.

Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, this year falls on June 6.

On the 26th day of Iyar, 5727, 37 years ago, at the conclusion of a nerve-wracking waiting period, we set out to break the ring of siege and strangulation that tightened around the State of Israel.

Enemy armies were prepared for battle on the various fronts, and the arrogance of their leaders assured them that the fate of the Jewish State was sealed.

Israel did not seek war. Its government sought out every crack to secure, by peaceful means, the freedom to sail through the Straits of Tiran, and to bring about the dispersal of the concentrations of hostile forces on its borders. Only after the failure of all attempts to resolve the crisis by diplomatic means did the government order the Israel Defence Forces to go into battle.

The crown jewel of the Six-Day War was Jerusalem. Jerusalem has been engraved in the soul of the Jewish people ever since David established his capital here more than 3,000 years ago, and since Solomon built the first Temple on Mount Moriah. The oath of the exiles on the rivers of Babylon – "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its cunning" – will forever be scorched in the heart of every Jew. From generation to generation, Jerusalem was in our prayers throughout the Diaspora, on workdays and holidays, and in countless songs of yearning, desire and love.

The Jews have never abandoned Jerusalem. Even when forcefully kept away by enemies, they exploited every opportunity to enter its gates and, immediately after the decree was lifted, they again took hold of their city.

In 1948, the bravery of Israel's warriors prevailed in battle within and en route to the besieged and embattled Jerusalem, but it was not within our power to liberate the entire city at that time. For 19 long years, we were cut off from the sacred Jewish places beyond the wall: from the Temple Mount, from the Western Wall, from the Mount of Olives and from the Jewish Quarter.

For 19 long years, from the Abu-Tor outpost or from Mount Zion, we gazed at the Old City. We gazed and we longed. We gazed and we yearned. We gazed and we hoped.

The great honour to redeem Jerusalem eventually fell to Maj.-Gen. Uzi Narkiss and the fighters of the Central Command who were assigned the mission: soldiers from the reserve Paratrooper Brigade under the command of Motta Gur. I knew many of them. Many them were my own cadets and soldiers; the Jerusalem Brigade under the command of Eliezer Amitai; the Harel Brigade under the command of Uri Ben-Ari; and the pilots of the Air Force under the command of Mordechai Hod. Here in this national park surrounding us lay the most difficult battlefield, the valiant battle of the paratroopers. Here, following a night of battle, a new dawn burst forth for Jerusalem. A dawn of redemption.

The fighting was also fierce in other theatres of the war, and the IDF won tremendous victories, but it was the news of Jerusalem's liberation that captured hearts and gave the entire war its profound historic significance in the annals of Jewish history.

Here among you, I have seen quite a few of my comrades who commanded units in the same war on various fronts.

Today, as "we will elevate Jerusalem above our foremost joy," we cherish – with pride, sorrow and gratitude – its fallen: the heroes, those faithful to Jerusalem until their last breaths, and all the fallen of the various battlefields. To the bereaved families, as is the Jewish custom, we say with a loving heart: may God comfort you, "and may you find comfort in Jerusalem."

As a young platoon commander, I fought in the battle to lift the siege on Jerusalem. At the time, I did not believe that 56 years would pass and the battle for Jerusalem would still not be over, but, unfortunately, the battle for Jerusalem continues even today. Those who seek its demise still plot to harm its inhabitants, to sever the unbreakable link between us and Jerusalem.

We stand against them, remaining on guard.

"Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, have I posted guardians; all the day and all the night" the prophet Isaiah said 2,700 years ago. We take this upon ourselves as an eternal oath: we the Jewish people, we the Israel Defence Forces, we the government of Israel – we the guardians of Jerusalem.

We will continue to develop Jerusalem for the benefit of its residents and those around the world who love it. We will build its neighbourhoods, we will praise and glorify its beauty, and protect and defend it against every enemy and foe.

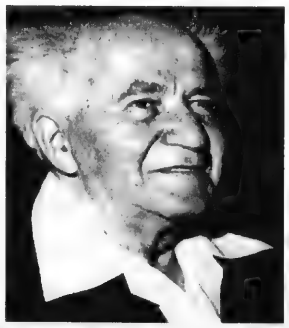
United Jerusalem, the heart of the nation, returned to the embrace of the Jewish people who coronated it in ancient times with a crown of sanctity and royalty, swearing an oath of love and devotion. The one Jerusalem that has been joined together with the State of Israel, and will never be separated again.

The eternal city – for the eternal people – for eternity!

'Jerusalem is the heart of the State of Israel'

In the fall of 1949, the United Nations General Assembly began debating how to implement its decision of Nov. 29, 1947, regarding the partition of Mandatory Palestine, with a focus on the section of the resolution concerning the establishment of Jerusalem as a separate international entity under the auspices of the United Nations.

On the eve of the debate, on Dec. 5, 1949, Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion announced, in a Knesset session, that Jewish Jerusalem is an organic and inseparable part of the State of Israel. The following is a short excerpt from his remarks that day in the Knesset.



"Jewish Jerusalem is an integral part of Jewish history and belief. Jerusalem is the heart of the State of Israel. We are proud of the fact that Jerusalem is also sacred to other religions and will gladly provide access to their holy places and enable them to worship as and where they please, co-operating with the UN to guarantee this…

"We cannot imagine, however, that the UN would attempt to sever Jerusalem from the State of Israel or harm Israel's sovereignty in its eternal capital.

"Twice in the history of our nation were we driven out of Jerusalem, only after being defeated in bitter wars by the larger, stronger forces of Babylon and Rome. Our links with Jerusalem today are no less deep than in the days of Nebuchadnezzar and Titus Flavius, and when Jerusalem was attacked after the 14th of May 1948, our valiant youngsters risked their lives for our sacred capital no less than our forefathers did in the time of the First and Second temples.

"A nation that, for 2,500 years, has faithfully adhered to the vow made by the first exiles by the waters of Babylon not to forget Jerusalem will never agree to be separated from Jerusalem. Jewish Jerusalem will never accept alien rule after thousands of its youngsters liberated their historic homeland for the third time, redeeming Jerusalem from destruction and vandalism."

(Courtesy of Israel Press Service)

Opinions

Pitting Jew against Jew

It's been said that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent comment to NBC that "the atmosphere [in Israel] looks like the eve of civil war," was just a ploy to frighten an already edgy Israeli public into further supporting his proposed disengagement from Gaza. Nonetheless, the threat of civil unrest is not without foundation and can't be totally discounted as the August withdrawal date approaches.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

We know, for example, that far-right groups in Israel are already distributing a manual titled "A Practical Plan to Stop the Pullout." Add to this public statements by the likes of Arieh Eldad of Israel's National Union Party and Noam Livnat, brother of Education Minister Limor Livnat, and a very disturbing trend becomes even more evident. Eldad has predicted that it's "only a matter of time before someone, a soldier or a settler, begins the shooting, which could easily turn into a bloodbath and escalate into an all-out civil war," while Livnat, a prominent activist in the anti-disengagement camp, has voiced the expectation that some settlers would use force against soldiers and police. "We are in a war," he has told reporters. "There are some limits, and I am not willing to speak about those limits, but this is war."

Fortunately, calls for violence and threats of anarchy are contained within a small segment of Israeli society. The disengagement plan is supported by more than 60 per cent of Israel's Jewish population, while, according to the September 2004 "Peace Index" published by Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Centre for Peace Research, almost 90 per cent of survey respondents opposed the proposition that "there are situations in which there is no choice and one must use even weapons to prevent the government from carrying out its policy." Yet, it's troubling that the Steinmetz data also showed that while a small majority (55 per cent) of Israelis believe that the danger of civil war erupting over the Gaza evacuation is low, a sizeable minority (40 per cent) thinks there is a high risk of civil war.

As factions within the settler movement dig in their heels and the prospects for civil disobedience intensify, the rift between the settlers and the national consensus will likely widen. How all of this plays out is yet to be determined. But as parochial interests command centre stage, and as the divide between supporters and opponents of disengagement continues to grow, all parties would do well to reflect on the rabbinic precept of *sinat chinam* (baseless hatred) among Jews, which tells us that throughout history, only bad things have befallen our people when such enmity occurs.

Let us hope, therefore, that this construct will not to be re-tested amid the current tensions.

In the Holy City, time slows to a crawl

One particularly dismaying aspect of getting older, as we all know, is the contraction of time. Years glide by like months, and days dissolve into one another. Would that we could regain that delicious childhood sense of time, when summer vacations seemed to promise and provide an eternity of fun, and a single school year could drag on for what felt like forever through a creeping progression of seasons.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

I was struck once again by the slippery nature of time when, some weeks back, I revisited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem after a lapse of more than four years.

Visits by non-Muslims to the sacred area were discontinued with the outbreak of the violence in September 2000. Fear for the personal safety of Jews and Christians, coupled with concerns about further aggravating an already very tense situation, were behind this policy. Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat's strategy of incitement – seeking to secure a Palestinian monopoly over sanctity on the Temple Mount and missing no opportunity to portray the overall situation as a religious war and an assault by the infidel upon the Muslim faith – made any sort of functional compromise impossible.

But the death of the "Chairman" has brought temporary relief. This, together with a moderating Jordanian influence in local Muslim religious affairs, has enabled a degree of inter-communal dialogue and co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians. The resumption of visits to the great and ancient complex atop Mount Moriah, the most sacred of places for the Jewish religion, and much hallowed by Islam and Christianity too, reflects this change in mood.

It was in the context of the 23rd annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors that I recently led a delegation of 50 municipal heads from around the world through the green Mughrabi gate and onto the hilltop elevation. The strict security checks, a preventive measure taken to thwart provocations by more extreme Jewish groups interested in stirring up trouble at this sensitive juncture, and possibly even in sabotaging the mosques, were eased for our distinguished group. Within moments we were in the compound, roaming at large near the two great Islamic shrines, the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and availing ourselves of the breathtaking views of the Mount of Olives.

Except for a limited, but very obvious, Israeli police presence near the access gates, the huge esplanade was practically empty. A handful of worshippers drifted in and out of the mosques, taking, for the most part, little notice of our presence, while ushers and guards in the employ of the Muslim holy trust that oversees the area dogged our footsteps at a discreet distance, lazily fingering their "Masbaha" beads and eyeing us with an unlikely combination of bored indifference and keen interest.

In an atmosphere of perfect tranquility untainted by the heated passions and bitter recriminations that have poisoned relations between Jew and Palestinian, we toured leisurely. And throughout, I simply could not shake the all-pervasive sense of the suspension of normal time. It was as though I had stood there by those mosques, if not the day, then certainly the week before. Every little detail was so utterly familiar. Even the Muslim guard monitoring my activities was the very same man I'd known back in the "old days," before the "great flood." Indeed, we exchanged knowing smiles and cordial greetings, of the sort one reserves for regular acquaintances, and there was nothing in either of our manners to indicate that four years had passed between our last "hello" and this latest one.

Like a quickly moving storm, the latest round in the conflict shows signs of receding. Once again, blood was spilled in busloads as thousands were murdered and maimed and countless families were destroyed. Again, funerals became the predominant rite of both peoples. Again, nothing whatsoever was achieved.

And as the swallows swooped acrobatically overhead in their springtime exuberance, the aging Palestinian at my side fingered his worry beads while I spoke of eternities and ancient things in the shadow of the shrines. We were both, it was plainly obvious, a little greyer, a little wearier then we had remembered. And as is often the case around here, time seemed to stand perfectly still, eager to head nowhere very quickly. *Culiner@netvision.net.il*

A message about Zion that has yet to sink in

I received my first glimpse of Jerusalem late at night, through the windows of a taxi from the airport, going up the steeply twisting road that marks the border between the Mediterranean and the Middle East. We drove straight into the Old City, and, still in a daze, I got out briefly to touch the stones of the Western Wall.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The next morning, I woke up to see the full panorama of more than 3,000 years of Jewish memory, sent my first letter postmarked "Jerusalem, Israel", and began to experience the city's uniqueness. It was a few years after the 1967 war that ended the blockade on access by Jews. The rebuilding of the Jewish Quarter, whose synagogues and other buildings had been destroyed and desecrated under Arab control, was just beginning. The city was still a small town – we were able to walk from one end to the other in a few hours.

Later, when my young family decided to become olim, there was no question that we would make our home in Jerusalem – its magnetic pull is irresistible. And on the "pilgrimage" holidays – particularly Shavuot – we join the throngs pouring out of every corner and alleyway at dawn, on the way to the Kotel. In this and so many other ways, life in Jerusalem is fascinating and unique.

This exceptionality is not lost on the Palestinians, who created their own religious and historical claims, while also turning the Holy City into the prime focus of terrorism. Jerusalemites have known very difficult times, but very few, if any, have pulled up stakes and left as a result. For Israelis, religious and secular, this is simply not an option.

In December 2000, as the Oslo process was on life support and Palestinian violence was escalating, hundreds of thousands of Israelis gathered outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. The purpose of this demonstration – perhaps the largest in Israel's history – was to insure that the history of the failed 1949 armistice agreement would not be repeated. As a result of this early example of creative diplomacy, until 1967, Jews could only look across, without being able to cross.

And yet for most Arabs, these extremely deep Jewish links are invisible. Many simply deny any Jewish connection to Jerusalem, as the late Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat told then U.S. president Bill Clinton during the disastrous Camp David summit in July 2000. To admit to Jewish roots that existed 1,500 years before Mohammed and the earliest Islamic claims would be to admit the need to compromise, both theologically and politically. This is apparently unacceptable in the prevailing Arab and Muslim belief systems, which demand exclusivity.

During the tension that accompanied the last stages of the "peace process," the focus on Jerusalem increased, and Palestinians again imposed a blockade on Jews going to the Temple Mount. Under the cover of this blackout, Palestinians also dug deeply into this holy ground – which holds the remnants of the First and Second temples – to expand mosques. In the process, unknowable damage was done to thousands of years of historical remains, where archeologists had never dug.

In this period, as the tension over Jerusalem grew and governments in the United States, Canada and Europe sponsored emergency "regional dialogues," an Egyptian academic asked me why the Jews were so upset about Jerusalem. After all, he noted, we gave up Mount Sinai with less outcry than could be found in protestations over settlements along the Red Sea coast.

Although he is one of the most liberal and well-informed intellectuals in the Arab world, it was clear he had never made the connection between Jerusalem and the "Zion" in Zionism. I took out a tanach (Jewish Bible) and went through its "Zion" references, and then I showed him the references to the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the return to Zion that can be found in almost every Jewish prayer.

Despite decades of declarations about Jerusalem as the "undivided capital of Israel," the message has never sunk in. When peace finally comes to Jerusalem, to Israel and to our neighbours, it will grow out of the understanding of the essential Jewish links to the City of Peace.

The Kirshner File

Germany forges warm, complicated ties with Israel

Horst Kohler, Germany's president, put it best. Addressing the Knesset in February to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel, which actually fell on May 12, he described them as "complicated, warm and close."

Sheldon Kirshner in Berlin

Forged in the shadow of the Holocaust, a crime conceived and administered in Berlin, Germany's relationship with Israel has positively prospered since its first ambassador, Rolf Pauls, presented his credentials to Israel's president, Zalman Shazar, in August 1965. Pauls set foot on Israeli soil 15 years after Israeli and German parliamentarians met in the first formal meeting of its kind, 13 years after Israel and Germany signed a restitution agreement in Luxembourg and five years after David Ben-Gurion, Israel's prime minister, conferred with Konrad Adenauer, Germany's chancellor, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

Pauls, the son of a Protestant pastor, a Wehrmacht officer during World War II and a seasoned diplomat, was given a cordial reception by the Israeli government upon arriving in Israel. But some Israelis, notably Menachem Begin, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor and the leader of the militant Herut party, could not reconcile themselves to this startling reality.

Venting their feelings in front of Germany's new seaside embassy at the Sheraton Hotel in Tel Aviv, he and his followers gathered there in an emotional anti-German demonstration. Gauging the public mood, Israel did not send its first envoy to Germany, Asher Ben-Nathan, until about five years later.

Joschka Fischer

Since then, despite the periodic eruption of tensions turning on such issues as the sale of German missile components to Iraq in the 1980s and the upsurge of neo-Nazism in Germany in the early 1990s, Berlin and Jerusalem have established an elaborate and extensive network of ties, formed a welter of exchange programs in fields ranging from culture to science and built thriving trade and commercial relations conservatively valued at $4.5 billion (US) in 2004.

This year, as Germany and Israel observe four decades of friendship in a series of cultural, political and academic events, both sides have reason to be content.

"We consider Germany as our second best friend after the United States," declared Ilan Mor, the chief of mission at Israel's embassy in Berlin. "Germany has devoted itself to the security and welfare of Israel."

Mor, who compares Israel's bonds with Germany to a tightly-knit carpet, explained that German reparation payments to Israel in atonement for its central role in the Holocaust – a sum well into the tens of billions of dollars – have had a profound impact on Israel's economy. And on the human level, he added, youth exchanges and personal connections across the board have bulked up the relationship.

Last week, Israel's foreign minister, Silvan Shalom, visited Germany, stopping at the newly dedicated Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in the heart of Berlin and meeting with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. Shortly after Shalom's departure, Israel's president, Moshe Katsav, flew in for a visit

Ruminating on the state of Germany's current relations with Israel, Ruprecht Polenz, the Christian Democratic Union's foreign affairs critic in the Bundestag, said they are in "very good shape." Sipping coffee at the fashionable Cafe Einstein in eastern Berlin, Polenz, a conservative politician, called the relationship "unique" rather than "special." Mor agreed with his choice of terminology.

In general, however, German politicians from Schroeder to Fischer speak of Germany's "special historical" relationship with Israel and refer to it as an inviolable core of its foreign policy. There is a broad consensus here that Israel has a right to exist within secure borders in peace and without fear of terrorism. "That is set in stone and no one should doubt that," said Fischer, a leader of the Green party in Schroeder's Social Democratic coalition government and a frequent visitor to Israel. Alluding to that formulation in his speech to the Knesset this past winter, Kohler said, "Germany will always stand by Israel and its people."

By the same token, Germany, in concert with the European Union, the United States, Russia and China, supports the concept of viable Palestinian nationhood within the framework of a two-state solution.

But, as Polenz pointed out, Germany has real "concerns" about some of Israel's policies. In line with one of the provisions of the "road map" peace plan, both the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democrats have repeatedly urged Israel to freeze its settlement building program in the territories.

As well, Germany – which has welcomed Israel's decision to withdraw from the Gaza Strip – has sharply questioned the planned route of Israel's separation barrier through the West Bank on the grounds it will interfere with the geographical contiguity of a future Palestinian state. But as Fischer said four months ago, "We are not criticizing the fence. We are criticizing the line of the fence."

Probably Israel's best friend in the European Union, which often takes pot shots at Israeli policies, Germany is just as critical of the Palestinian leadership, saying it should dismantle the terrorist infrastructure as part of its commitment to the road map.

Polenz and Mor also agree that Israel's image in Germany, as elsewhere in Europe, has been badly tarnished by the second Palestinian uprising, which broke out after the failure of the Camp David summit in 2000.

Gerhard Schroeder

Not long after the start of the current intifadah, Rudolf Augstein, the publisher of *Der Spiegel*, Germany's most influential news magazine, likened Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to Adolf Hitler. Then, Jamal Karsli – a Free Democratic party parliamentarian of Syrian origin – caused an uproar by accusing Israel of using "Nazi methods" in an attempt to quell the intifadah.

Last December, following the release of a European survey in which Israel was castigated as one of the gravest threats to world peace, a public opinion poll commissioned by the University of Bielefeld found that 51 per cent of Germans equated Israel's treatment of Palestinians with Nazi Germany's treatment of Jews. Sixty eight per cent of respondents claimed that Israel was waging "a war of extermination" against the Palestinians.

Polenz, whose town of Munster is twinned with Rishon Lezion, has watched these developments with growing unease. Until quite recently, he said, Israel elicited "great sympathy" among the majority of Germans. They admired the kibbutzim and respected Israel's "military efficiency."

But after the collapse of the Oslo peace process and the outbreak of the current Palestinian uprising, Israel's image declined drastically. "Many [Germans] feel we should be neutral, if not supporting the suffering Palestinians," he said. "And Sharon is not very popular."

Polenz believes that television images of heavily armed Israeli soldiers firing at stone-throwing Palestinian youths have have the effect of demonizing Israel. "For many Germans, this is their picture of the [Arab-Israeli] conflict. And Palestinian suicide attacks are often interpreted as a sign of hopelessness and despair."

In addition, Israel's image was battered by the widespread perception that the 2003 war in Iraq, which was hugely unpopular in Germany, was largely initiated by the United States on behalf of Israel. And now, some Germans have adopted the view that the plague of international terrorism is rooted in the simmering Arab-Israeli conflict, Polenz noted.

Cognizant of Sharon's opposition to the Oslo process, his advocacy of settlements beyond the Green Line and his role in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, many Germans doubt whether he genuinely supports a two-state solution. They also think he is "playing for time," Polenz said. By contrast, Germans admired one of Sharon's predecessors, Yitzhak Rabin, after whom a street in Berlin is named.

In Polenz's judgment, anti-Semitism plays only a minor role in determining the opinions of Germans critical of Israel.

His gloomy analysis notwithstanding, Polenz is fairly hopeful about the future. In a reference to Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat's death, his replacement by Mahmoud Abbas and Israel's anticipated pullout from Gaza, he said, "I'm optimistic we can overcome the turbulence. We have a chance for a fresh start."

Mor, upset by the "twisted" and "unbalanced" coverage of Israel in the German media, asserted that Germans should show "more sympathy and understanding for our situation." Yet he seems confident that Israel's historic relationship with Germany will deepen and endure in the years ahead.

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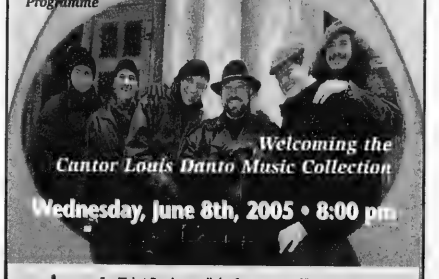

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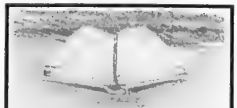
Jewish Life

What's in a name?

By RABBI LEIGH LERNER

Bamidbar names our ancestors by tribe and clan, names such as Dan and Asher, Elishama and Ammihud.

Generally, the names in Bamidbar have an actual meaning. In those days, a name conveyed a spiritual reality or hope about a child, or a cultural value that the parent desired would cling to that child. For example, in Elishama, meaning "my God heard," we can detect the hearts of parents who prayed and waited a long time to have a child.



Rabbinic Reflections

The ancient custom of giving a name that represents a hope or value, or that makes a statement, may well be worth pursuing now. Perhaps it's just a coincidence, but I find that women who bear the name "Grace" often bespeak that trait in their behaviour. "Chana" is the Hebrew word for "grace." I wonder whether my own Hebrew name, Levi, led me toward the rabbinate, since Levites formed the first ancient priesthood of Israel, then became helpers to one of the tribe's own ancestral houses (Aaron).

Choosing names that convey a Jewish value or hope and applying those names quite consciously to our children is a way to break out of the habit of only adopting names that are popular and help us to fit in, but at the same time obliterate our uniqueness as a religious people.

In Bamidbar, a typical Israelite could fathom the meaning of the names. The same is not as true about the monikers in our society. Not every Devon is a poet, nor every Desdemona a misery, nor every Jason a healer or hero. We really don't think about the meaning of the names we give. Jews look mainly for a mellifluous sound on the lips and whether a name might not reflect in its sounds a relative whom we'd like to memorialize or honour. Ashkenazim memorialize the dead. Sephardim honour the living.

At a brit habat or a brit milah, I ask parents to explain how they derived the names of their newborn and to describe some of the best qualities of the person after whom the child is named. Often, tears flow, as a loved one is remembered for their unflinching sacrifice or Shabbat presence. Then I add some traditional comments. If a child is named Yonah, a word about the prophet Jonah is in order. Equipped with extra knowledge about the name they've chosen and the family feelings that go with it, we hope the parents will enter their child-rearing years subconsciously more aware of particular Jewish ethical emphases that they should underscore in rearing their child.

Often, when people are asked for their Jewish name, they give a Yiddish one. Yiddish is a Jewish language, but names in Yiddish are often no more Hebrew than names in English. For example, Hirsh or Herschel is Yiddish, and it means deer. But the Hebrew name is Tzvi. Feigie is Feigel, a bird, like the German *vogel*, but the Hebrew name is Tzipora. Hebrew is a living language with millions of speakers, and in honour of Israel's vital part in our lives, and in memory of the 400 years in which our ancestors in Egyptian bondage never changed their names, we should all become conscious of our Hebrew names, not simply our Yiddish ones.

When reading Bamidbar, take time to reflect on your own Jewish name. What does it mean? If you don't know, it's worth finding out. After whom are you named, and what did that individual contribute to your family's welfare and to your own life? How can you extend that individual's gifts of heart and mind into the future?

There is yet time to honour the names we bear by living in ways that express the best of their legacy to us. How proud their original bearers would be if they knew that we were doing so, and how happy would that make our parents, who gave us these names for precisely this reason.

Rabbi Lerner is spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.

The value of an interdisciplinary approach

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

In an oddly profound way, schools can often be judged by the attitude of both students and administration toward subjects that are viewed as "secondary" in terms of classroom time and, in a different sense, school values.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

For example, how seriously are Jewish studies taken in schools where the essential ethos is success in the secular world, with the eventual destination of university viewed, often by the parent body, as the keys to the golden kingdom of material and social accomplishment? Conversely, what kind of respect is garnered for general studies in other kinds of Jewish schools, where students have been told from a young age that the primary and perhaps exclusive goal is the study of Torah, with all other disciplines or modes of information perceived as at best a pragmatic if unavoidable evil, and at worst as a domain that is corrupt or gentile?

As rigidly archetypal as these depictions may seem, such attitudes are widespread, and ironically, they mirror one another in terms of a fundamental failure to understand the Torah goal of integrating all of God's creation. With some notable exceptions, the educational message in many institutions, communicated both overtly and subtly, is that students must divide the world into discrete and non-related parts, thus missing a tremendous opportunity to guide the child toward synthesizing the multiple facets of his or her experience.

On a curricular level, what this attests to is the need for greater connections to be drawn between Jewish and general studies in all of our schools – or, in other words, to adopt a philosophy of interdisciplinary studies. By this I mean the process of showing students the various important links and complements between different subjects in their program, as opposed to presenting a dichotomized picture of learning. Presently, they can study Tanach, for instance, and absorb a certain account of Creation, and at the same time receive a totally different view of the topic in science class. Or, they may have a discussion about the Holocaust in Jewish history class without a structured link to the literature of the Shoah in their English program.

This is a mistake of the first order. The goal of interdisciplinary study is not to somehow "correct" the account given in a particular course. Rather, it is to offer an insight into the affinity between religion and science, art and theology, literature and history. Our aim should be to present a sophisticated and compelling view of what is "out there," and to inaugurate students into the age-old "conversation" between different but wonderful parts of reality.

Beyond the intellectual gains, there are also moral issues at stake. Frequently, the behaviour exhibited by students to teachers of undervalued disciplines is unconscionable and displays a defamation of heaven of the very first order. In badly run schools, administrators only pay lip service to the value of these subjects and hence tacitly encourage this kind of boorishness.

If nothing else, the need for administrations to foster a new attitude in these matters would be an opportunity to correct an indefensible wrong and reclaim the right to talk about Jewish ethical pre-eminence.

Jewish Life

Two new books

Books
Bernard Baskin

Operation Solomon: The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews **by Stephen Spector, Oxford University Press.**

Never Let Me Go **by Kazuo Ishiguro, Random House.**

It happened toward the end of May 1991: the majestic, massive and swift Israeli airlift of 14,310 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in less than a day and a half. Those rescued called themselves the Beta Israel, the "House of Israel." They believed that the Holy Land was the birthplace of their ancestors and were sure that the time of their redemption had come after a sojourn in Ethiopia that spanned millennia.

In the packed jumbo jet that brought the bewildered and expectant Ethiopians to Israel were more than 1,000 passengers – a record number in the history of civil aviation.

How most of these black Jews made their way from their homeland in the Gondar Highlands to the dangers and uncertainty of Addis Ababa is a story of courage and determination. Stephen Spector, the author of *Operation Solomon: The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews,* writes: "To walk over 400 miles from the Jews' villages in the north down through the mountains and on to the capital was extremely difficult, even for the healthiest people. Yet many of the Beta Israel had done it, often arriving sick and malnourished."

Spector attributes much of this wholesale migration to Susan Pollack, an outspoken and determined American activist who was unremitting in her efforts on behalf of the Ethiopians. It was she, writes the author, who more than any other person created the crisis in Addis Ababa that necessitated Operation Solomon.

The entire operation was complicated and always in danger of failure. Rebel forces who opposed the oppressive Mengistu regime had encircled the capital city and an assault was imminent. Moreover, there was the vexatious problem of who was to receive the $35 million that Israel had offered to guarantee the rescue operation.

Much of this thrilling and complex story has been told before, but never so meticulously researched and vividly presented.

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro is entirely different from the author's much-praised earlier books in setting, plot and feeling. The time is in the 1990s and the novel begins by introducing the reader to Hailsham, an elite, rural, English boarding school, far removed from the influence and concerns of the big city.

Its young students are well looked after in a sunlit atmosphere, are encouraged to engage in sports and are instructed in art and literature. They are likeable and innocent.

But there is something missing. There are no parents or relatives and no information is conveyed to the youthful residents about the outside world. There are fleeting but ominous references to their future as "carers" and "donors" at medical recovery centres.

As the suspenseful story slowly unfolds, it becomes clear that the students are a group of human clones, trapped in a society devoid of conscience.

The novel's narrator is 31-year-old Kathy H., a Hailsham alumna, who, as an adult, looks back on her 11-year experience as a "carer" and her involved friendship with Ruth and Tommy in a shifting love triangle.

Ishiguro is a superb literary craftsman, but the pace in *Never Let Me Go* is slow and eventually tedious. The thoughts and actions of the three main characters grow wearisome. The idea of a totalitarian state engaged in producing clone victims who donate organs is frightening. But the author provides almost no information on the pernicious procedure or anything about the political, social or religious nature of such a society.

Ishiguro, who is born in Nagasaki and raised in England from the age of six, commands our attention. But this subdued dystopic tale of science outpacing ethics fails to make either its subject or its characters believable.

Shavuot and the Top Ten

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It is the original Top Ten list.

On Monday, June 13, the *Aseret Hadibrot*, the Ten Commandments will be read from the Torah to mark the first day of Shavuot. According to Virtual Jerusalem, "When the Ten Commandments were given at Mount Sinai, the course of human history was changed forever. No document has influenced the course of civilization like the Bible, and it can be argued that of all the contents the Bible, these 10 laws have been the single most influential section." **[http://tinyurl.com/atgc5]**

You can read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1 or if you prefer, you can have them sung to you at ORT's wonderful website Navigating the Bible. **[http://tinyurl.com/b2pek]**

In the Torah, the commandments aren't actually numbered. According to Yitzchak Etshalom, that has been a source of controversy in Judaism. "Where does number 1 end, where does number 2 end, etc. ?" he asks. Rabbi Etshalom presents three different numbering schemes as well as an explanation of what significance these commandments play within Judaism. **[http://tinyurl.com/ajjbd]**

Robin Treistman has written a thought-provoking essay in which she says the commandments are actually statements or categories "into which each of the 613 Torah commandments falls. Name any commandment and I'll bet we can figure out where it belongs: holidays, which sanctify time like Shabbat, belong in the fourth commandment about observing Shabbat. Dealing honestly in business falls under not bearing false testimony." **[www.wzo.org.il/encountr/tencom.htm]**

Rabbi Anchelle Perl is happy to burst another misconception. Thanks to countless paintings and the unforgettable image of Charlton Heston atop Mount Sinai, we are all familiar with the Ten Commandments etched on those two tablets, square on the bottom, round on the top. Not quite, says Rabbi Perl. He quotes the Talmud to argue that the tablets were actually square on top. He says Judaism has a responsibility to depict accurately one of its most important symbols. **[www.rabbiperl.com/holidays.htm]**

One popular Shavuot tradition is to stay up and learn throughout the first night of the holiday in anticipation of the giving of the Torah, which is commemorated in the morning. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has created a detailed booklet for that evening titled *"Aseret Hadibrot: Illuminating the Ten Commandments."* Topics include a discussion about how Jewish law develops and a look at why there are two different sets of "*trope*" (cantillation) for the commandments. **[http://urj.org/Documents/index.cfm?id=1074]**

There are a few Ten Commandments sites focused on kids. The Jewish Theological Seminary site has a large poster celebrating the giving of the Torah that kids can print out and colour. **[http://tinyurl.com/96pam]** The TorahTots site has a comprehensive look at the preparation the Israelites went through in order receive the Torah, in addition to an explanation of the Ten Commandments geared toward kids **[www.torahtots.com/parsha/shmos/yitro2.htm]**.

The Ten Commandments have not only become central to Judaism; they've woven themselves into our popular culture. Many sites even have lists of lists of "new" commandments. I leave you with a sampling, some sensible, some sublime and some ridiculous:

Ten Commandments of lobbying: "Take your friends where you find them. Today's opponent may be tomorrow's ally." **[www.mokids.org/commandments.htm]**

• Breastfeeding: "You shall not wean your children for the sake of convenience." **[www.alternamoms.com/nursing.html]**

• Tractor safety: "Never start a tractor inside a closed shed or garage." **[www.kubota.com/f/safety/ten.cfm]**

• Square dancing: "Thou shalt take care that the words of thy mouth are not scented with garlic or beer." **[http://tinyurl.com/9s9wq]**

• Sane living: "Strike a balance between work and play... Nobody ever said on their death bed, 'I wish I had spent more time in the office.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/9oz2j]**

Have a very happy holiday.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Models strut their stuff for cancer research

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

As red and yellow search lights illuminated the stage, models and dancers walked on their hands, flipped, kicked and spun to the high-energy beats.

This was no run-of-the-mill fashion show. Impacts and Icons, Toronto's first fundraising fashion show for the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), the largest source of private funding for cancer research in Israel, blew the audience away.

The show, created, produced and performed entirely by volunteers aged 16 to 26 began with models striking a pose to Madonna's *Vogue*.

Those who expected to see stick-thin girls tediously saunter down a runway wearing little more than vacant expressions may have been disappointed.

This event – produced by Jamiee Diamond, Jen Weisz and Janna Zittrer who choreographed, modelled and danced, and Josh Naygeboren, who put together the video montages of musical icons like Beastie Boys and Usher – successfully strayed from the traditional fashion show formula.

Joy Wagner, ICRF executive director, was thrilled with the success of the show and said it was all thanks to the determination of every volunteer.

"They really had a vision for everything from the choreography to ways of raising money. They brought the concept to us."

The audience was treated to dance-in-your-seat music and skillfully choreographed moves while the models showed off their threads provided by trendy Toronto boutiques such as Over the Rainbow, Bella, Preloved and Sense of Independence.

Natasha Stern shakes her groove thing at the ICRF fashion show. **[Benji Feldman photo]**

The models and dancers enlivened the show with their unabashed attitudes, unafraid to imitate Beyonce's trademark booty shake.

The highlight of the night was the special performance by Nu Limit Entertainment, a group of some of Toronto's most talented dancers who recently won first place in a competition held by York University.

But before the show came to a close, ICRF co-president Sharon London Liss addressed the gathering with words of encouragement for all the volunteers as well as those who donated money to further cancer research.

She said that while great strides have been made in finding a cure, the ICRF will not rest until they will be able to cure all types of a terminal disease that does not discriminate.

"Cancer plays no favourites. It affects mothers, fathers and best friends. Eighty per cent of cancers are curable, but that means that 20 per cent of cancers are not."

But she added, that with the help of the donations, Israeli scientists Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover were able to discover a process that lets cells destroy unwanted proteins, which led to a new type of cancer treatment and resulted in Israel's first Nobel science prize last year.

London Liss hopes that more scientific breakthroughs will lead to a cure "so that one day our children will be able to say, 'What was cancer?'"

Amy Zak, who modelled and helped co-ordinate the show, felt good about being a part of something that is for a good cause.

"My friend Janna, who is one of the four producers, told me about it and I became interested. I wanted to do it because of the cause and I also thought it would be fun," Zak said.

She said while being a part of this event gave her an opportunity to meet new people who shared her interest in raising money for cancer research, the cause also struck a more personal chord.

"I know someone close to me who is a cancer survivor."

Zak is already looking forward to participating in the next fashion show.

"Since the show was such a huge hit, there will probably be one next year."

Wagner agreed that because the first show was such a success, it is poised to become an annual event.

"I can't imagine that it wouldn't be," she said. "This is the most powerful way to engage the future leaders of the Jewish community."

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Four Seasons founder offers Sharp words of advice

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

If there is a single event that demonstrates the level of dedication Four Season's staff provide to customers, it's their heroism during last year's tsunami disaster, says Isadore Sharp, founder, chairman and CEO of the legendary hotel and resort chain.

"Three hundred people risked their lives to save other people," Sharp said of employees at the Four Seasons resort in the Maldives, which was ravaged by the destructive waves.

"Not one person was hurt, because of the actions of these people."

Sharp, 73, shared stories from his personal and professional life, including the secrets of his success, at a May 19 Jewish National Fund (JNF) event held at the Four Seasons in Toronto.

The "Invitation to Mingle" fundraiser, presented by the JNF's New Leadership Division, brought about 300 people to the famed hotel.

Sharp, the keynote speaker, recalled that as a youngster, classmates pegged him as one of the least likely to succeed.

"My life revolved around sports and having fun," said Sharp, an Officer of the Order of Canada.

"Partying became my priority."

Nevertheless, he said, those early years were pivotal in preparing him for the business world.

"In sports… you learn the importance of a positive attitude, of how to deal with winning and losing."

Another key factor in his success has been his wife of almost 50 years, Rosalie, whom he extolled for her unwavering support, even when she doubted the practicality of some of his business ideas.

"In 1960, I took Rosalie to the site [of the first hotel]," Sharp said, noting the tract of land in downtown Toronto was somewhat derelict at the time.

"I was explaining to Rosalie about the hotel and resort… and she just smiled and said that was great."

At the time, Rosalie thought the idea would be a total flop, but she recognized her husband's passion and supported him nonetheless.

Sharp parlayed his youthful exuberance into hard work on construction sites, and today, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts boasts some 65 hotels in more than 30 countries.

Sharp said the chain specializes in operating medium-sized facilities whose luxury is based not on architecture, but service quality.

"Today, our most valuable asset is our people," Sharp said. "Our exceptional customer service is based on the culture of the company."

The event also featured a short film about the JNF's ongoing projects, including a focus on developing the Negev desert, a land mass that occupies nearly two-thirds of Israel, yet is home to less than 10 per cent of its population.

"The greening of the Negev is a great cause," said Mark Lieberman, a member of the JNF New Leadership Committee.

"It's amazing what [JNF] is doing and I wanted to be a part of improving the land of Israel."

She'arim celebrates 25th anniversary

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

In the past 25 years, She'arim Hebrew Day School has grown from four students to 97.

Apparently the only day school of its kind in North America and possibly the world, She'arim serves students with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The school's graduates generally go on to mainstream high schools. Among its alumni are doctors, engineers and lawyers.

On June 7, the school – which was founded by rabbis Joseph Kelman and Yitzchak Witty along with the late Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg – will honour Neil Nisker, outgoing chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, at its 25th anniversary celebration. The dinner, an annual event, will be held at Beth Tzedec Congregation. John Tory, leader of the Conservative party of Ontario, will be the keynote speaker.

Half the funds raised will be donated to an endowment fund for She'arim at the Jewish Foundation. The other 50 per cent, as in past years, will be put toward school operating costs.

Not even half of the school's $1.7 million budget for next year is covered by tuition, which runs $16,250 annually, noted Faigie Davids, She'arim's executive director. The majority of students do not pay the full fee, she added.

On a typical morning last week at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre – the school's home since it moved from Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue four years ago – most students were sitting at desks in their small classes (there is a maximum of nine students per class). In one room students were making challah covers, in another a group of boys lay stomach-down on the floor completing Hebrew word search puzzles for Lag B'Omer. In other rooms, the school choir was practising, a teacher was conducting a lively discussion, a boy did a brief bar mitzvah run-through, and in a few classes students were completing specially designed written exercises aimed at teaching skills that are transferable to other learning situations.

The approach, based on the work of Israeli educator Dr. Reuven Feuerstein, is geared to improving the children's thinking processes and problem-solving abilities. Students learn to break down the information they are given into more manageable components, explained Kathy Manoim, the school's principal.

Children can enter the school at any point from Grade 1 to 7, and in recent years more students have tended to stay until graduation, she said. "They feel this is their school."

Manoim, a social worker who also has a master's degree in education, said that in addition to meeting students' academic needs, the school focuses on building organizational, social and cognitive skills, as well as self-esteem, which may be necessary after their experiences at previous schools that didn't meet their needs.

In addition to educators, She'arim's staff includes an occupational therapist, a music therapist, a speech and language pathologist, a social worker and a child and youth worker.

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Greater Toronto Area

Experts optimistic about future of Mideast

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Four distinguished experts in politics and journalism agree that there is reason to be optimistic about the future of the Middle East, even while frightening events claw back at the steps that have been made on the road to democracy.

Stewart Bell, senior reporter for the *National Post* who has travelled to and written about the Middle East, said last week at a town hall meeting titled "Democracy and the Middle East" that there are stirrings of democracy in parts of the Middle East.

But he also acknowledged that the region as a whole is plagued by economic and social instability, internal violence and despotic rulers who will hamper the push for change.

"Fostering democracy in the Middle East may be as difficult as reviving a dying dog, but what kind of people would we be if we didn't try?" asked Bell, who was the keynote speaker at the forum.

He noted that there has been a movement in the area towards some democratic reforms such as the recent push for women's voting rights in Kuwait.

One factor in these reforms could be that immigrants to western countries see how democracy works elsewhere, and are pushing for similar changes in their native lands. Or, Bell suggested, movement towards democracy could mean that U.S. President George W. Bush's doctrine is working by promoting nascent democratic movements.

After former Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri was assassinated, exiled leaders returned to Lebanon, and the country is preparing for an election later this month. Egypt has also introduced an amendment that will call for competition on election ballots, and King Abdullah of Jordan has replaced his security chief in an attempt to depoliticize the state's police force, said Bell.

On the other hand, he said, Jordanian men are moving through the porous border with Iraq to join the insurgency. Hamas, which is participating in Palestinian elections, is a leading proponent of suicide bombings. Syria has been under military rule for more than 30 years, and its current president won the recent election with 97 per cent of the vote. "When someone gets that much of the vote, it's pretty sure the vote is rigged," quipped Bell.

Israel, he pointed out, is the only country in the Middle East that can be called democratic. But it is Iraq, he said, that will likely be the testing ground for whether Bush's plan to democratize the Middle East will work.

Bell's optimism was echoed by panel member Mark Anshan, a Toronto lawyer and former Canadian diplomat to the United Nations. "I'm somewhat optimistic," he said. "Change is occurring, especially in Iraq, because external forces are creating the opportunity to change."

Yet panel members Salim Mansur, a political science professor at the University of Western Ontario who specializes in the Middle East, and Rev. Majed El-Shafie drew attention to the problems currently facing the region, including state-sanctioned violence and a faulty education system.

"I am personally very optimistic about where the world is headed, but not with the problems in the shorter sense," said Mansur, who cautioned against being overly optimistic.

Rev. El-Shafie suggested that the root of the problem is Islam itself. The way to combat it, he said, is education. "We need to educate the new generation from elementary school until they reach college to respect their own religion and other people's religions," he stressed. Rev. El-Shafie was born a Muslim in Egypt but converted to Christianity. He was imprisoned in Egypt because of his religion, and later escaped to Israel, where he was imprisoned again then released.

The town hall meeting was sponsored by the Media Action Group and moderated by *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wente.

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Dr. Ruth to be honoured

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Ruth Westheimer, the world-renowned sex therapist, writer and educator better known as Dr. Ruth, promises that after she arrives to accept an honour by the Association for the Soldiers of Israel (ASI) on behalf of the Canadian Zionist Cultural Association (CZCA), Toronto will not be the same.

"I can't tell you why, but be prepared to do some homework," she said with a giggle, in a telephone interview from her home in New York.

She added that she has a warm place in her heart for Canada because her son and his Canadian-born wife live in Ottawa and teach at Ottawa University and Carleton University respectively, and two of her four grandchildren live there.

Westheimer, almost 77, who has been included on *People* magazine's most intriguing people of the century list and who still teaches at Yale and Princeton universities, is being honoured at the ASI's annual gala dinner dance, held on erev Yom Yerushalayim, June 5 at Le Parc.

The ASI is the only non-profit organization in Canada that funds programs to ease the burdens faced by soldiers on active duty, by providing such services as mobile club and fitness rooms, synagogues, Internet rooms and care packages for wounded soldiers.

Continued on page 18

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THERE'S A NEW TORAH IN TOWN: From left, Barry Barnes, Rabbi Martin Berman and Wayne Caplan dance the horra outside Shaar Shalom Synagogue last week. The Synagogue celebrated the arrival of a new Torah, held by Caplan. [Benji Feldman photo]

Dr. Ruth to be honoured

Continued from page 16

CThe CZCA is a registered charity that supports Israeli youth upon completion of their service through scholarships and economic relief, and also provides summer camps for widows and orphans of fallen soldiers and respite centres for bereaved parents and siblings.

Westheimer, the only member of her family to survive the Holocaust, was sent at age 10 from her German home to a Swiss orphanage. Dedicated to building a Jewish homeland, she went to Israel and joined the Haganah, and at age 20 she was seriously injured while on duty as a sniper. "Because I was in Israel at the creation of the state, it is my honour to help out the organization in any way I can.

"Israeli soldiers are Zionists who are committed, determined, courageous and enthusiastic. It is important to get people together to [help them out].

"There is no question that [my experiences] remain with me. I still go to Israel every year, and it is only by chance that I live in the United States. If they hadn't 'forced' me to become Dr. Ruth, I might still be living in Israel," she said, laughing.

Being Jewish has made it easier for her to carry on her career as Dr. Ruth, she says.

"For Jews, sex is never a sin; it is an obligation. A husband has to promise his wife food, shelter and sexual gratification. There are many rules and regulations in Judaism, but there is no celibacy. There is no virtue in being celibate."

Turning 77 the day before the June 5 dinner, Westheimer says she has not yet learned what the word retirement means.

"I still go downhill skiing, but I'm much more careful than I used to be."

Among her weekly rituals, she gets a two-hour massage "in complete silence, and I walk and walk and walk. I'm actually walking now as we speak."

She's not a big eater, she says, and although "I could lose a bit off my stomach, I'm not going to worry about it. I just cannot diet.

"I've learned that at this age I have to do what is good for me. I sleep eight hours every night, and I make sure no journalist ever calls me before 9 a.m.

"I'm also fortunate that I have the best grandchildren in the world. My daughter lives close by with her two children, and the other two grandchildren are an hour away by plane."

For information on the dinner, call 416-783-3053 or e-mail asicanada@bellnet.ca

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Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Congratulations on your graduation, Brandy. Love from Mom, Dad, Jodie, Poppy, Maureen and Kieran.

MAMIE & ARTHUR WINSTON

Mazel Tov on your 50th wedding anniversary.

Simply, this happy marriage is because of love & caring you share with each other, your family & your friends. We love you so much. Happy Anniversary From your loving children

Happy 25th anniversary Carole & Doug. Love from Jodie, Brandy, Dad, Maureen, and grandson Kieran.

Harvey & Judi Nightingale, Michael & Randi Lazarus announce the engagement of Steven & Lesley. Grandparents, Lilly Garden, Sonia Nightingale, and Hank & Muriel Kalmus.

Best wishes to David Vigon for a happy and healthy 90th birthday and many many more. Love your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends.

Happy 80th birthday Max Sitzer. With love from your family and friends.

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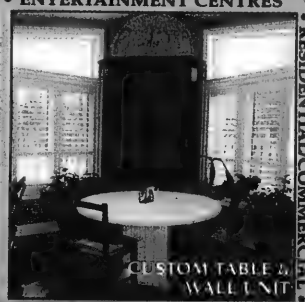

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, June 6, is the deadline for the June 16 issue and Wednesday, June 8, is the deadline for June 23. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 2

ZIONISM: THE FUTURE

Beth David Synagogue concludes the series "Zionism: Past, Present and Future" with a lecture by **Prof. Gil Troy**, of McGill University, on "Zionism: The Future." 7:30 p.m. 416-633-5500.

POLISH-JEWISH LECTURE

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada presents **Prof. Kalman Weiser**, of York University, speaking on "Fear of Polish: Yiddishism, Folkism and the Holocaust," at the the 10th annual Louis Lenkinski Memorial Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. 20 Covington Ave.

Sunday, June 5

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women's garage sale featuring new and used items takes place 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

BIZARRE BAZAAR

Find great bargains among the household items, flowers, jewelry, books, clothing, toys and bric-a-brac at Ve'ahavta's Bizarre Bazaar at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Funds raised will support Ve'ahavta's homeless programs in Israel and Toronto.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Gerald Ziedenberg discusses "The Vanishing Diaspora" at Beth Habonim's breakfast club, 5 Glen Park. 10 a.m. $6.

HEALING SERVICE

Rabbi Ed Elkin and **Judy Shier Weisberg** lead a healing service at the National Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., 3-4 p.m., for the Toronto Jewish Healing Project. Free. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

FOLK CHOIR CONCERT

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the Nazi death camps in its 79th annual spring concert at the Leah Posluns Theatre. **Alexander Veprinsky** conducts, with **Lina Zemelman** on piano, and the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra. 7 p.m. Tickets available from Jewish bookstores or by calling 416-593-0750. $22, $18 seniors and students, children under 12 free. For information, visit www.winchevsky centre.org or e-mail tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca.

SHUL OPEN HOUSE

The Beth Radom Congregation's annual open house takes place 3-6 p.m. at 18 Reiner Rd. This is an opportunity to meet **Rabbi Steven Schonblum**, staff and lay leadership. 416-636-3451.

VALUES & SOCIAL ACTION

Join Congregation Darchei Noam for "Jewish Values and Social Action: Perspectives and Initiatives," and participate in a discussion exploring the many ways of putting the Jewish ethic of social action into effective practice. 15 Hove St. 7-9 p.m. 416-638-4783 or ww.darcheinoam.on.ca

Monday June 6

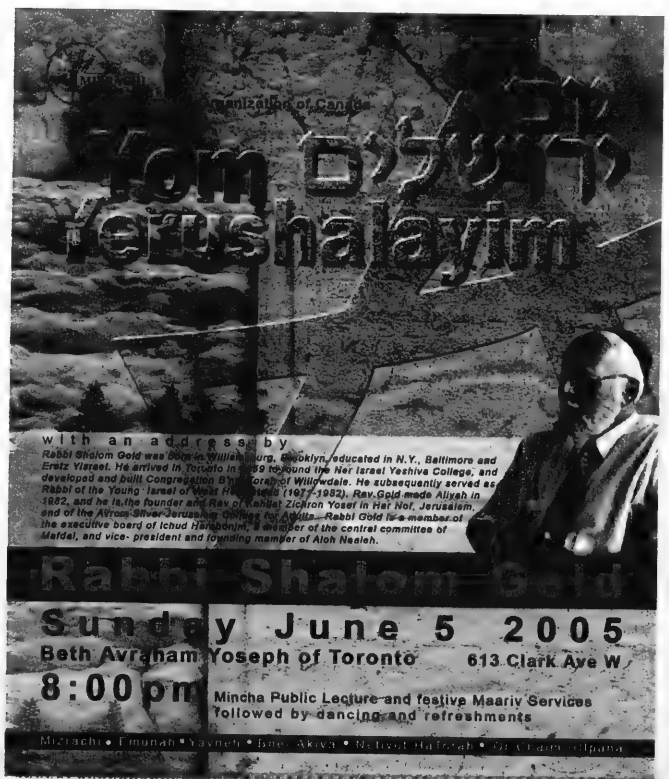
NESHAMA CARLEBACH

The Toronto Heschel School presents **Neshama Carlebach** in concert as part of its 7th annual gala evening. The event also features comedian **Adam Growe** as master of ceremony. For tickets, call 416-635-1875, ext. 230, or e-mail gala@torontoheschel.org.

MATTI CASPI CONCERT

Na'amat Canada and Habonim Dror present **Matti Caspi** in concert at Holy Blossom Temple. 7:30 p.m. $40. 416-635-5425 or e-mail naamat@bellnet.ca.

Continued on page 21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The Annual Meeting will be immediately followed by the Baycrest BOARDwalk
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By-law No. 3 of the Medical Staff By-laws will be presented for the approval of the members of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Baycrest Hospital and The Jewish Home for the Aged.

By-law No. 3 modifies the method of determining a quorum at meetings of the Medical Staff Association.

* Including the Jewish Home for the Aged, Baycrest Hospital, The Baycrest Day Care Centre and Ridgecrest Senior Residential Services Corporation

RSVP
416.785.2500 ext 6218

Annual General Meeting

What's New

Continued from page 20

BIALIK BOOK CLUB

Prof. Elaine Newton reviews *Deafening* by **Frances Itani** for the Bialik Book Club. 8 p.m. at Bialik Hebrew Day School. $20.

Tuesday June 7

HOPE AND COPING

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project presents "Hope and Coping: Professsional and Personal Perspectives on Adaptions to Illness." with **Dr. Molyn Leczc**, of Mount Sinai Hospital, and **Heather Broll**, breast cancer survivor, at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 10 a.m. 416-944-3359.

LUNCH AND LEARN

The documentary *Image Before My Eyes*, a film about Polish Jewry with footage from Poland 1919-1939, is followed by comments from **Gerald Ziedenberg**, at the Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Lunch 12:15 p.m., film 1-3 p.m. $8. To reserve, call 416-221-3433, ext 0.

ISRAELI MARKETPLACE

Beth Emeth Synagogue is hosting an Israeli marketplace 4:30- 8:30 p.m. Food, music, raffles and vendors selling Israeli products. Proceeds go to Israeli victims of terror. 416-633-3838.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

The Variety Players perform *That's Entertainment* at Beth David Sisterhood's Golden Jubilee program, followed by a dessert reception. 7:30 p.m. Non-members $5. 416-633-5500.

CANTORIAL CONCERT

Yaakov Motzen, Yitzchak Meir Helfgot, Shlomom Simcha Sufrin and **Jakie Young** perform at the Shaarei Shomayim Cantorial Concert. 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 416-789-1728.

KOLEL WOMEN'S MISSION

Join **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** for an information night on Kolel's January 24-February 1 women's mission to Israel. 7:30 p.m. 416-485-7007, ext. 231.

ON BEING A JEWISH POW

Aish HaTorah presents "Surviving Captivity as an Israeli and a Jew," with former POW **Yoav Ben-David**. The evening includes a screening of Ben-David's documentary film *Erim Ba'Laila*. 8 p.m. at BAYT. $10 in advance, $18 at the door. Call 905-764-1818 or visit www.aishtorot no.com.

Wednesday, June 8

STROH FETED

Temple Har Zion holds a gala farewell dinner for **Rabbi Michael Stroh**, with guest speaker **Rabbi David Ellenson**, president of Hebrew Union College. Cocktails 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. $150. 905-889-2252.

BETH EMETH CONCERT

Join Beth Emeth Synagogue for its Jubilee Concert featuring the Sons of Sepharad, **Rex Benincasa, Aaron Bensoussan, Gerard Edery, Emmanuel Mann, George Mgrdichian** and **Alberto Mizrahi**. For tickets, call 416-633-3838.

Other news

SHABBAT LUNCH & STUDY

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein is the guest speaker at Beth Emeth Sisterhood's Shabbat and luncheon, June 11. At lunch, Goldstein speaks on the topic "Can We Protect Our Children From Their Fate?" Purchase tickets by Thursday, June 9. 416-633-3838.

HONEST REPORTING

This workshop will teach you how to read between the lines of your local newspaper, write effective letters and take action to promote fair and accurate media coverage of Israel in Canada. Free. Wednesday, June 15, 8:15 p.m. at Chabad Flamingo, 8001 Bathurst St. For information, contact 416-915-9157, www.HonestReporting.ca or mike@honestreporting.ca.

BEIT HALOCHEM CONCERT

Support Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada, and enjoy a concert of Israeli, Jewish and international music, Thursday, June 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. $50, $120 and $250. For tickets call 905-695-0611 or 1-800-355-1648.

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Jewish Children's Theatre will hold auditions on June 15, 16, 22 and 23 for its fall 2005 production of the Holocaust play, *The Book of Ruth* by **Deborah Lynn Frockt**. Cast includes children and adults. Backstage volunteers also welcome. For more information or to book an audition, e-mail ecsoban@hotmail.com or call **Gloria**, 905-764-5565, during the day or **Esther**, 416-781-8031, evenings till 9 p.m. No Friday night or Saturday calls.

CALLING ALL BOOMERS

The Baycrest Heritage Museum, with guest designer **Ian Leventhal**, is looking for your memorabilia, including photos and objects related to your brit, bar/bat mitzvah, Jewish education, camps, weddings and travel, for an exhibit titled "Get Back: The Boomer Experience, Growing Up Jewish in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s" opening in September. If you have items to lend, call **Pat Dickinson**, museum co-ordinator, at 416-785-2500, ext. 2802.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

SHAW FESTIVAL TRIP

Join Beth Emeth Chai Shalom for a trip to Shaw Festival Theatre at Niagara on-the-Lake to see *Gypsy*, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m. performance. $75 includes transportation. To reserve, call **Tema Wasserman** at 905-770-0355.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell The Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation that provides ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs. Tuesday, June 7, 9:30- 11:30 a.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Adolescents and Divorce: A workshop for parents who are going through a separation or divorce. The focus is on understanding your adolescent during this transitional time. Wednesday, June 15, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Grandparents Are Forever: A workshop for grandparents with divorced children. Topics include grieving the loss of your child's marriage, remaining neutral during conflicts, and maintaining a climate of love and security for your grandchildren. Wednesday, June 15, 7-9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

High-Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies and techniques to deal with a high-conflict situation and help to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. This workshop requires active participation and is not for individuals in an abusive situation. Thursday, June 16, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Children with Challenging Behaviour: A five-session group for parents who have children who frequently demonstrate behaviours such as temper tantrums, aggression, talking back and not following rules, as well as who have trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays, beginning July 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call ext. 246.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, June 5; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 8, 29. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

The Association of Jewish Seniors "To Your Good Health" Tuesday, June 21, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Earl Bale Community Centre. Keynote speaker **Tim Hurson**, entertainment **Marie GoGo**. Lunch served. Members free, guests $3. Reserve by June 19. Call **Debbie** at 416-635-2860.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Out-Of-Towners Coffee Club, meet new people every Thursday at 2 p.m. For info, call ext. 105.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m June 6, Yom Yerushalayim party, closed June 14 for Shavuot.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Jerusalem's Magic," an exhibition dedicated to the celebration of Jerusalem Day, includes the works of Jerusalem artist **Peter Gur**. June 3-14 in the Loggia, Koffler Centre of the Arts. Opening and reception Sunday, June 5, 2-4 p.m. For information, call ext. 296.

JIAS RECEIVES AWARDS: At the recent conference of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies (AJFCA) in Baltimore, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada received a KOVOD award for excellence in producing electronic newsletters and Mila Voihanski, JIAS Canada's executive director, was recognized with a distinguished service award. From left are Ted Marcus, chair of the AJFCA board; Voihanski; Leslie Wilder, president JIAS Canada; and Bert Goldberg, CEO/president AJFCA.

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Kirsh, Bessie	May 11/05	8 Covington Rd.
Wigoda, Morris	May 11/05	15 Dellbank Rd.
Wine, Jack Michael	May 11/05	131 Torresdale Ave
Back, Bella	May 12/05	Private
Erdos, Marta	May 13/05	Private
Wasserman, James Isaac	May 12/05	561 Armstrong Dr.
Ross, Shirley	May 13/05	1101 Steeles Ave. W.
Rabinovich, David	May 13/05	384 Mount Pleasant Rd
Moss, Rosalie Gilda	May 15/05	9281 County Rd.
Bialo, Rabbi Levi	May 16/05	7805 Bayview Ave
Letichevsky, Boris	May 15/05	3560 Bathurst St.
Berg, Rina (Rena)	May 16/05	6200 Bathurst St.
Shauriki,(Shoriki), Moshe	May 16/05	1085 Steeles Ave.W
Parmid, Evgenia	May 16/05	3 Goldfinch Crt.
Lazar, Fanny	May 17/05	Private
Rubens, Melvin John	May 16/05	Private
Field, Rose Norma	May 17/05	99 Whitley Ave.
Gross, Godfrey(Larry)	May 17/05	775 Lawrence Ave.W
Morel, Sara	May 19/05	40 Glen Park Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jerry Title	May 15/05	29 Gypsy Roseway
Mitchell Dalkin	May 15/05	2 Covington Road
Lottie Magder	May 16/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Selma Eisen	May 16/05	3900 Yonge Street
Lloyd Title	May 17/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Myra Molly Zimmerman	May 18/05	205 Cummer Avenue
Gerry Ruby	May 18/05	78 Clarendon Avenue
Bella Sklarz	May 17/05	607 St. Germain Avenue
Molly Chester	May 19/05	170 Red Maple Road
Martha McKeown	May 19/05	500 Soudan Ave.
Esther Goldstein	May 20/05	55 Ameer Ave.
Devorah Goodman	May 20/05	46 Hampton Ave.
Judith Kagan	May 21/05	7440 Bathurst
Pearl Sheffy Gefen	May 21/05	111 Davisville Ave.
Doris Winer	May 21/05	2 Neptune Dr.
Bertha Ross	May 21/05	11 Regatta Cres.
Shelly Farberman	May 23/05	57 Overbrook Place
Paul Kollek	May 24/05	4 Shai Agnon Street

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY MELNIK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 12th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Zaglembier Section (New Section)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK KLEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOEL MACHTINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section 4
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MENDEL SCHWARTZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Husiatyner Klaus Beth Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ABRAM ERNST ז"ל
Loving husband, father, grandfather & uncle
will take place
Sunday, June 5th at 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Wiezbnieker Society, Section 38
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MENDEL ALTER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 12th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin Street, 3 km north of Major Mackenzie
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of
MORRIS WARNICK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 2:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JUDITH (JUDY) ELAINE TEPERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 1:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Adath Israel "M" Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOSEPH SINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 5th, 11:45 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Apter Section
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
TILLIE (LEIZER) PEARL ז"ל
Loving mother, grandmother & great-grandmother
will take place
Sunday, June 5th at 11:00 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
(Royal York Rd. between Eglinton & Dundas)
Lagover Section
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Philosophical shift led woman to rabbinical school

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Tamar Elad-Appelbaum believes she is part of a trend. The product of a modern Orthodox family in Jerusalem, she is now in her final year of rabbinical school at Machon Schechter, the Masorti (Conservative) movement's Jerusalem seminary.

In an interview last week at Beth Tzedec Congregation where she will complete a two-week rabbinical student fellowship on June 6, Elad-Appelbaum began to list the other female rabbinical students she knows who grew up modern Orthodox in Israel, giving five examples in quick succession.

"You see, it's a pattern," she said, a smile animating her face despite her jet lag after arriving that morning from Israel with her husband and their six-month-old daughter.

A religious feminist from the time she was a young teenager, Elad-Appelbaum, now 30, said her parents, David and Dina Elad, who taught as shlichim in Montreal in the early 1980s, supported her in her desire to study traditionally male subjects like Talmud.

In the IDF, where she served for three years as a tour guide, she encountered people from other types of Jewish backgrounds for the first time. Growing up in what she described as a vibrant, intellectually stimulating modern Orthodox world, she had never felt the need to venture beyond it.

"Suddenly I met people I never had a chance to know. I saw their love for Israel, and their different perspective."

Following the army, she spent a year at a women's yeshiva, then entered Bar-Ilan University to study law, but switched after a year to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she spent three years studying philosophy, modern history and Israeli literature.

As a student, she worked for the Jewish Agency and was sent to Australia, where she attended egalitarian services at a Reform temple for the first time with her host family. "It seemed so bizarre, but so logical at the same time. I came back to Israel with lots of things to think about."

It never occurred to her to study for the rabbinate until after her sister became engaged to the son of a Conservative rabbi. Rabbi David Golinkin, president of the Schechter Institute, heard Elad-Appelbaum give a dvar Torah at one of the celebratory events and asked why she wasn't studying to be a rabbi.

"It was so strange to me," she said. "I had never met a woman rabbi."

Recently married herself, she had already begun to undergo a shift in religious perspective. She and her husband, whose background is also modern Orthodox, joined a Masorti synagogue in Jerusalem.

Tamar Elad-Appelbaum

She found that the mechitzah, the traditional barrier between men and women in an Orthodox synagogue, began to seem less "religious" than it had. Instead, she found meaning in the idea of sitting with one's family to pray.

She read Conservative writings, and began to realize that her ideology was now Conservative. "I had to make a total shift. It was difficult because I was giving up my religious world but also my social world."

But even some of her male, modern Orthodox, friends and colleagues at the Jewish Agency, wondered aloud why they could study to become rabbis and she couldn't, she said. Having studied text together informally, they realized that, intellectually, they were on a par. "I lived in a community that was in favour of studying, but when it came to being a rabbi, that's where the glass ceiling hit."

For Elad-Appelbaum, becoming Masorti meant she "could live a more profound religious life."

Ironically, her taking on the commitment of putting on a tallit and praying every morning – as traditional men do – was seen as "secular" by some people in the modern Orthodox community.

She believes, however, that the Masorti movement has a role to play as a bridge between secular and religious Israelis.

During her stint at Beth Tzedec, Elad-Appelbaum said she planned to spend much of her time teaching, but also learning.

After her ordination, she will become rabbi of Magen Avraham, a 30-year-old Masorti congregation in Omer, near Be'er Sheva. She believes she will be the only Masorti woman rabbi in a pulpit in Israel, although there have been a couple of others in the past.

"I want to learn everything I can. I came with a big notebook, and I want to write down every idea, and see if afterward I can use it in Omer."

Obituary

Entrepreneur died awaiting liver transplant

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Time has run out for Sheldon Farberman.

The 45-year-old entrepreneur died last week at Sunnybrook and Women's College Hospital of cirrhosis of the liver. He never got the liver transplant he had been desperately waiting for.

Since his diagnosis two years ago, he had battled jaundice, pain, weakness, the loss of his voice and night vision, and numerous hospitalizations. He had also been unable to work.

Earlier this month, his friends and family held a fundraiser to benefit him and, especially, his two children.

He was able to go to the event and give a short but moving speech, said his brother Shane.

Family members said they were stunned that with barely three hours between the funeral being organized and the service, the chapel was standing room only. Sheldon's brother Michael praised him as "a good son, a good brother – he was just a normal, everyday, good person, with a big heart."

Michael Farberman reiterated his brother's plea – which was the subject of two articles in *The CJN* – for everyone to sign their organ donor card.

Farberman is survived by his wife, Chrysta, children Noah and Juliet, parents Shirley and Dave, and brothers Allan, Michael, Leslie and Shane, as well as a large extended family.

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his children, grandchildren, siblings and entire family.
May his memory serve as an enduring source of blessing in our midst.

May his entire family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Richard M. Joel, President, YU
Dr. Norman Lamm, Chancellor, YU
Robert Eli Rubinstein, National President CFYU
Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President, YU
Stuart Razin, National Director, CFYU

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An Ostrovtzer centre planned for Israel

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Ostrovtze, (proper name Ostrowiece), was a small town in Poland, in the district of Kielce. The Jewish community was, generally speaking, a poor one, but it boasted a learned and pious chassidic rebbe, Grand Rabbi Meir Yechiel Halstuk, and a well-respected yeshiva.

In 1939, the town had about 8,000 Jews. By the end of the war, there was no Jewish community in Ostrovtze.

That's not to say that there are no Ostrovtzers. Toronto once had an Ostrovtzer shul, on Cecil Street in the Kensington Market area, and now has a large and active society, which recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. There are also active organizations in New York and Detroit.

Now, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Halstuk, the great-great-nephew of the grand rabbi, is trying to re-establish the glory that was the Ostrovtzer world – in Israel.

First, Rabbi Halstuk established a kolel in Beitar, a city where he also is spiritual leader of a shul, Kehilat Hechal Pinchas. Besides the usual kolel curriculum, which includes advanced studies leading to rabbinic and Jewish law ordination, there is a special department that aims to publish the writings of the Ostrovtzer rebbe. Some have already been published.

Rabbi Halstuk has greater plans. He has been granted land for a major Ostrovtzer centre in two places, Beitar and Jerusalem. While he has no illusions that he will be able to build in both places, he has plans drawn up for the shuls that will also serve as community centres and educational facilities. All his endeavours are under the umbrella of Mosdos Ostrowce, the Ostrovtzer Institutions.

The Jerusalem site is next to the Dan Hotel, near the Old City. It was given to Mosdos Ostrowce by the municipality after a lengthy court battle with a Reform organization, which also wished to build a religious centre there.

A donor from Toronto has already offered to pay part of the costs of the Jerusalem facility.

Rabbi Halstuk, who visited Toronto recently, is more than happy to tell the story of Rabbi Meir Yechiel Halstuk. A very pious man, he had visions of the coming Holocaust. To try to avert what he called the black clouds, he fasted for 40 years, only eating a daily bowl of rice and milk that his shammas brought him in the middle of the night.

Perhaps more to the point, he also encouraged his followers to leave Poland.

One of the more popular stories about Rabbi Halstuk is about a dinner he was at, where many noted rabbis, from long and distinguished rabbinic families, were also present.

Each rabbi stood up and gave a dvar Torah from the teachings of a well-known ancestor. When it was his turn, Rabbi Halstuk simply said, "My father was a baker. He taught me that fresh bread is better than stale." The rebbe died in 1929. His son and successor, Rabbi Yechezkiel Halstuk, together with his five children, were murdered by the Nazis.

For more information, contact Rabbi Halstuk at 972-25725877 or e-mail him at tzrur@Barak-online.net.

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הפְּרָדָה

ההפרדה הפכה למילה המרכזית בחוויה הישראלית השנה. רוב מוחלט של ישראלים מצדדים ביציאה מרצועת עזה, שבה נהרגו במהלך שלושים ושמונה השנים האחרונות מאות רבות של ישראלים. לא אחת נהרגו שם חיילי מילואים ששמרו על יישובים זעירים. מנגד עומדת הטרגדיה של אנשים שחייבים להתנתק בניגוד לרצונם. זה יהיה מבחן חשוב לחוסנה של הדמוקרטיה הישראלית נגד הימין הקיצוני. בעוד ש נערי הגבעות הדומיהם ינסו לעשות מקסימום בלאגן, אין לאיש ספק שהשב"כ יכול לטפל בעניין ללא בעייה. השאלה היא האם יש רצון פוליטי לאפשר לשב"כ לעשות את כל מה שנכון לעשות כדי להגן על דמוקרטיה בנקודת שבירה. אבל שישאר בינינו.

מוזות תעשה לך

ישראלי מסוג הנוכחי ריש בנה לעצמו טירה מנקרת עינים כפי שישראלים מתעשרים יודעים לעשות. ביום חנוכת הבית, שאליו הזמין את כל אלה שרצה להתיצא להם את העיניים, הוא נוכח לחרדתו ששכח לקבוע מזוזות בדלתות. הזמין האיש את הבנאי האיטלקי שבנה את ביתו בצורה כל כך מושלמת ואמר לו: "טוני, אם תצליח לשים אותן בלי לפגוע בצבע-אוסיף לך אלף דולאר". כשחזר האיש לפנות ערב לביתו הוא שמח לראות את המזוזות קבועות, מבלי שניזוק הצבע. לאחר ששילם ביד נדיבה לטוני, וממש לפני שטוני יצא מן הבית, נזכר לפתע הבנאי האיטלקי:

"אָת, ואת תעדות האחריות שהיו בתוכו שָׂמְתָּ במגרה הימנית במטבח".....

A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR KOLEL

The Board of Directors of Kolel is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Lisa Colt to the position of Executive Director. Lisa, who has been with Kolel as Programme Director since October 2003, will oversee all of Kolel's day-to-day operations, governance, and development, and will provide leadership for the institution.

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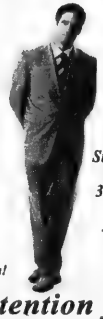

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Coast to Coast

Is Syria still pulling Lebanon's strings?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Some journalists continue to report that Syria's departure from Lebanon has fulfilled the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1559. But it's important to ask whether Syria's control of Israel's northern neighbour has indeed ended.

The pictures broadcast in late April of the last of approximately 14,000 Syrian soldiers leaving Lebanon seemed to show that Syria's occupation was over. Yet 1559 also demands the removal of Syria's intelligence forces and agents.

Reporting from Damascus, ("Syria puts happy face on humiliating retreat," April 27) the *Globe and Mail*'s Paul Koring wrote that, "It remains unclear whether the pullout [under pressure from the United States, France and parts of the Arab world] signals a real end to Syrian interference in Lebanese domestic affairs or just a pause while Damascus seeks lower-profile means of influence." Koring did not explain what a "real end" to Syria's presence would entail.

The question all along has been whether Syria's intelligence apparatus, which in actuality controlled Lebanon – the soldiers being just the occupation's visible presence – has actually been dismantled. How can this be verified?

Longtime observer Robin Wright, now with the *Washington Post*, wrote that "Syria's intelligence network has been its chief means of influencing Lebanese political and economic life for almost three decades. About 5,000 Syrian intelligence operatives were deployed in Lebanon."

Twenty to 30 per cent of Syria's economy depended on Lebanon's more prosperous economic base. About one million Syrians worked in Lebanon. It's difficult to understand how Syria could suddenly give up this advantage and survive without a devastating impact. It will be interesting to see whether journalists investigate this economic aspect of the issue.

Wright quoted an unidentified senior U.S. State Department official: "In the many years the Syrians have been there, they've inserted themselves pretty deeply in Lebanon, including intermarriage. They've abandoned their headquarters, but they're still integrated in Lebanese society in a way that can be difficult to detect. There are reports that some Syrian intelligence units have relocated within Beirut, and have even moved to Palestinian refugee camps."

A UN "verification" team was sent to Lebanon in early May to determine whether Syria's intelligence network was still operating. On May 23, BBC News covered the release of the team's report. The UN group concluded that since all previously known sites formerly used by Syrian military intelligence were abandoned, "no Syrian military personnel remain in Lebanon in known locations or in military uniform."

However, the UN team added that it has been "unable to conclude with certainty that all the intelligence apparatus has been withdrawn, [since] intelligence activities are by nature often clandestine."

Will the media persist in exploring Syria's more subtle control of Lebanon, such as its economic leverage and its influence with pro-Syrian elements within the population? Foremost among these is Hezbollah, which dominates the Shiites, who constitute about 40 per cent of Lebanon's population.

Further underscoring Syria's influence, on May 24, Associated Press reported from Beirut that pro-Syrian Lebanese President Emile Lahoud "vowed" to recover the "disputed" border area known as Shebaa Farms ("Har Dov" to Israel). The area is certified by the UN as part of the Golan Heights that formerly belonged to Syria, and cannot in any way be considered Lebanese territory.

* * *

Paul Koring also reported that Syria complains of a "double standard." It argues that it has complied with UN Resolution 1559, while Israel remains in control of "Arab lands" in defiance of the UN.

Koring himself wrote that "UN resolutions dated to the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars [242/338] call for Israel to withdraw from territory it captured." What Koring failed to mention, however, is that while 1559 in effect calls for Syria's unconditional departure from Lebanon, Resolutions 242/338 condition any Israeli withdrawal from territory captured in the 1967 war upon peace and security guarantees from its Arab neighbours.

Israel has been complying in its 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, which saw it return the Sinai Peninsula. It has also adhered to its 1994 peace deal with Jordan. And it has made efforts, through territorial compromise in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to achieve peace with the Palestinians during the years of the Oslo process from 1993 to 2000. In short, there is no double standard.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

'Boycott went to the heart of academic freedom'

Continued from page 1

McGill is committed to academic freedom and against barring academic exchanges, he added.

James Barber, dean of the U of T's faculty of social work, said the boycott of Haifa University went "to the heart of academic freedom." At the same time, "some non-Jews in the faculty were concerned by a rise of anti-Semitism in the world, and Canada was not being spared from that.

"This motion allows us to respond to the boycott in a way that is both principled and concrete, one that sets a positive example for our students," Barber said. "It is consistent with the many other anti-oppressive initiatives of the faculty and it offers opportunities for academic enrichment for both students and faculty."

Ernie Lightman, a professor of social work and one of the faculty members who spearheaded the motion at the U of T, said support for the linkage with Haifa U was extensive in the 25-person faculty. Only one member opposed it while two others abstained in a vote taken last week.

Lightman said some of the concrete results of the linkage might include: an exchange program in which students of each school would be given credit for practica (working in the field) at the other school; shared research; an exchange of professors lecturing abroad; and, contingent on funding, joint conferences.

Lightman said discussion about the AUT boycott gave Jewish professors the opportunity to address troubling manifestations of anti-Semitism in their own school. He said he was taken aback earlier this year when a female student in one of his classes made a stereotyped remark about "the Jews..."

"The comment was completely inappropriate and out of line," Lightman said.

While the comment shook him, it was not the first time such a remark was raised in social work classes. A couple of years ago, Jewish faculty members shared stories of similar incidents.

Their concerns over anti-Semitism were given new urgency this year by a series of news reports in various spheres: anti-Semitic threats online by students at a Toronto private boys school; reports of anti-Semitic vandalism; the torching of a Montreal Jewish school; and anti-Semitic statements by aboriginal leaders.

In addition, Lightman said, Jewish faculty members were told by two or three Jewish students that "they felt silenced in the classroom when talking about their personal, Jewish experiences. They felt the atmosphere in class was such that they didn't feel free to raise these issues."

Given that context, several Jewish academics recently met to discuss a response, Lightman said.

"We see the boycott itself as an anti-Semitic act, because the people in England singled out Israel and weren't troubled by other countries," he said. "Singling out Israel could only be interpreted as an anti-Semitic act. There is no other interpretation."

The group drew up a background paper suggesting a linkage with Haifa University's social work faculty. With a former student teaching at the Israeli institution, it was relatively easy to forge links there, while Bar-Ilan has not yet responded to a letter suggesting mutual ties, Lightman said.

Come the fall semester, "it will be very interesting to see what [students'] reaction will be. A number subscribe to the mindless anti-Israel rhetoric that we associate with the left," he said. "A lot is based on ignorance and in some cases it's based on prejudice."

In Britain, meanwhile, the AUT said in rescinding its boycott that it would now base its policy on "providing practical solidarity to Palestinian and Israeli trade unionists and academics," according to *CJN* news services.

"It is now time to build bridges between those with opposing views here in the UK and to commit to supporting trade unionists in Israel and Palestine working for peace," said the union's general secretary, Sally Hunt.

After the vote to rescind, some union members were set to continue the boycott on their own, said Steven Rose, a delegate from the Open University who spoke in favor of the boycott at the council meeting.

"The genie is out of the bottle and cannot be put back again," he said.

As if to confirm his prediction, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education was reportedly set to raise the issue at its annual conference last weekend.

And in London, demonstrators at a pro-Palestinian rally demanded a national boycott of Israel. The rally, which drew lawmakers, trade unionists and Muslim leaders, saw legislator George Galloway, a critic of Israel, call for Israeli-made goods to be shunned and for reparations over the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which declared that Jews deserved a homeland in Palestine.

In the Middle East, meanwhile, Al-Quds University president Sari Nusseibeh and Menachem Magidor, president of Hebrew University, issued a joint declaration against the boycott.

"Our position is based upon the belief that it is through co-operation based on mutual respect, rather than boycotts or discrimination, that our common goals can be achieved. Our disaffection with, and condemnation of, acts of academic boycotts is predicated on the principles of academic freedom, human rights and equality between nations and among individuals," their declaration stated.

Afterwards, members of the Union of Palestinian University Professors and Employees called on the board of trustees of Al-Quds University to dismiss Nusseibeh.

Union chairman Muhammad Abu Zeid said the Palestinian union will call for a general strike in all Palestinian universities if Al-Quds University, which is located in east Jerusalem with colleges inside and around the city, does not dismiss Nusseibeh.

Earlier, 21 Nobel Prize winners, including Shimon Peres, Elie Wiesel and Israeli scientists Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover, published a letter calling on the AUT to rescind the boycott.

With reports from JTA and CJN news services.

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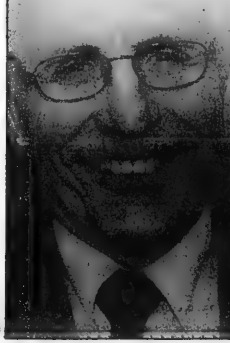


Invitations have been extended to a wide circle of colleagues, alumni and friends. If our list was incomplete, and you would like to receive an invitation, please advise your name, address, including postal code and telephone number **416-636-5984 ext. 504** or email: **june26@chat-edu.ca** We will be pleased to send you an invitation.

Guest Voice

Louis Lenkinski, 1921–1995

By FRANK BIALYSTOK

We are approaching the 10th yahrzeit of Louis Lenkinski. Louis was a giant in the Jewish community and in the trade union movement, and a leading advocate for human rights and social justice.

Louis was born in Lodz, Poland, to a working-class, Yiddishist family. In his youth, he was attracted to socialism and became a member of the Bund, which was dedicated to the creation of a classless society where Jews would be accepted as full and equal citizens of Poland. With the establishment of the Lodz ghetto in 1940, Louis became active in the underground as an organizer of the Bund, in opposition to the Judenrat, which collaborated with the Nazis in maintaining firm control in the ghetto.

With his family deported to the extermination camps, Louis managed to survive until the liquidation of the ghetto in 1944. He was deported to a work camp in Czestochowa, where he was liberated by the Soviet forces. He later met and married a fellow Lodzer, Helen Offman, in a German DP camp. In 1950, under the auspices of the Jewish Labour Committee, they came to Canada with their son Berek (Bob), and settled in Toronto, where their second son, Lionel, was born.

Louis became an upholsterer. He quickly became fluent in English, and active in the trade union movement. Having gained the respect of his fellow workers, Louis became affiliated with the Ontario Labour Congress, and eventually became executive assistant to Terry Meagher, the secretary of the OLC. He also became an organizer for the New Democratic Party and a mentor to a generation of its leaders.

In the 1970s, having been active in the Canadian Polish Congress, Louis became the representative of the Solidarity movement in Canada. His belief in building bridges between Poles and Jews of Polish origin in Canada led to the establishment of the Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada. In his last years, Louis became associate chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and active in Canadian Jewish Congress, where he rose to the position of chair of the community relations committee for CJC's Ontario region.

Louis' lifelong devotion to justice and human rights, from his youth in Lodz to his last days in Toronto, has been an inspiration to three generations. His tireless insistence on historical accuracy and his refusal to assign collective responsibility, blame and guilt for the heinous crimes of the Holocaust have challenged us to examine the roots and complexities of Polish-Jewish relations.

On the occasion of his 10th yahrzeit, there will be a tribute to Louis on June 2 at 7:30 P.M. at the Barbara Frum Library. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Kalman Weiser, Silber Chair of Holocaust and East European Jewish Studies at York University. His topic is "Fear of Polish: Folkism, Yiddishm, and the Holocaust." Admission is free and all are invited.

Frank Bialystok is a founder of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation and chair of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Million-dollar bequest largest ever to Birthright Israel

MONTREAL – A one million-dollar bequest from the estate of Montreal businessman Andre Aisenstadt enabled some 450 young Jewish adults from across Canada to participate in the current Birthright Israel trip.

The gift sponsored the chartered flight that left Canada May 29 and returns June 8.

This is the largest single gift by a Canadian to Birthright Israel, and the only one that paid for an entire planeload, said Sheila Kornhauser, communications manager for UIA Federations Canada.

Andre Aisenstadt, who died about two years ago, created a philanthropic foundation in his and his late wife Nussia's name about 25 years ago that has founded a variety of institutions in the Jewish and general communities, said Montreal lawyer Michael Vineberg, the foundation's president.

Notably, these include the Jewish General Hospital, which used its bequest to fund its annual Clinical Day, and the Universite de Montreal, which named a building and a mathematics prize in his honour.

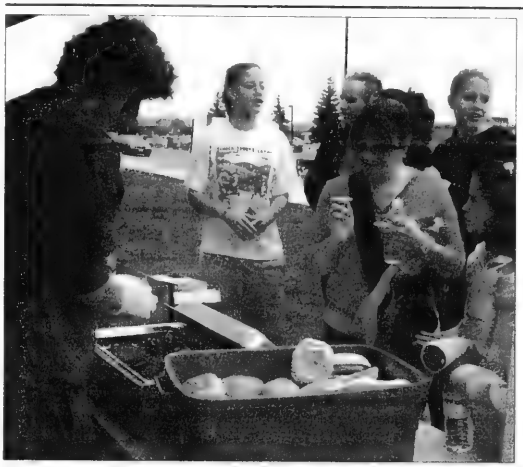
Aistenstadt trained in mathematics and science, and was proud of having studied under Albert Einstein in Europe.

However, after coming to Canada, he made his fortune mainly in real estate and the construction boom in the 1950s, Vineberg said.

The Aisenstadts had no children, but Aisenstadt liked children and was always interested in Israel, said Vineberg, who knew Aisenstadt since he was a boy, so he believes this bequest is in keeping with his wishes.

Nancy Rosenfeld, executive-director of the Stephen R. Bronfman Foundation and member of the Canada Israel Experience management committee, said, "This gift also allows us to significantly increase the number of Canadians travelling to Israel this summer. Usually we need to negotiate seats on regularly scheduled airlines and this limits our numbers."

Birthright Israel, which is a free 10-day trip to Israel for those aged 18-26, is funded through a three-way partnership of individual philanthropists, the State of Israel and communities worldwide. Birthright is one of many programs offered by CIE, a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to strengthen Jewish identity among Jewish youth through time spent in Israel.



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United Way

On Campus

Hillel Awards night

SONGS, SPEECHES AND PLAQUES: Hillel of Greater Toronto's annual awards night, held at York University last month, celebrates students' involvement in campus life. Top left, from left, Michael Ferman, Elad Shefer, Hagai Kuperman, and Rob Meth receive Hillel's Hadracha awards from Hillel's Stephanie Krasman. Bottom left, the Varsity Jews, an a capella choir based at the University of Toronto, open the program. Above, from left, Noah Zatzman, Romy Leifer, Elayna Fremes and presenter Amy Greenfeld are on stage for the Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Inc. award for special involvement in Jewish campus life. Below, from left, Hillel board president Agi Mandel and Hillel's executive director Zac Kaye and his family watch the ceremony. Kaye received a Founding Friend of the Campus award. [Benji Feldman photos]

Earl Bales

Park Area Stormwater Management Plan

The City of Toronto is preparing a stormwater management plan under an Environmental Assessment process to address stormwater pollution of the Don River in the area of Earl Bales Park, and erosion of ravines in the Park. Following earlier consultations with stakeholders and the public, the City of Toronto is recommending the construction of a large stormwater pond in the valley of Earl Bales Park, as well as some ravine restoration measures.

You're invited...

We would like to tell you more about our plans and hear what you think of them, so we are holding a public Open House, followed by a meeting with a presentation by our consultant. In addition, some of our project staff will be available to conduct an explanatory site walk prior to the meeting, if there is interest. You are invited to join us for any, or all, of these events.

Where: Earl Bales Community Centre, 4169 Bathurst St.

When: Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Site Walk: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Open House: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Public Meeting: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Presentation at 6:00 p.m.)

Note: The site walk will begin at the Community Centre and continue for up to two hours. If you plan to join us for this, please wear appropriate footgear and dress for the weather.

Need more information?

If you cannot attend, but want to be kept informed or offer comments, or if you have other questions about this project, you can contact: Liora Zion Burton, Metro Hall, 19th Floor, 55 John Street, Toronto, ON M5V 3C6, Tel: 416-392-3358, Fax: 416-392-2974, TTY: 416-397-0831, Email: **works_consultation@toronto.ca**

TORONTO **You can also check our website: www.toronto.ca/involved/projects.htm**

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Scientific project brings Israel and its foes together

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PETRA, Jordan — Here's some good news from the Middle East: Iran and Israel, bitter enemies, need no "Open Sesame" magic to co-operate on an advanced scientific project.

In Alaan, a town just north of Amman – and at a comfortable remove from the spotlight thrown by political conflicts – representatives of the two countries are involved in developing SESAME, an acronym for Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East.

It's a rare and possibly unique example of scientific cooperation between Israel, Iran and other countries with which Israel has no ties, such as Pakistan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Other members are Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority and Turkey. Libya is expected to join soon as an observer.

"The political importance of the project cannot be underestimated," Khaled Toukan, Jordan's minister of education and the project's acting director, said. "Scientists in the region work together in a spirit of cooperation for the sake of developing the Middle East."

SESAME, the Middle East's first major international research centre, is a synchrotron accelerator. It uses magnets to create a circular path for electrons travelling at nearly the speed of light, producing a beam of bright ultraviolet and X-ray light, about the diameter of a human hair, that is directed down beam lines to end stations.

"These beam lines are so much stronger than the known X-rays that they open up new options for scientific research," Moshe Deutsch, chair of Israel's national council for synchrotron radiation and one of two Israeli participants in SESAME, told JTA.

SESAME is expected to contribute to a wide range of scientific research, including structural molecular biology, molecular environmental science, X-ray imaging, archeological microanalysis, materials characterization and clinical medical applications.

Synchrotron radiation is widely used in materials science and biomedical applications, including lithography for computer chips, absorption and scattering measurements and high-pressure applications to create artificial diamonds.

An international synchrotron-light source in the Middle East was first proposed in 1997, when peace seemed to be on the way.

The model for SESAME was the CERN Laboratory, near Geneva. It was founded as a multinational consortium after World War II in an effort to bring former enemy countries in Europe closer, and now functions under the auspices of UNESCO.

"It succeeded beyond any expectation, and is now the world's leading high-energy physics laboratory," Deutsch said.

One Israeli newspaper recently came out with a headline that Israeli scientists were helping with Iran's and Egypt's nuclear programs.

"This is absolutely false," Deutsch said. "The synchrotron can have no military use."

But it can have immense political implications. All scientists – including the Iranians – were empowered by their governments; in fact, they are their governments' official representatives on the council, which meets in the region every few months. In other words, it's not merely an occasional collaboration between scientists, but rather official cooperation between the countries concerned, regardless of political animosities.

How is that possible?

"All participants deal only with common scientific ground and nothing else," Deutsch said.

Israel's other representative to the council, Eliezer Rabinovici of Hebrew University, is a theoretical physicist in a field that doesn't overlap with synchrotrons, so his own research won't derive any direct benefit from SESAME. Nevertheless, Rabinovici is an enthusiastic partner.

"I have been with SESAME because I believe we should contribute to our environment to advance peace and create a dialogue designed to break stereotypes," he said.

Rabinovici said that as a physicist he believed in the "parallel universe" theory, which posits a hypothetical universe that exists separately from our own.

"Meeting the other scientists was a way of satisfying curiosity about the 'parallel universe,'" he said. But, he noted, "we leave the political discussions for coffee breaks."

Why did Iran choose to participate in the project along with Israel?

"Iran used to be considered a villain in the world scientific community," Deutsch said. "For Iran, this is a way of getting out of isolation, but the scientific benefits of the project per se are a good enough reason."

Deutsch's comments were affirmed by his Iranian colleague, Reza Mansouri, vice-minister for research at Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.

Mansouri said "international and regional scientific collaboration is one of the recommendations of science policy in Iran. It is then too natural to collaborate in this project."

Asked if Iran's participation together with Israel had any political significance, Mansouri replied with a brief but decisive "no."

U.S. to indict two senior AIPAC officials on spy charges

By NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department is expected to file indictments against two former senior staffers at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) – Steve Rosen and Keith Weissman – and according to sources familiar with the affair, the charges will be subsumed under the Espionage Act.

A Virginia grand jury is examining evidence in the case, which involves the alleged receipt of classified defence information from Larry Franklin, a Pentagon official, and its transfer to the representative of a foreign country, Naor Gilon, of the Israeli embassy in Washington.

Sources involved in the case confirmed the Espionage Act is on the agenda. But there is also the possibility the Justice Department is raising the intention to use the law in order to reach a plea bargain deal on a lesser offence, albeit one that is still covered by U.S. anti-espionage legislation.

Presumably, if such an indictment is filed against two former top-level AIPAC staff members, Gilon's name will come up, even though he is not a suspect. Israeli officials say he was never questioned in the affair. Gilon heads the political department at the embassy.

The sources say the grand jury will submit indictments in the coming weeks against Rosen, the former head of foreign policy for the lobbying organization, and against Weissman, who was responsible for the Iranian brief at AIPAC. The grand jury is expected to hand down its indictment against Franklin this week. He is suspected of handing over the classified information. That indictment is expected to be similar to the criminal complaint already filed by the FBI.

The classified material is said to involve information about Iranian intentions to harm U.S. soldiers in Iraq, and it was supposedly given to the two former AIPAC staffers during lunch in Virginia on June 26, 2003.

But suspicions against Rosen and Weissman focus on a meeting a year later, on July 12, 2004. Franklin was cooperating by then with the FBI, which had threatened him with an indictment after tracking his earlier meetings with the AIPAC men, discovering the alleged handover of secret information. He agreed to take part in a sting operation in which he would give the two information and the investigators would then follow them.

Franklin called Weissman and asked for a meeting to discuss an important subject. At the meeting, in a mall near the Pentagon, Franklin allegedly told Weissman that Iranian agents were trying to capture Israeli civilians working in the Kurdish area in northern Iraq. Around the same time, there had been conflicting reports about an Israeli presence in Kurdish Iraq. Journalist Seymour Hersh of the *New Yorker* had written that Israelis were operating there, but Israel and the Americans denied it.

At the meeting, Franklin allegedly told Weissman the information was classified. This is significant in terms of the investigation, since it prevents the AIPAC men from claiming in their defence that they did not know they were dealing with state secrets.

Weissman left the meeting and went straight to Rosen's AIPAC office at Capitol Hill. He said it was a matter of life or death, and that Israeli lives were in immediate danger. The two are alleged to have made three phone calls: to an administration official, to Glenn Kessler of the *Washington Post*, and to Gilon, at the embassy. Rosen told Gilon about the information and the Israeli official promised he would look into it. All of those calls were wiretapped by the FBI and are part of the case against Rosen and Weissman.

Plato Cacheris, Franklin's lawyer, confirmed to the *New York Sun* last weekend that his client took part in the sting and said investigators appealed to Franklin's sense of patriotism to win him over.

The fact Rosen and Weissman, as U.S. citizens, are alleged to have given information to an official of a foreign power while knowing it was classified is incriminating under the 1917 Espionage Act, which defines the receipt of classified information for the purpose of helping any foreign entity as a crime.

The estimated 500 cases involving this crime over the last 90 years have always focused on the accused party initiating receipt of the information and on the damage done to the United States as a result. In this case, Franklin initiated the transfer of information, and there is no clear-cut evidence about damage to U.S. interests.

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An American present for Abbas

By RON KAMPEAS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Analysis

It was a classic case of "what one hand gives, the other takes away."

U.S. President George W. Bush's announcement last Thursday of $50 million (US) in funding for the Palestinian Authority reverses April's victory for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, when the pro-Israel lobby helped draft provisions in U.S. congressional appropriations that essentially blocked direct aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Bush's news conference with Abbas also included tough language toward Israel, including warnings about Israeli settlement building and the West Bank security barrier.

The handout to the Palestinian Authority – just days after the mere mention of "President Bush" generated automatic cheers at AIPAC's annual policy conference – defies bills from both houses of the U.S. Congress last month.

Those bills all but ordered Bush to funnel $200 million in Palestinian aid money through non-governmental organizations, to Israel, or even on a new tower for Hadassah Hospital – just about anywhere but the Palestinian Authority, which has been beset in the past by rampant corruption and ties to terrorism.

Bush's gesture to the Palestinians, his criticism of Israel and his announcement that he'll soon send U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to the region underscore his commitment to push for a Mideast breakthrough.

Appearing alongside a beaming Abbas, Bush drew a line between the $50 million and his hopes that Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer will propel the peace process forward – and grant Bush the foreign policy success he longs for in his second term.

"To help ensure that the Gaza disengagement is a success, the United States will provide to the Palestinian Authority $50 million to be used for new housing and infrastructure projects" in the Gaza Strip, Bush said. "These funds will be used to improve the quality of life of the Palestinians living in Gaza, where poverty and unemployment are very high."

The amount was a surprise. Administration officials had said until about 10 minutes before the news conference that it was not clear if Bush had settled on a sum.

AIPAC declined to comment on the announcement, but was likely to take some consolation in the fact that Bush didn't issue a blank cheque, and said the money would be spent on special projects subject to oversight by U.S. officials. An internal State Department document obtained by JTA suggested the money would go to water treatment plants, municipal services and new homes.

Dovish pro-Israel Jewish groups welcomed the move as a necessary boost for Abbas, a relative moderate they see as the last best chance for peace in the region.

"It's a good sign that the president is willing to work with Abbas and bring the parties together," said Seymour Reich, president of the Israel Policy Forum and one of over 60 Jewish leaders who met with Abbas before his audience with Bush.

Bush circumvented the restrictions on this year's cash by dipping into last year's allocations. Those funds also were subject to restrictions, but AIPAC's friends in Congress suggested they were willing to look the other way to give Abbas a boost.

Israel did not go unscathed in Bush's remarks.

"Israel must remove unauthorized outposts and stop settlement expansion," he said. "The barrier being erected by Israel as a part of its security effort must be a security, rather than political, barrier, and its route should take into account, consistent with security needs, its impact on Palestinians not engaged in terrorist activities."

The U.S.-Israel gap on settlement building was not new, but the warning on the barrier was Bush's first negative reference to it since last summer, when Israel's Supreme Court ordered parts of the fence re-routed to accommodate Palestinian needs.

Palestinian spokespeople have alleged in recent weeks that the new route is more intrusive than the last, even though it's closer to the pre-1967 boundary between Israel and the West Bank. Bush's dig suggests he is listening to such complaints.

Significantly, Bush also said he would send Rice to the region just before the pullout. That means the United States is increasing its stake in the peace process.

Success in the Middle East would touch on almost all of Bush's global strategies. Progress between Israel and the Palestinians would help bring Europe and Arab nations into Iraq, where the U.S.-led occupation remains under deadly fire. It could nudge Russia into joining efforts to isolate Iran, and it could also help convince Muslim nations in the Far East, including Malaysia and Indonesia, that Bush wants to counter China's increasing influence.

Bush repeated previous demands for Abbas to crack down on terrorism, but he commended him for taking steps toward ending violence.

"He's committed," Bush said. "That's what he said he is going to do, and he's now fulfilling it."

"Fulfilling it" goes further than Israeli officials, who say they believe Abbas is sincere but misguided when he says he can neutralize Hamas and other terrorist groups by co-opting them into the political process while leaving their military infrastructure intact.

The problem is the gap between Abbas' intentions and what's happening on the ground, an Israeli official, speaking anonymously, told JTA. "Hamas is building itself as an alternative authority. They're now involved in setting up a popular army, and time is running out on the ability to disarm Hamas."

The $50 million and the tough talk on settlements and the barrier fell short of the Palestinians' wish list. They wanted Bush to accelerate the process and urge Israel to allow the Palestinians to re-arm, and they wanted those commitments in a letter.

Still, the gestures might be enough for Abbas before Palestinian legislative elections, where he needs a boost against Hamas.

Palestinians said that they understood they had much to do.

"There were rockets fired; there were Tel Aviv suicide bombings at some point," PA Foreign Minister Nasser al-Kidwa said in a May 25 news conference. "There were other things as well. So we need to take our commitments as seriously as we take the necessity of the other side to implement theirs."

Abbas also understood that while Bush may have spoken bluntly, his words were directed at a good friend which is why Abbas reached out to Jewish leaders.

In a long and blunt, but friendly, exchange, Abbas said Israel was delaying co-ordination on the Gaza withdrawal. He also said he wants Israel to open back-channel talks on tough permanent-status issues, including Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees, so they don't stymie negotiators at a later date.

Israeli officials say Palestinians are mishandling the co-ordination, apparently because of internal disputes over who is in control. Palestinians cancelled two recent meetings at the last minute, one on water and the other on sewage. Back-channel talks, they suggest, are out of the question until the Palestinians get the details right.

PA leader preparing for war, researcher warns

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For Israeli researcher and journalist David Bedein, it's deja vu all over again.

Years ago, at the height of international enthusiasm over the Oslo peace process, the western media ignored then-Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's calls for jihad, his incendiary rhetoric and the denigrating treatment of Jews presented in Palestinian school text books.

Now, Bedein believes, it's happening again.

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, also known by his nom de guerre Abu Mazen, is hoodwinking the western press, Bedein said.

With his gentlemanly business suit, his soothing language and his electoral victory, he's able to hide the fact "he is preparing big time war," he added.

Bedein was in Washington recently, ahead of Abbas' visit, to present "open source information" about events in the Palestinian territories to the legislative assistants of several U.S. congressmen and senators, as well as to four congressmen. In addition, written material outlining his findings were presented to 27 congressional offices.

The material included opinion articles from PA-controlled media advocating violence against Israel; TV reports that praised as martyrs the Palestinians who bombed the Stage nightclub in Israel last February; cartoons in PA media depicting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon eating Palestinian children; and "the mantra of Israel and Zionism as the enemy."

Bedein, bureau chief of the Israel Resource News Agency (IRNA), said Abbas' Washington visit was to include a plea for funds for security, health and welfare, as well as $7 million (US) to help support Palestinian schools.

He said he was not particularly surprised to learn in Washington that the American aid agency that allocates the education funds, USAID, does not examine the curriculum being taught in the schools.

IRNA researchers, who study Palestinian media in the Arabic language, find that Palestinians make no attempt to hide what they're saying.

A recent radio broadcast that analyzed the efficacy of violence concluded that "'We killed 1,000 and got Gaza, so if we kill 5,000, we'll get al-Quds (Jerusalem),'" Bedein reported.

A sermon on PA television by Sheikh Ibrahim Muderis, which described Israel as "a cancer spreading through the body of the Islamic nation," was not unusual for Palestinian TV, Bedein stated.

Mahmoud Abbas recently reviewing Palestinian security forces in Gaza. [Isranet photo]

Speaking before Palestinian Authority Information Minister Nabil Shaath called for the suspension of Muderis, a PA-employed Muslim preacher, Bedein said other broadcasts have alleged that Israel murders Palestinian women by using radiation equipment at checkpoints.

The western media, as well as Jewish organizations, don't acknowledge what the Palestinians are saying to each other because "it doesn't fit the script."

The widely accepted script, he continued, "is that Abbas is leading the Palestinians towards peace."

The same mistaken belief was held throughout the 1990s, Bedein said "People didn't learn the mistakes of Arafat, and it's tragic."

"No one wants to upset the apple cart… It's the whole disease of political correctness that has conquered the media. It's beyond belief. It's the same media cover-up of Arafat's calls for war 10 years ago," he said.

Happy birthday Jordan

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom sent a letter last week to his Jordanian counterpart Farouk Kasrawi on the occasion of Jordan's 59th Independence Day. Shalom wrote that Jordan has a central role in strengthening moderates in the Mideast and that Israel ascribes strategic importance to its relations with Jordan and is determined to advance bilateral relations between the countries.

Lebanon vows to take land

Lebanon's president pledged to win a portion of the Golan Heights from Israel. Emile Lahoud said he is "determined to liberate the remaining occupied Shebaa Farms from Israeli occupation," Associated Press reported. Israel captured Shebaa Farms, a portion of the Golan Heights, from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War. After Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000, the United Nations said Lebanon's claim to Shebaa Farms was baseless. Lahoud said that "Lebanon would continue its legitimate struggle with Israel until a global, comprehensive and just peace is reached in the Middle East region."

Hezbollah to keep fighting

Hezbollah vowed never to disarm. "Any hand that reaches out to our weapons is an Israeli hand that will be cut off," Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese terrorist group, told a rally to mark the fifth anniversary of Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon. UN Security Council resolutions obligate Hezbollah to disarm, but the groups says it will continue fighting Israel. Nasrallah boasted Hezbollah has thousands of rockets trained on "northern occupied Palestine," meaning northern Israel.

Hamas to hold fire?

Hamas leaders said the group will maintain a "state of calm" in Gaza during Israel's withdrawal this summer. Hamas officials told the *Jerusalem Post* they were pleased by Israel's decision to leave, but that resistance efforts, which include suicide bombings, would continue in the West Bank after disengagement. Israeli officials said they were skeptical of Hamas' assertions, saying the group probably would not be able to resist the temptation of attacking departing Israelis.

Noted columnist dies

Newspaper columnist Carl Alpert died on May 12 at age 92. Alpert, who was born in Cambridge, Mass., moved to Israel with his wife, Nechama, in 1949 and began working in the new public relations and fundraising department at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. Alpert's column, which he started writing in 1937, was published over the years in close to 70 Jewish newspapers and magazines worldwide. He continued writing the column until this past March.

With files from JTA

Ron Arad is dead, former German mediator claims

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BERLIN — Hopes that Israeli Air Force navigator Ron Arad is still alive, almost 19 years after his disappearance in Lebanon, can be discounted, says the German intermediary who tried to free him from captivity.

"For me, Arad is dead," declared Bernd Schmidbauer, who played a key role in efforts to find and release him.

But he did not dismiss the possibility, remote as it may be, that Arad could still be alive. "It's possible."

In an interview in his office near the Brandenburg Gate, Schmidbauer, the former co-ordinator of Germany's Federal Intelligence Services, known as the BND, said he shuttled between Berlin, Beirut, Damascus, Tehran and Jerusalem in a concerted bid to learn of Arad's whereabouts.

And he almost succeeded. "We were very close to freeing Ron Arad," disclosed Schmidbauer, who co-ordinated the activities of the BND from 1991 to 1998 and who has been a member of parliament since 1983.

"For a long time, I thought he was alive," he added. "But at a certain point, I concluded this was not the case."

Arad was reportedly last seen alive in southern Lebanon on Oct. 6, 1986, after bailing out of an F-4 Phantom jet either shot down or incapacitated by engine troubles.

The plane, the first Israeli aircraft lost in Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasion, was on a bombing run of Hezbollah targets when it was hit or malfunctioned.

The pilot was rescued by an Israeli helicopter, but Arad fell into the hands of Hezbollah or Amal, the Lebanese militias that resisted Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

Arad, after his capture, was likely turned over to Iran's Revolutionary Guards in the Bekaa Valley.

He was then taken to Iran via Syria, German filmmaker Hubert Seipel claims in *An Eye for an Eye*, a 2004 documentary based on BND documents. There his trail faded.

Seipel believes the BND's attempt to locate Arad, dubbed Operation Orchid, was launched in 1994 and was one of Germany's longest and costliest foreign missions.

It meshed with Germany's other role – conducting prisoner exchanges with Hezbollah on Israel's behalf.

Schmidbauer, a tall, elegant man of 66 with a mane of silver hair who represents the conservative Christian Democratic Union in the Bundestag, said he spent about 100 hours in a three-year period in the mid-1990s on both missions. Among his interlocutors in Jerusalem were the Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and the director of the Mossad.

While Schmidbauer failed to free Arad, he presided over the biggest prisoner exchange between Israel and Hezbollah in many years.

Under an agreement carried out on July 22, 1996, Israel and its surrogate, the South Lebanon Army, returned 40 Arab captives and the corpses of more than 100 Arab fighters in exchange for the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon a decade earlier, Yosef Fink and Rachamim Alsheikh.

Schmidbauer, a former school headmaster from the city of Pforzheim, first got involved in Israel-Hezbollah exchanges in 1992.

Asked why Israel and Hezbollah chose Germany as an intermediary, he replied, "We had good contacts with both sides. They knew they could rely on us."

The mission was exceedingly difficult, Schmidbauer noted. "There was a lot of mistrust, which is understandable," he said in a reference to Israel's and Hezbollah's respective attitude to each other.

The Arad file, however, posed greater problems because the Israeli navigator was considered a prime catch, he suggested. As the first and only Israeli airman shot down in southern Lebanon in the post-1982 era, Arad was an extremely valuable commodity.

Hezbollah and Amal exploited his captivity to burnish their image, while Syria saw Arad as a useful intelligence source. Iran used him to goad and humiliate Israel.

Israel, which has offered a $10 million (US) reward for concrete information about Arad, has issued mixed signals regarding his fate.

Two years ago, the Winograd report concluded that Arad is alive. Last year, Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said, "Israel is closer than ever to the possibility of obtaining real information about the fate of Ron Arad."

But following the news that three bone fragments allegedly belonging to Arad did not in fact match his DNA, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon denied reports that Israel had received credible data about the navigator.

Nevertheless, a minister in Sharon's cabinet, Gideon Ezra, revealed that Germany, through the good offices of mediator Ernst Uhrlau, was still looking for Arad.

Last week, Israel announced that the search for Arad and four soldiers missing in Lebanon since 1982 and on the Golan Heights since 1997 – Yehuda Katz, Zvi Feldman, Zacharia Baumel and Guy Hever – continues undiminished.

But in the wake of that announcement, the former head of manpower in the Israel Defence Forces, Gen. Gil Regev, claimed that all four men, as well as Arad, are actually dead.

Schmidbauer said he came "very close" in 1996 to resolving the Arad case. For security reasons, he declined to be more specific.

Negotiations to free Arad could have started much earlier had Israel and Germany known exactly who held him, Schmidbauer observed.

Germany, which last negotiated an Israel-Hezbollah prisoner exchange in January 2004, is still involved in the Arad case, he said.

Schmidbauer, who met Rabin just prior to his assassination in November 1995, acknowledged that Germany and Israel maintain intensive intelligence ties in a variety of fields, including the battle against international terrorism.

Global co-operation is needed to combat the forces of Muslim radicalism, he said.

And only through dialogue and close monitoring, he argued, can the West deal effectively with Iran's quest to become a nuclear power.

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The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff of Canadian Friends of Givat Haviva in Toronto and Montreal and the Canadian Foundation for Pioneering Israel, wish to extend their deepest sympathies to **Nora Gold** and her entire family on the passing of her father,
The Honourable Alan B. Gold,
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May her family be spared any further sorrow.

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Why are dairy foods a tradition on Shavuot?

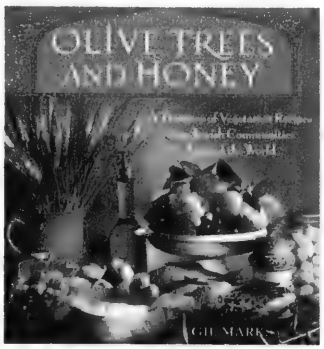
By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

Cookbook author Gil Marks

When we think of Shavuot, we think of cheese, but how did this tradition begin? I asked Gil Marks, whose fascinating new cookbook, *Olive Trees and Honey: A Treasury of Vegetarian Recipes from Jewish Communities Around the World* (Wiley Publishing), recently won the prestigious James Beard award for best vegetarian cookbook.

"The use of dairy to celebrate this holiday is not a biblical injunction, nor is it mentioned in the Talmud," Marks said. "Shavuot falls when the animals are beginning to be weaned away from the mother, so you have a surplus of milk and therefore cheese, yogurt and dairy products. Once you have a tradition, you will find biblical reasons for it. Even in pagan pre-Christian and post-Christian holidays you will find dairy products becoming traditional because they were so abundant at this time of year."

Marks is a rabbi and historian as well as a chef, and his new book offers 300 flavourful vegetarian recipes from Jewish communities around the globe – from Mediterranean *mezes* (appetizers) to savoury pastries to tantalizing pastas and stews – and chronicles the fascinating culinary history of such diverse communities as India, Alsace, Greece and Uzbekistan, offering menus and interesting commentaries about the Jewish holidays and deepening our understanding of their historical context.



We learn, for example, that herdsmen of almost 6,000 years ago stored milk in the waterproof stomachs of animals (the first "bottles"). These ancient people discovered that when the milk separated, it coagulated into curds – the first fresh cheese – which not only tasted good, but lasted longer than milk. (Blintzes would come much later!)

"Remember, for most of history people didn't drink milk straight," Marks explained, "because, until pasteurization, it was dangerous unless it came straight from the animal. So fermented forms like yogurt, cheese and butter, which have a longer shelf period, are what people ate. To the Greeks, for example, one of the signs of a barbarian was somebody who drank milk."

More importantly, Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. "No Jews existed before the giving of the Torah," Marks said. "Technically speaking, Israelites before then were not Jews. One of the new laws concerned keeping kosher, and since their utensils and any meat products they had produced before were no longer kosher, for the first Shavuot they had to eat dairy products.

"In addition, the tradition exists that while they were at Sinai receiving the Torah, when they came back to camp, their milk had curdled into cheese, so you have a variety of mystical and somewhat biblical reasons that developed for the association with dairy."

Take blintzes, for example. "When you put two cheese blintzes together on a plate," Marks observed, "it looks like the two tablets of the law. Somebody says, 'Hey, it's the Ten Commandments.' It's a beautiful way of taking the mundane and elevating it into something special."

The only food that is actually connected biblically to the holiday is leavened wheat bread, Marks noted. "There are only two times that leavened bread, leavening of any sort, is allowed in the Temple. One is for the Thanksgiving offering and the other is for Shavuot, when two special loaves of raised wheat bread are brought in and literally raised up. Shavuot marks the end of the barley harvest and beginning of the wheat harvest, so a lot of traditional foods evolved because of what was available. The holidays have both a historical and a nature angle."

Through the years, the tradition developed to decorate both the synagogue and the home with greenery and flowers for Shavuot, Marks said. "This is in recognition of both the harvest [and] the tradition that trees flourished on Mount Sinai. The Sephardim in particular developed the use of roses, nicknaming the holiday the Festival of Roses, so they use rosewater and rose petal preserves with meals."

The Book of Ruth is read in the synagogue at Shavuot, he said, because according to tradition, Ruth was the great-great-grandmother of King David, who was born on Shavuot. "So was I, by the way," Marks added, "which makes it one of my favourite holidays!"

Another reason for the emphasis on milk is its purity, and so white foods, such as rice and white corn, are eaten in some communities at this time. Romanians, for example, will prepare *mamaliga* – their beloved cornmeal mush – with white corn meal instead of the usual yellow on Shavuot.

"Milk suggests the purity of the people having received the Torah," said Marks. "Not just having received it, but having accepted it and having agreed to become a holy nation, and so the idea of white fits into the whole theme of the holiday."

MIDDLE EASTERN STUFFED ZUCCHINI IN YOGURT SAUCE

6 cousa squash or thick zucchini, each 5 to 6 inches long

Stuffing:
1 cup long-grain rice, soaked in cold water to cover for 1 hour, drained and rinsed
1 cup cooked chickpeas
¼ cup olive oil or butter, melted
1 onion, chopped (optional)
1 tbsp. pine nuts (optional)
½ tsp. dried mint, crushed, or ½ tsp. ground allspice and ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
about 1 tsp. table salt or 2 tsp. kosher salt
ground black pepper to taste

Yogurt sauce:
1 tbsp. cornstarch
¼ cup water
3 cups plain yogurt
1 tbsp. dried mint, crushed
about 1 tsp. salt or 2 tsp. kosher salt
¼ tsp. sugar
2 to 3 cloves garlic, mashed (optional)

Cut the stem off each squash. Using a melon baller or apple corer, scoop out the pulp from the stem end to form a hollow tube straight through, leaving the sides and bottom intact. Or slit the squash lengthwise without cutting all the way through and scoop out the pulp. Use the pulp in a separate dish or add it to soups or salads.

To make the stuffing: In a medium bowl, combine the rice, chickpeas, oil, onion, pine nuts, mint, salt and pepper. Fill the zucchini three-quarters full with the stuffing, leaving room for expansion. Arrange in a single layer in a large pot or roasting pan and sprinkle any excess filling on top. Add water to cover and place an ovenproof plate on top to weigh down the squash.

Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cover tightly with a lid or aluminum foil, reduce the heat to low and simmer on the stove top or bake in a preheated oven at 350 until the squash and rice are tender, about 45 minutes. Drain, returning the squash to the pan. Save the cooking liquid to add to a vegetable stock.

To make the sauce: In a medium saucepan, combine the cornstarch and water; stir to blend. Stir in the yogurt. Bring to a low boil, stirring constantly, over medium heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, stirring constantly but gently, for 2 minutes. Add the mint, salt, sugar and if using, garlic.

Pour the sauce over the zucchini. Simmer over low heat or bake at 350, uncovered, until heated through, about 10 minutes. Serve warm. Serves 6.

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KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

The Road from Moab

Adapted from Ruth Chapter 1

This story takes place in at the time of Saul, the first king of Israel, about 2,500 years ago. Israel was at war with the Philistines.

Three women walked down the dusty road. Behind them was the land of Moab. Ahead of them lay the land of Israel. The elder woman was named Naomi, which in Hebrew means "sweet," but she was considering changing her name to Marah, which means "bitter," because of all the terrible things that had happened to her.

Not so long ago, she had been a wealthy noblewoman, married to Elimelech, a distinguished man from the land of Judah. But famine struck the land, and her family had been inundated with requests for food and charity. She told her husband, "Why don't you give to them? We have enough to give away," but he decided that he'd had enough. He packed up his possessions and left Israel, along with Naomi and their two sons, Machlon and Kilyon.

He settled in the fields of Moab, waiting for the famine to end, so he could return to Israel. He never did. Elimelech died in Moab, leaving Naomi alone with her grown sons, Machlon and Kilyon. Getting over their grief, Machlon and Kilyon each married non-Jewish Moabite princesses, Ruth and Orpah. Then Machlon and Kilyon died, leaving Naomi alone. Completely alone. And now she was returning to Israel, the land of her fathers, escorted by her former daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah.

They reached the road to Judah. "Thank you so much for coming with me all this way, but you should go back now," said Naomi.

"No" protested Orpah.

"We don't want to leave you," said Ruth. "We want to come with you to Israel."

They were thinking about how empty their lives had been in Moab, about the light Naomi seemed to radiate even in her grief. About how connected to God Naomi was, about the solace and strength she received from her Torah. And they wanted to be like her, too.

Naomi looked at them sadly. "You're not going to make it in Israel. You're too old — nobody's going to want to marry you. Your royal blood is meaningless there. And I don't have anything – I'll be fortunate if I get a shack to live in. I'm going to have to rummage through fields after the harvest looking for wheat to keep myself alive. Go back to the palace. Go back to your families. Your whole lives are ahead of you."

Orpah looked down. She thought of the poverty in Israel. She thought of how comfortable her life had been in Moab. And she knew she could never give it up.

"I'm...I'm going back." She embraced Naomi, and kissed her through her tears. And slowly, she slipped away, back to her mother's palace, back to her home.

Naomi and Ruth silently watched her disappear into the distance. Then Naomi spoke. "Go back with Orpah. It will be better for you. It's going to be terrible in Israel, especially for a foreigner. Go back home."

"Don't you understand?" entreated Ruth. "You are my home. I'll go wherever you go, I'll live wherever you live. I want your God to be my God." She looked into Naomi's eyes. "I'll die wherever you die. And there I will be buried. Because only death will separate us."

Naomi didn't answer. She just nodded slightly. And together the two women walked down the dusty road to Bethlehem.

HIDDEN PIX

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Gifted filmmaker had a passion for work and life

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

The late filmmaker David Stein had been such an integral part of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival that the board decided to dedicate the recent 2005 festival to his memory.

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival (TJFF) also held a special tribute to the young filmmaker who died suddenly of brain cancer in December at the age of 34.

His brother, klezmer musician Eric Stein, told the more than 400 people who packed the Al Green Theatre that speeches would be kept to a bare minimum because "David's films speak for themselves."

For the tribute to Stein, 10 of his films were screened, including five trailers he made for the TJFF – one for the festival's 10th anniversary (2002), *Elijah* (2003), *The Dress* (2004), *Gefilte Fish* (2004) and *The Obstructed View* (2004); three shorts – *Needle and Tread* (1998), *At the Exhibition* (1999) and *Soup* (2001); and *KhasenJah: The Jamaican Jewish Wedding* (2003); as well as a feature documentary, *Vanunu: Israel's Nuclear Spy* (2003).

Stein was also honoured on the final day of the festival with the screening of his final project, *Jonathan Pollard: American Fall Guy*, which has aired recently on the History Channel, as well as footage of Stein shot in Israel while he was working on the Pollard piece.

TJFF executive director Helen Zukerman said rather than commission new trailers for 2005, the festival screened the trailers Stein had produced and created for the 10th, 11th and 12th years.

Zuckerman shared memories of her first meeting with Stein, who, at the time, was looking for funding to complete *Needle and Tread*, a film he dedicated to his grandmother, Ruth Stein, an immigrant who had worked as a seamstress in a garment factory on Spadina Avenue in the 1920s.

"What captured me was David's wonderful smile, his sparkling eyes and, most of all, his passion – his passion for his bubbie, for his work and for life," Zuckerman recalled.

Needle and Tread eventually premiered at the TJFF. "David spoke about the film and then introduced his bubbie, who was given a standing ovation by about 600 people," Zuckerman said.

"David was absolutely beaming and it wasn't until he passed away that I learned of their unique and loving relationship."

Indeed, that bond was apparent at the tribute: many of the films ended with his bubbie laughing and smiling. To quote the tribute program: "She was the source of his company's name, Tzimmes, and served as his mascot. MGM had the lion. David had his bubbie."

She died just three months after her grandson, but was never told of his death, Zukerman said. "He would have wanted it that way. They both live on through the medium of film."

A strong Jewish undercurrent along with a heightened sense of humour is evident in many of Stein's films.

The upbeat and funny *Jamaican Jewish Wedding* shows how joyous music – the film features the klezmer music of Beyond the Pale– can help people of diverse cultures connect with one another. This film typified Stein's interest in the juxtaposition of people of different cultures.

Another example of this juxtapositioning is in the humorous trailer *Gefilte Fish*. A Jewish deli is the setting for a dispute over a piece of gefilte fish between a heavily tattooed biker and an Orthodox man. They end up settling the matter with a game of rock, paper and scissors.

Feature documentaries, such as the one on Vanunu, showcased Stein's versatility as a director, and his ability to address serious subject matter.

David Stein

Documentary filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici, who produced the Vanunu and Pollard documentaries, described Stein as a gifted filmmaker. "David was an excellent director. He could make things look interesting, even if it was just the act of smoking a cigarette. He was a great talent who was going places."

Jacobovici said the two began working together about three years ago. "I connected with him as a filmmaker and as a Jew.

"I took him under my big wing. I saw myself as a mentor to him. I gave him opportunities to be involved in film projects. He had a real flare for drama. He was a natural filmmaker whose career was just taking off."

Jacobovici said in a case of real-life irony, someone in Israel who was making a documentary film on filmmaking captured Stein completing the Pollard project. "It was as if someone had a premonition about David ['s death]."

Stein's colleagues took this footage and created a DVD of him, which was screened along with the Pollard film. "They did a behind-the-scenes of the making of Pollard. It was very moving. You could see David, how charming and smart he was," Jacobovici said.

Everyone pitched in to finish the Pollard film, Jacobovici noted. "After the screening, I answered questions on David's behalf.

"I never imagined that I would be there, at the theatre première of his film without him."

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Mystery writer Batya Gur dies at age 57

By SHIRI LEV-ARI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Obituary

JERUSALEM — For a person who loved and lived words, the funeral of Batya Gur was almost devoid of speech. Hundreds of family members, friends, acquaintances and others who loved her, including former students, came to the Givat Shaul cemetery in Jerusalem last Friday afternoon. Silent and weeping, they stood in front of her coffin, and afterward at her grave. Writers, poets, academics and journalists came to accompany Gur on her final journey.

Gur, a wise, sharp-eyed writer and critic who died of cancer last Thursday at the age of 57, chose to live and be buried in Jerusalem – a traditional Jewish burial.

The funeral procession was simple and restrained. In the funeral home, her husband, literary scholar Ariel Hirschfeld, thanked the doctors and nurses who took care of her during the nine months of her illness, those who "gave us hope, on which Batya relied until her last day, and the entire period of suffering was very meaningful to her," he said. He ended his words with a stanza from a Nathan Alterman poem of which Gur was especially fond:

"I will yet come to your threshold with lips extinguished. I will yet stretch out my hands to you. I will yet say to you all the good words that exist, that still exist."

Afterward, Gur's son Udi eulogized her: "You once told me that after the age of 20 or 25, a child can no longer come to his parents with complaints about what they did or didn't do to him," he said. "That is one of the many things I learned from you, and the truth is that in any case, I don't have many complaints."

He spoke about her struggle with her illness, which involved "faith and will and creativity and softness and gentleness and love and a will to live. And although the illness overcame you in the end, I feel that you were the big winner, because this struggle was won in another sense of life – it showed how one should live life, even when confronting the danger and the terror of death."

Continued on page 41

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

'KING OF KLEZMER' GIORA FEIDMAN PERFORMS RARE T.O. CONCERT

Multifaceted clarinetist **Giora Feidman**, dubbed the "king of klezmer," makes a rare Toronto appearance as he teams with TSO friends **Peter Oundjian**, **Joaquin Valdepenas** and others to present music "that showcases the clarinet in all its classical, Broadway and klezmer glory." The program includes **Mendelssohn**, **Bloch**, **Ora Bat Chaim**, **Piazzolla** and **Gershwin**. $64 to $23. Roy Thomson Hall, Saturday, June 11, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 12, 3 p.m. www.tso.ca

* * *

Brott Memoirs: Alexander Brott, who died in Montreal two months ago at 90, was a distinguished composer, conductor, violinist and co-founder (with his late wife, **Lotte**) of the McGill Chamber Orchestra, now in its 65th year. *Alexander Brott: My Lives in Music*, his newly published memoirs written with co-author **Betty Nygaard King**, relates his long and rich international career in classical music. Episodes include his many exhilarating tours abroad and encounters with the likes of **Sir Thomas Beecham**, **Jean-Pierre Rampal**, **Pierre Trudeau** and **Maureen Forrester**.

A book launch is slated for June 8 in Ottawa, with the late maestro's sons, conductor **Boris Brott** and cellist **Denis Brott**, scheduled to attend. Brott's memoirs were published by Mosaic Press.

* * *

Film Screening: The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Ivan and Abraham* (1993, subtitled), about a Jewish boy and his Catholic friend who flee to the countryside to escape impending violence in a small anti-Semitic town in 1930s Poland. The award-winning, black-and-white French-Belarussian feature was directed by **Yolande Zauberman**. Members $10, non-members $12; single tickets available 15 minutes before curtain. Adult. Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, June 5, 4 and 7 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News: *The Russian Riviera*, a new story by **David Bezmozgis**, appears in the May 3 *New Yorker*. The celebrated Toronto-based author just won the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Award for fiction for his wonderful debut collection, *Natasha and Other Stories*. The ceremony was Monday at the Leah Posluns Theatre…

Departure, a dance piece choreographed by Torontonians **Allen** and **Karen Kaeja** is being performed at the Dance Camera West Festival in Los Angeles, June 1 to 25…

Forty-four-year-old film actor **Sean Penn**, former husband of singer **Madonna** (aka "Esther"), comes from hearty Russian-Jewish stock. His Lithuanian-born grandfather **Maurice** came to the United States as a teenager and ran a Jewish deli in New York, then a bakery in a Jewish area of Los Angeles. His father, the late **Leonard Penn**, was a TV actor-director who was blacklisted during the McCarthy era…

Israeli actress **Hanna Laslo** won the best actress award at the Cannes Festival last week for her role in Israeli director **Amos Gitai's** film *Free Zone*. Laslo dedicated the prize to her mother, an Auschwitz survivor, and to all living Holocaust survivors and all victims of violence in the Middle Eastern conflict, both Israeli and Palestinian.

* * *

Theatre Notes

• **Jason Sherman's** stage adaptation of the classic 19th-century Russian novel *The Brothers Karamazov* by **Fyodor Dostoevsky** went into previews last week at Stratford. It opens June 3 and plays in repertory until Sept. 24. 1-800-567-1600. www.stratfordfestival.ca

• The Civic Light Opera Company production of *My Fair Lady* is coming to the Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr. $20-$17.50. June 9 to 26. 416-755-1717. www.CivicLightOperaCompanycom

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Alceste Concerts presents "The Music of Arnold Schonberg," with Yale University musicologist **Michael Friedmann** and pianist **Vadim Serebryany**, the Gould Quartet and musical guests. Arts & Letters Club, Sunday, June 5, 3 p.m.

• A cantorial concert in honour of **Rabbi Chaim & Esther Sacknovitz** features **Yaakov Motzen**, **Shlomo Simcha Sufrin**, **Yitzchak Meir Helfgot** and **Jakie Young**, the Shaarei Shomayim synagogue choir and **Daniel Gildar** on piano. $55-$25. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Ave. Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m. Separate seating upon request. 416-789-3213.

• **Anne Balaban** reviews *The Outside World*, by **Tova Mirvis**. Betel Literary Luncheon, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Wednesday, June 8, 12 noon. $13 members, $16 non-members. Book review only $5 (1 p.m.)

* * *

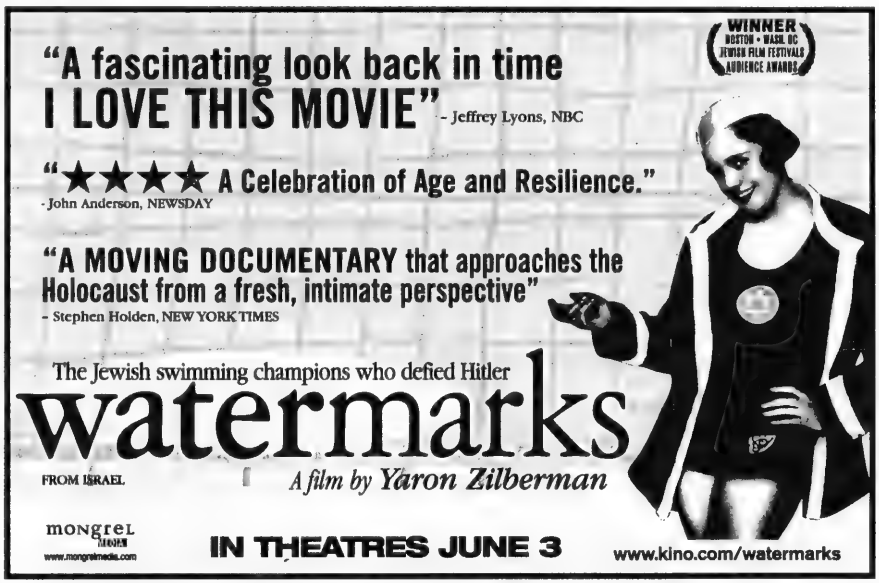
At the Galleries

• Acrylics and watercolours by **Esther Etigson** are on view at an art show at 168 Gailcrest Circle, Thornhill (Bathurst-Clark area). Sunday, June 5, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 905-886-8085.

• "Disaster & Relief," a show of works by **Rochelle Rubinstein**, is on view at Fran Hill Gallery, 230 Queen St. E., until June 18.

* * *

Out of Town: The Canadian Film Institute, the Embassy of Israel and the Israeli Culture Forum jointly present six recent top-rated Israeli films: *Turn Left at the End of the World*, *Nina's Tragedies*, *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi*, *Distortion*, *Watermarks* and *Columbian Love*. National Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa. June 5 to 26. Festival passes ($30-$40) available at Ottawa JCC.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Canadian Idol judge is a successful artist manager

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Canadian Idol judge and music industry mover and shaker Jake Gold, 47, has a talent for assessing singers – as is evident on the extremely popular CTV show, now in its third season.

Born in New Jersey to an American mother and a Canadian father, Gold was raised in North York since the age of two. What isn't as well known about Gold is that he can sing – as a teen he sang in top 40 bands.

"I used to go to B'nai B'rith camp and that is actually where I did most of my singing. I did theatre there, too, and also played B'nai Birth baseball and hockey," says Gold, who has since given up the baseball mitt and hockey stick for a tennis racquet.

He moved to Los Angeles for two years in 1979 and did lighting design for the Variety Arts Centre. He received a call from a musician friend, Coleman York, prompting a return to Toronto to become a tour manager and lighting guy for York's group Hot Tip. The band reformed itself into a mod-pop group, renamed the Purple Hearts, and asked Gold to manage it.

"I had no idea about management. The next thing you know, I was the manager and I've been doing it since 1981," says Gold, who not only runs a management and publishing business – the Management Trust – which he has owned with partner Allan Gregg since 1986 but also runs Kindling Music, which distributes CDs through EMI.

Gold is considered one of Canada's most successful artist managers. His most notable accomplishment over 25 years has been establishing and transforming the Tragically Hip into a great Canadian musical success story.

The Management Trust handles well-known musicians, including Gord Downey, lead singer of The Tragically Hip; Gold's fellow idol judge Sass Jordan; and the bands Doctor and The Populars. With his extensive resume, it is no wonder that Gold got the job when he auditioned for Canadian Idol.

Gold has garnered a number of accolades for his work in the music industry, including being recognized by the annual Canadian Music Industry Awards as manager of the year in 1991, 1993 and 1994. He has served as a member of the Juno Awards' television and talent committee since 2003.

***Canadian Idol* judge Jake Gold produced the War Child concert in Winnipeg, drawing upward of 100,000 people and raising $400,000 for the War Child Canada charity.**

The busy entrepreneur has been called upon as either moderator or panellist nationally and internationally at Australia's Pacific Music Conference, Pollstar's Concert Industry Consortium Vancouver's NewMusic West and Toronto's Canadian Music Week and North By Northeast.

Canadian Idol executive producer John Brunton says of Gold, "A rock 'n' roll road warrior, Jake is both all business and all heart."

Gold says, "I'm looking for great singers, I want to see performers that move me. I'm really not interested in cookie-cutter, plastic people. We have seen some great people this year on *Canadian Idol*. With each year, we are getting more and more artistically oriented people."

When Gold is not judging idol contestants or running his companies, he enjoys art, wine and watching and playing tennis. He has a passion for design and recently renovated the home he shares with his wife, Leesa Butler, a marketing consultant.

Gold contributes his talents to charity. He produced the War Child concert in Winnipeg, drawing upward of 100,000 people and raising $400,000 for the War Child Canada charity, which he continues to devote time to. War Child Canada provides humanitarian assistance to war-affected children globally.

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Travel ministry, El Al spar over flights to Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Israel's Ministry of Tourism has called for additional flights from Canada and "affordable fares" to help meet increased travel demand to the Jewish state. But El Al's Canadian general manager said the airline has already increased its flights to Israel and he rejected suggestions that price is a factor in passenger loads.

In a news release issued last week, Dani Shahal, director for Canada of the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) said that after years of encouraging travel to Israel, "now there is an atmosphere of calm in Israel and the region. Travellers are again booking Israel as a destination of choice. We are cautiously optimistic that the airlines will be proactive in responding to the rapidly increasing demand for seats, flights and affordable fares."

The news release also noted that "the [Israeli] Tourism Ministry also called… for additional flights from Canada."

But Stanley Morais, the airline's general manager in Canada, said El Al has increased flights when warranted. The carrier currently flies to Israel six times a week, and on June 20, it will boost that to nine weekly flights.

In addition, the airline added flights at Sukkot, Shavuot and Passover, as well as to accommodate groups travelling to Israel, including Birthright Israel, March of the Living and Maccabi Canada.

"The Ministry of Tourism in Israel doesn't understand the requirements of the airline industry," Morais said. "They think it's a pricing issue, but it's complex."

Airlines have to account for fuel, staff costs and landing fees, and all those factors go into setting a price, he said.

In addition, Morais suggested that if price was a determining factor, the carrier's planes would not be full.

The load factor for May and June is predicted to be greater than 95 per cent and more than 90 per cent for the summer season, he said.

"At peak periods, people pay more on average," he added.

El Al's summer price ranges from $1,700 to $1,800, but a seat sale that ended in March offered summer seats for only $1,099, he said, and a "significant number" of those seats were sold.

Morais said "the Ministry of Tourism should do more to promote travel to Israel."

Jerry Adler, marketing and public relations manager for the IGTO, said he has heard concerns from the travel industry that there are not enough flights to Israel to accommodate travellers' demand. He said talks between the ministry in Israel and airlines have been ongoing on ways to meet demand and to "be proactive and plan flights for the demand."

Data released by the IGTO indicate that travel to Israel has soared in the early months of 2005 over the same period the year before. In April, 163,000 visitors entered the Jewish state, a jump of more than 20 per cent over April 2004 and roughly equal to the numbers in 2002 and 2003 combined.

"Well over half a million tourists arrived in Israel in the first four months of 2005, a 22 per cent increase over the same period in 2004," the news release stated.

"The number of Canadian visitors to Israel has also been steadily rising since 2001. Some 43,573 Canadians visited Israel in 2004, a steep increase over the 31,268 who arrived in 2003 and the 25,116 who arrived in 2002.

"From January through March of 2005, 9,000 Canadians arrived in Israel, a rise of 11 per cent over the first quarter of 2004."

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Mystery writer never hesitated to express her political views

Continued from page 38

Gur was born in Tel Aviv to parents who were Holocaust survivors, grew up in Ramat Gan and studied at Tikhon Hadash high school in Tel Aviv, where she was part of a group of young men and women with a high degree of political and social awareness. She then served as a teacher-soldier in Ofakim and became aware for the first time of the situation of the development towns. For years she worked as a teacher of literature, because she believed in the power of education to shape and change people.

It was only at the age of 39 that she turned to writing, producing a detective novel, *The Saturday Morning Murder* (1988), which was a great success. In the book, she created the thoughtful detective Michael Ohayon, who was featured in her later detective stories as well – all of which touched, in some way or other, on the Israeli reality, on social and political problems, and on the distress of people who live on the margins of society: *Literary Murder*, *Murder on a Kibbutz*, *Murder Duet*, *Bethlehem Road Murder* and *Retzah, Mitzalmim* (*Murder, We're Filming*), her last book, which was written in the wake of the television series she wrote for Channel 2, which was directed by Ram Levi.

Over the years, Gur had dozens of pieces on literature, culture and art published in *Ha'aretz*. She taught writing at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem and lectured at the Hebrew University and the Open University. Her books were successful in Israel and internationally, and she was often invited to lecture abroad.

Gur never hesitated to express her political views, which were identified with the social, economic and political left. In the last two years alone, Gur was at centre stage of two incidents: first, when she told border policewomen who were holding an old Palestinian man for questioning that their behaviour reminded her of Nazi Germany, and second, when she levelled criticism, during a lecture in Brussels, at the policies of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government, which she said encourages suicide bombers.

"Batya was a teacher for life, 100 per cent," says journalist Roni Kuban, a former student in the script-writing track at the Jerusalem film school, where Gur taught for 15 years.

"There are many people who are sharp and critical, but she left her mark – she not only wrote books and articles, she also read her students' texts, giving them an ironic smile and saying: 'Write, write,' and this gave them fuel for an entire year. There aren't many people who in addition to writing themselves, take up the torch of education as well," he says.

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Books & Authors

Bio traces bizarre life of Russian-Jewish-Muslim eccentric

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Lev Nussimbaum was one of the strangest characters of the 20th century.

The life he lived was so bizarre – and original – that it defies conventional imagination.

A Russian-born Ashkenazi Jew who became a Muslim and adopted the pseudonyms of Essad Bey and Kurban Said, he was a prolific, bestselling author.

He churned out biographies of famous men, published works about Islam and global revolution and produced the enduring novel *Ali and Nino*.

He also flirted with fascists in Germany and Italy.

Born in 1905 in Baku, a boomtown awash in a sea of oil, he was first and last an enigmatic figure.

"Who is this Essad Bey?" the exiled Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky wondered in a letter to his son in 1931, when Nussimbaum was a media star in Berlin.

A good question, of course.

In *The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life* (Random House), Tom Reiss cogently explores the nooks and crannies of this highly unusual individual.

Nussimbaum, who published 16 books by the age of 30, was an Orientalist – driven by a desire to plumb the depths of Middle Eastern culture and religion and obsessed by the need to explain the East to the West.

He may well have modelled himself after the famous Jewish Orientalist Arminius Vambery, the son of a Hungarian talmudist.

Nussimbaum's father, Abraham, was a businessman whose parents had come to the Caucasus from the Pale of Settlement in the Russian empire. His mother was from Slutzk in Belorussia.

Homeschooled by a German governess after his mother's death, he grew up in a world of books. He spent hours wandering around the old Muslim walled city. His identification with Shiite Islam and the Orient began here.

He and his wealthy father fled to the West after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, settling in Paris, the home of White Russian emigres.

Around this period, he decided to adopt an Ottoman identity. This was hardly surprising. He had already distanced himself from his Jewish background.

In 1922, he began studying Turkish and Arabic in Berlin under the name of Essad Bey Nousimbaoum. Some of his fellow students could not resist the temptation of teasing him about his "Islamic" identity, but he could not care less.

He converted to Islam in the presence of the imam of Turkey's embassy in Berlin. Reiss offers a few theories about his conversion, but they are somewhat convoluted.

Writing as Essad Bey, he wrote his first book, *Blood and Oil in the Orient*, in his early 20s. More books followed – from *The Caucasus: Its Mountains, People and History* to *Stalin: The Career of a Fanatic*.

Until his untimely death at 36, he would publish an average of a book a year, including two novels under the name of Kurban Said.

Praised for their colourful style and insights, his books were international bestsellers. In a typical comment, the critic of the *New York Times*, reviewing *Mohammed: A Biography*, compared his prose to "a Persian carpet."

Lev Nussimbaum

Nussimbaum, as well, was a contributor to one of Germany's finest magazines, *The Literary World*, whose roster of writers ran the gamut from Bertolt Brecht to Walter Benjamin.

He wrote 144 articles for the magazine. All dealt with Islamic issues in one way or another. But no one in Berlin, be they Muslims or Nazis, was fooled by Nussimbaum's thinly disguised identity as a Muslim. Both sides attacked him mercilessly. He responded to these barbs by writing like a fiend, Reiss says.

A conservative at heart, Nussimbaum was active in right wing anti-Communist groups. One of them, the German-Russian League Against Bolshevism, had a membership consisting mainly of Nazis and Nazi sympathizers.

In addition, Nussimbaum was friends with George Sylvester Vierck, a New Yorker who was arrested as a German agent in 1942.

In 1935, Nussimbaum was expelled from the German Writers Union and informed he could no longer publish in Germany. No reason was stated, but as Reiss observes, none was needed in a country where anti-Semitism was official policy.

He cleverly circumvented the prohibition by taking a new name, Kurban Said, and wrote *Ali and Nino*, a story about interfaith love, still in print today.

Nussimbaum was not one to share a byline, but he made an exception for a work titled *Allah is Great: The Decline and Rise of the Islamic World*.

In this case, his co-author was Wolfgang von Weisl, a close associate of Vladimir Jabotinsky, the Zionist revisionist leader. Von Weisl, whose quixotic goal was to convert the Arabs to Zionism, had been the publisher of *The Nile and Palestine Gazette*, which folded after several editions.

Following the appearance of *Ali and Nino*, Nussimbaum waged a campaign to get himself invited as Benito Mussolini's biographer. He cultivated "liberal" Italian fascists to win the appointment.

One of his most influential supporters, Giovanni Gentile, a member of the Fascist Grand Council, arranged an audience for him with Mussolini.

But on the day he was to see the Duce, Mussolini's secretary received a tip that he was "nothing else but Leo Nussimbaum, son of Abraham." The project was summarily cancelled.

Poking around the files of the Fascist Political Police in Rome, Reiss found a letter, passed along from the Gestapo, claiming that Nussimbaum's Oriental disguise was a thinly veiled Jewish conspiracy to defame the Islamic world.

Nussimbaum lived in the Italian resort of Positano during his final years, tolerated by the Italian authorities.

He produced a memoir-cum-novel, *The Man Who Knew Nothing About Love*, and recorded propaganda speeches in Farsi for the Fascist Colonial Service. Nussimbaum died in Positano, but his father was placed on a train to Poland and was most likely murdered in the Treblinka death camp.

Reiss tells his tale with verve, but *The Orientalist* is far too long. A better editor would have deleted the majority of his questionable digressions and tightened his narrative.

Nevertheless, this is an engaging book about an extremely odd but talented man who never quite found his place in the world.

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CJN Profile

Life – 'Chapter 2' – begins at 40

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Life is going to throw you curveballs, says Lisa Colt. "You can catch them and throw them back or let them drop, but ultimately you have control."

Her bat mitzvah in the late 1970s taught her that lesson. It was "a powerful experience, but not for the reason you would think," she said in an interview at Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, where she is executive director. Her father, Harvey Abrams, was in the hospital, and her bat mitzvah had to be cancelled and rescheduled.

"I learned a lot about myself and what I can handle… Being told you've got to start all over again is huge for a kid."

The 40-year-old mother of three – she rolls her eyes in disbelief when she says her age – has been dealing with several challenges in the past year, most notably separation after 16 years of marriage, and her father's illness this winter. Also, she took on her current position as executive director at Kolel in March after being promoted from program director.

Lately, she has been attending synagogue services more often. "I'm finding comfort in that."

But Colt arrived at a feeling of religious connection with her Judaism relatively late. "I had an underlying negative feeling about Judaism," she said, recalling her days as a youngster in the Reform movement.

What Judaism meant for her in a positive way was "family more than anything," she said.

Despite her position at Kolel, she says with wry humour that she sees herself as the "lowest common denominator" at the popular adult Jewish education centre.

What she means in practical terms, however, is that she herself can serve as a litmus test for the viability of new programming. If a program meets her needs and is something she will find enjoyable, then she figures a lot of other people are likely to react the same way.

Her instincts are sound, according to Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Kolel's director, who said Colt's suggestions included a Chanukah art and gift show at A Show of Hands gallery, a Hallowe'en night program on Judaism and superstition, a "Breakfast with Bigshots" speaker series and a mother-daughter book club.

Colt, who was already familiar with Kolel as a student and High Holy Day service attendee, was hired as program director in 2003 despite her lack of background in either Jewish studies or programming.

"She came in with a thousand ideas and tremendous marketing skills," recalls Rabbi Goldstein. "And she 'gets' us. She understands what people want, and is deeply respectful of Kolel's spiritual mandate."

Two things reconnected Colt to Judaism after her teen years, during which she had virtually no Jewish involvement, she said. One was her marriage in 1988 and her related desire to establish a Jewish home; the other was Hadassah-WIZO.

She joined the organization because of a desire to volunteer and because some friends were involved. She found she had a flair for marketing, programming and event planning, and eventually chaired a major fundraiser with Bill Clinton as guest speaker. A 10-day trip to Israel in 2002, when she was one of two women selected to represent the national organization at the World Zionist Congress, triggered an unexpected spiritual connection.

As a result, she felt a firmer commitment to Judaism that is manifesting itself in her love of working for a Jewish organization, giving her children a strong Jewish identity and feeling "more grounded" about her own identity.

When she first attended Kolel to take a course called "Now that your kids are in day school," she was "very much Judaism 101," she said. "I loved the fact it was so non-judgmental and so welcoming. At no point did I feel I'd be made to feel stupid."

She credits Rabbi Goldstein and Rabbi Yossi Sapirman, spiritual leader of Beth Torah Congregation, where she is now a member, for opening doors for her to "accept Judaism on [my] own level. For me, this has been really profound. By letting me find my own way, it has gotten me turned on to observing Judaism more and learning more."

Rabbi Sapirman said he thinks Colt has "an uncommon honesty" about her Judaism. "She absolutely wants to integrate Judaism into her life, and that requires a lifelong journey of learning, growth and honesty. Lisa has taken on this journey with great enthusiasm."

Lisa Colt

It's rare, he said, "and it's even more rare to see it so thoroughly transmitted to children, which is what she's done such a wonderful job of."

Colt said that her 13-year-old son, and two daughters, age 10 and 9, are "definitely growing up in a more affiliated, religiously identified home than I did, and I think that they'll have, growing up, a stronger Jewish identity than I did."

She herself had resisted traditional, institutionalized Judaism. "I didn't connect with it, and yet through other opportunities, I slowly made my way back and am now able to embrace Judaism on a level that's comfortable for me. I actually go for Shabbat services, not regularly but not just on the High Holy Days, and I enjoy them. Also, Shabbat plays an important role in our family's life. I change over my dishes at Passover… I always watched my mother doing that."

Colt trained as a respiratory therapist in the mid-1980s, then worked in a downtown teaching hospital for five years before leaving for a home-care company, a job which also involved medical sales and marketing. "I really enjoyed that," she says of the latter experience.

In 2000 she put together a trade show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to teach consumers about online shopping – an idea that she came up with and pitched to a communications company single-handedly. About 8,000 people attended.

Experiences like that "really push you forward in life," she said.

Colt describes herself as the type of person who "always seeks challenges."

At Kolel, she hopes to work toward increasing the amount of joint programming with other organizations. "One thing I don't like is when there's… competition between the different organizations. We should be really working together to reach out to the community."

She describes her father, her mother, Elaine Abrams, and aunt, community volunteer Susan Fenwick, as role models.

Her mother "rises to the occasion whenever she has to," said Colt. "She has tremendous strength of character and always finds the humour in things."

Her father has also risen above various challenges and landed on his feet, she said. "He has been a source of strength and inspiration."

Her 40th birthday itself wasn't traumatic, said Colt, but "you do a lot of reassessing and soul-searching. I hope I've made some good choices, and that Chapter 2 will be equally exciting and entertaining. That's how I look at life."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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Yoga – ancient healing for modern problems

By SHELLEY MILLMAN HERMAN

I first discovered the amazing benefits of yoga practice in my late teens when I took a three-month yoga program. The instructor was what one would call a "yogi," that is, someone who practices yoga for many hours a day.

Back then, and now, I needed to learn how to relax, and as each week of yoga class passed, I began to feel tensions lifting away. I'll never forget how the instructor would end each class with the beautiful high-pitched, reverberating sound of her voice, which would send shivers up our spines after our having spent 1½ hours stretching, deep breathing and relaxing.

Nowadays, although I teach yoga occasionally, I am an incredibly busy person. Except for the occasional luxury of spending an extended period of time on yoga, I get only a few minutes each day to do my yoga stretches. Throughout the day, wherever I sense tightness in my body, I stretch that area.

My long-term yoga practice has taught me to be attuned to my body and to address, in constructive ways, whatever tensions I might be feeling physically. As well, as a wonderful conclusion to my nearly daily strenuous aerobic workouts, I do some yoga stretches and deep breathing.

Since I owe so much of my well-being to yoga practice – along with my high-energy workouts and a healthy diet – I thought I would devote this month's column to a discussion of yoga practice and the related benefits.

According to the teachings of yoga, there is no separation between the body and the mind, which is why all yoga's teachings begin at the physical level. Hatha yoga, which is what I practise, maintains the focus on the physical, with postures and proper breathing techniques aimed at physical well-being. In turn, physical well-being leads to mental well-being.

Yoga can be used as an antidote for the mental and physical tension associated with the fast pace of Western living.

Yoga is an alternative to reaching for relief through medication when dealing with many discomforts. Gentle yoga doesn't have side effects; it doesn't result in muscular aches and pains or cause undue fatigue, and there are no allergic or other kinds of negative reactions. And wonderfully, there are no age limits for the practice of yoga! In fact, yoga practice can prevent many of the problems that are associated with aging.

Physical well-being leads to mental well-being

It is amazing how many benefits can be reaped from regular yoga practice. They include improved circulation, greater flexibility, improved muscle tone and lung capacity, higher levels of energy, sounder and more restful sleep, reduced stress, pain control, rejuvenation, detoxification, relaxation and prevention of illness.

Given the extensive benefits that one can enjoy with regular yoga practice, my advice would be to get out there and try it – your body will forever thank you!

Shelley Millman Herman provides both personal and corporate wellness programs and can be reached at shelley.millman@sympatico.ca.

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Special needs youngsters celebrate bar/bat mitzvahs

Fifteen youngsters with special needs recently celebrated their entry into adulthood.

At their bar/bat mitzvahs, they each made a presentation about a biblical personality they had studied and felt some connection to. As an award for their efforts, the boys received a kiddush cup and the girls got a silver bracelet with Jewish-theme charms.

The ceremony was the culmination of a 22-week program operated by the Friendship Circle. Children from across the Greater Toronto Area, from the ages of 11 to 13, participated. This is the first time the program, which follows a format developed by Chabad of Michigan, has been offered in Ontario.

Once a week for two hours these youngsters were engaged in activities that helped them to learn basic tenets of Judaism, brachot and their rich heritage. With a dedicated volunteer by their sides, they learned about Jewish heroes and heroines.

For many of the participants, it was the first time they had joined a community program catering to those with special needs.

The six-month-long program, whose goal is to strengthen Jewish identity and transmit traditional values, was run by Tova and Ari Moskowitz.

In addition to an adventure into Judaism, the program includes a weekly life-skills component as well as music and occupational therapy.

The Friendship Circle program, which serves as a model used by some 30 branches of Chabad, brings together children with special needs and teenage mentors.

The teenage volunteers, who have been carefully screened and interviewed at length, visit the homes of the youngsters weekly and establish a bond with them through activities such as making crafts and playing computer games or sports.

For more information, contact Friendship Circle at 905-731-7000, ext. 35, or visit.www.friendshipcircle@chabad.ca.

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YONGE-WELDRICK $1,450,000
Absolutely outstanding 5 bdrm custom home with meticulous care to every detail! Impressive stone façade with attractive high pitched roofline, arched entrance, 4 car garage, stunning glass & hand wrought iron double door entry – this is unforgettable luxury!! Thousands spent on custom moldings, artistic paint finish, mirage strip hardwood flrs, curved archways, marbelized designer columns. Too many upgrades to list. To view this outstanding home, call *Lucy Melamud

• • •

CENTRE-DUFFERIN - $569,000
Beautifully upgraded 4 bdrm home on a cul-de-sac, 9 ft ceilings, stainless steel appls, 2 ensuites. Shows great!! **Mark Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-MAJOR MAC "HERITAGE ESTATES"
Large 4 bdrm, new roof & air, partly finished bsmt, entry to garage from laundry room. Shows well! $507,000. *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-HWY 7 "THORNHILL WOODS"
Exquisite 4 bdrm, main flr family room & library! Hardwood & marble! Fab finishings & extras throughout! Part fin bsmt. Unbelievably elegant home! Must be seen! $679,000! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-HWY 7 – NEW LISTING!
Rare detached looking freehold townhouse on extras large corner lot. Immaculate! Neutral décor, hardwood & ceramics on main flr, lots of windows. Very bright home! Won't last! *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Exquisite 2 bdrm, split bdrm layout, appliances & window coverings (2 yrs), marble foyer & locker. Shows great! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES TOWNHOME FACES THE PARK
Large 3 bdrm townhome end unit that feels like a detached home! New windows & doors, hardwood, finished bsmt with rec room. $279,900! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-DREWRY - $239,000
Large 3 bdrm corner suite with solarium, newer appliances, southwest exposure. Close to TTC, Shopping & Parks. Shows well! *Ted Waxman

• • •

NEW WESTMINSTER-CENTRE
Newer building, 1+1 bdrm open concept, immaculate! Upgraded kitchen, low maintenance. *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES $193,900
Beautifully maintained 2 bdrm & solarium, 2 washrooms, bright north view, appliances, ensuite locker. *Helen Winer

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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GEORGE & BETH MELTZ 905-884-2398
Sheppard & Bathurst - Walk to Shul, Schools, Transit & just about everything. Wonderful, bright, spacious 3+2 bdrm bungalow w/2 bdrm bsmt apt. w/sep entrance. Many updates including kitchen. Large fenced in lot. Great Location, Great House!
RE/MAX All-Stars Realty Inc., REALTOR

389 Brooke Avenue
Build your perfect home
Just the way you want it!
Terrific 43' x 131' lot surrounded by many fabulous new homes, 1/2 block East of Bathurst near Baycrest.
Call M.A. Johnson, sales rep
Prudential Sadie Moranis Rlty,
416-449-2020

BATHURST/FINCH - A FIND! $679,000
Aprox. 4000 sq ft, premium lot 61. Main floor family room, office and laundry. Great eat-in kitchen with walk-out. 5 spacious bedrooms & 4 baths. Fab master closet. A wow!
Carol Lou Spiegel*
HARVEY KALLES REAL ESTATE
416-441-2888 ext. 316

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

ATKINSON/ROSEDALE HEIGHTS
5 bdrm, 2 storey, liv & din comb, hardwood flrs, 4 baths, mod kit, fam rm walkout, fin bsmnt, double garage, steps to everything.

PALM DRIVE/BATHURST
Large 3 bedroom bungalow, 3 baths, L-shaped living & dining, finished basement, double garage. SOLD

ALLEN ROAD/SHEPPARD
Custom built 3 bedroom, 3 baths, huge living & dining, finished basement, double garage, lrg lot.
416-633-7373

DAVID EICHORN
REALTY LIMITED REALTOR
416 787•1712
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eichornrealty.com

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Nicely renovated 3 bdrm., 2 storey detached brick home on 50 ft. lot, new kitchen & baths, new windows, furnace, CAC ++, sep.. entry to in-law suite. **ONLY $499,000 — LOWEST PRICE IN AREA!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING
ATTENTION BUILDERS & RENOVATORS! 3 bedroom, 2 storey home on prime 50 ft. lot in fabulous central location! Plans & permits approved for 4,200 sq. ft new home with below-grade garage. **ONLY $599,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / VIEWMOUNT

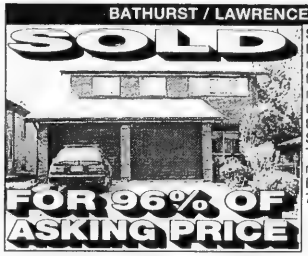
Spectacular brand new custom home loaded with upgrades, on 50 x 140 ft. lot and surrounded by million $ homes. 5 + 2 bdrms., sep. entry to 2 in-law suites, 10 ft. ceilings, fam. room + library on main floor, dream kit., hrdwd. flrs. on 2 levels, Asking $1.479 million. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

ARMOUR HEIGHTS
Spacious executive home in high demand area, 4 + 3 bdrms, main floor family room & study, dream maple kitchen, granite counter, fin. bsmt., rear deck. Gorgeous deep lot. Asking $649,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

PRESTIGIOUS BROOKE AVENUE
SPACIOUS EXECUTIVE HOME! Approx. 3,800 sq. ft. + fin. basement on gorgeous 54 x 130 ft. lot surrounded by million $ homes. 5 + 2 bedrooms, in-law suite, main floor family room + library. **ONLY $869,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. Eichorn, Sales Rep., for a private viewing at (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Spacious family home. 4+2 bedrooms, main floor family and laundry rooms. Prime central location close to shops, Yorkdale Shopping Centre, TTC, schools, and more. Call David Eichorn* * (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
AFFORDABLE LUXURY IN HOT AREA! Custom built, upgraded detailing throughout! 4 bdrms., 4 baths, granite counters & floors, hrdwd. floors on both levels, coffered ceilings, crown mouldings, marble fireplace ++. **ALL THIS FOR ONLY $849,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

Luxurious One Glen Park

A selection of prime units in a highly prestigious central location priced from $479,900. Call David Eichorn* now at (416) 787-1712. **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO BUYERS OF THIS CONDO WHO ALSO LIST THEIR CURRENT HOME WITH US.**

ELEGANT STRATHALLAN WOOD
BRAND NEW EXECUTIVE HOME by upscale builder in most prestigious Lytton Park location. 4,000 + sq. ft., attention to detail throughout, premium finishes, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, dream French country kitchen +++. Call Mark Eichorn, Sales Rep., for a private viewing at (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

BATHURST ST. AND CLARK AVE. - FOR RENT
Beautiful large condominium, 1,450 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, solarium, balcony, huge kitchen with window, 2 parking. **Only $1,695.**

FOR SALE
Magnificent, 2,700 sq. ft. luxurious home. 4 bdrms, 3 baths, family rm w/fireplace, library den, gorgeous strip hrdwd flrs, upgraded kit, S/S appliances, 2 years new. **Only $479,900.**

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Cortleigh Classic - Brand new!
$1.8M - Gorgeous 4+2 BR, 7 BA, dream kitchen, ensuites in all bedrooms, main floor office, dble gar., fab. fin. l/level, all top appliances!

Bathurst/Glencairn - Penthouse!
Now $239,900 - Bright, 1 BR+den, 2BA, 9' ceilings, eat-in kitchen, ens. ldry, parking & locker, steps to shopping & TTC, great view!

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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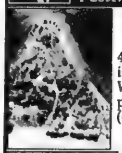
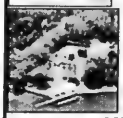
I Cover the WATERFRONT *#1 WATERFRONT Specialist*



LK SIMCOE MAJOR ESCAPE $7.5M
4 acre Point - 600' of beach. Totally secluded island touched by land - 4 fpl. - all bdrs. W/spa enste - age 4 - nothing spared - perfect! Change nothing! E.S.W. Exposures! (40 mins. to Tor.) Land your chopper!



LK SIMCOE COMPOUND - ROCHES PT.
$3,399,000. Gold coast of Lake! Gated 5 acre, 350' lakefront, 6,500', 11 year old, gorgeous. ESTATE design & material unmatched!! Gatehouse, 6 car garage, 50'x90' landmark boathouse with guest quarters & sunsets.

LK SIMCOE ESTATE $1,749,000
6,500', granite, hardwood, 9' ceilings, 7 bedrooms, 3 fireplaces, boathouse, 3 car garage, wooded enclave.

LK SIMCOE (BIG BAY PT.) 40 MIN. TO TOR.
$1,699,000. 3/4 acre. Get-away to DIE FOR! Age 6, hardwood /granite/glass/open plan, each bedroom with ensuite, lakeside pool, 3 car garage. Private enclave!

LK SIMCOE - BIG BAY PT. $1,299,000 GORGEOUS!
Private Enclave, 3 year old stone/stucco custom, open plan, maple flrs, gorg large kitchen, lux master, boathouse, lrg decks, sunsets.

LK SIMCOE SHOCKING BEAUTY - 1,1M.
South of France enspired by Toronto Top designer. Gorgeous!! Private wooded enclave (45 minutes to Toronto).

LK SIMCOE - KEMPENFELT BAY
Retire to newly incredible renovated (everything), hardwood, granite, stainless appliances, sub. Zero, 2 fireplaces, luxurious master w/pampering ensuite, all lake views + walkouts - 7 minutes to hospital/golf/fine restaurants.

LK SIMCOE - $1,195,000
2 acre. 150' lakefront, 2 storey residence, fireplace, hardwood, Muskoda room.

LK SIMCOE BIG BAY PT. $989,000
Nothing but quality, open design, high beam ceilings, 6x6 kitchen island, 3 fireplaces, 6 bedrooms, hardwood, glass, big decks, mint condition!

LK SIMCOE - CUSTOM R-2000-QUALITY + $869,000
Great room, fireplace, open to large kitchen & walkout, finished quality lower level, boathouse with 2 bedrooms, bath, kitchen and guest quarters.

LK SIMCOE - (STRATHALLAN WOODS) $479,000
2 lots, 1 waterfront approx. 100' x 350', gorgeous building lot + lot with 2,000' cottage not water but abuts water lot.

ALL THE ABOVE COTTAGES & CASTLES ARE APPROX. 40 MINS. FROM TORONTO. LAKE SIMCOE/KEMPENFELT BAY ARE AMAZING BEAUTIFUL BODIES OF WATER AND RIGHT AT TORONTO'S DOOR STEP!

Marci Koifman
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85 BROOKVIEW DRIVE-$579,000
Classic 3+1 bedroom, hardwood floors, reno'd kitchen, main floor powder rm, family rm, fireplace, built-ins, sep side entrance to finished bsmnt, 55' x 120' lot, A/C, garage, walk to park, TTC, shuls. View at **www.rpt.ca/brookview**

UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE - $899,000
Rare 61'x125' on quiet street, centre hall, mn fl den, powder room, 2 w/o to great bkyd, deck & stunning inground pool w/sunny west exposure. Shows well! Call today for more information!

Eileen Richman, Associate Broker
Re/Max Ultimate Realty Inc. Realtor
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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
Real Estate Inc. Realtor

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | **416-785-1500** Central | **416-226-1987** Bayview

List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

27 RIDGE HILL DR $1,800,000
2 side by side building lots in Upper Forest Hill Village 90' x 120'. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! JUST LISTED! PRIME CEDARVALE LOCATION
Across from park, stone front, renovated 4 bedroom + tandem 55 ft lot. $1,149,000. Beth Sokol* 416-488-2875

39 PRUE AVENUE! NOW $999,000! WOW!
Bathurst/Glencairn! Stunning 5+1Br, 4Bth! Mn Fam+2Pce! Nanny Ste! 50x125'! Hurry! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

PRIME UPPER VILLAGE STONE HOME
Gorgeous curb appeal, large principal rooms, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE
$899,000. 50x120 ft lot, great curb appeal, 4 bdrm, 4 baths, main floor family + sun room. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

338 CRANBROOKE AVENUE! 4+1 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$879K! East Of Avenue Rd! Incredible Find! Mn Fam + 2Pce! Nanny Ste! 2 Car Prkg! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

26 HILLMOUNT AVENUE! 5+2 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$879K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+2Pce! Nanny Ste! Steps To School! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

PRIME ALLEN – HOME SOLD
Charming 3 bedroom, 4 bath family room+powder room, private drive, 27'x110'. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN UPPER FOREST HILL AREA
3 bdrm, 3 bath, mn flr fam rm, hrdwd, granite cntrs, sep side entr to possible nanny/rental unit. $595,000. C. Silvey* 416-488-2875

UPPER FOREST HILL/FAIRLEIGH CRESCENT
$549,000. 4 bedroom, 1.5 storey, 2 baths, hardwood floors, garage, immaculate. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

5A HEATHDALE ROAD! NOW $515,000!
Bathurst N/St. Clair! Amazing 3Stry, 3Br, 4Bth Semi! B/I Grge! Gorg'us Deck! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

$1,298,000 YONGE-YORK MILLS
5 bedroom, custom res, approx 4,000', Shane Baghai Design, stunning master, family+library. Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

56 RISEBROUGH AVENUE! 5+2BR, 7BTH!
$1,189K! Bayview N/Finch! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+2Pce! 3 Car Grge! W/O Bsmt! Fab 77x153'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

239 CRESTWOOD ROAD! FAB 73 X 151'!
$429K! Bathurst N/Steeles! Best Local On Cul-De-Sac! Build Your Dream! Must See! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD – THORNHILL WOODS TOWNHOUSE $398,000
Fab 1 year new, over 2,000' + SOLD bsmnt, double car garage, hrdwd flrs, frplce, upgraded kit + more! Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

268 MAPLEHURST AVENUE! FAB 30 X 120'!
$339K! Bayview N/Sheppard SOLD Updated 2+2Br, 2Bth Bung! Nanny Ste! Hurry! Won't Last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

EAST PROPERTIES

1ST AD! TRENDY FILM DISTRICT – GORG'US 3 BDRM
Totally Renovated. Victorian open liv/din rm, hrdwd, priv patio garden with water fall + fish pond. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

453 SPADINA ROAD
New condo bldg in the heart of Forest Hill Village. Just 13 suites, soaring ceilings, fine finishes, concierge. Location! From the $800,000 range. Call Mary Goldberg* 416-488-2875

SPADINA/ST. CLAIR – JUST $649,000
Totally renovated in 2002/03. Multi level condo, 2 bdrm, 3 baths, 10+. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

$539,000 NEW LISTING! 3 BDRM CONDO
Bathurst/Lawrence + End unit, 1,650', 2 balconies, 3 baths, wrap-around windows!! Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

18 WILLIAM CARSON CRES! 2+1BR, 2BTH!
$399K! Yonge/York Mills! Fee SOLD A Home! Fab S/W Corner, Gar, Den Ste! 2 W/O's! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/LAWRENCE $239,000
Immaculate 2 bedroom condo SOLD baths, new kitchen floors + backsplash, parquet throughout. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

GORGEOUS 3 BEDROOM FAMILY HOME $2,500
Ave/Wilson Updated kitchen + 3 baths, fin bsmnt w/rec rm, hardwood, available July '05, 2 yr lease. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

EXECUTIVE UPPER DUPLEX $2,300
Updated 4 bedroom, 2 baths. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

FOR LEASE! 2002 BATHURST ST LOWER LEVEL
2 bedroom unit, laundry facilities, parking at rear, $1,275/mo. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

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REAL ESTATE LIMITED

SPECTACULAR GRAND TUDOR
Perfect executive home. Soaring 2 storey entrance, large principle rooms, 5 bdrms, ensuite bath. Great family home... perfect for entertaining. 100 ft. frontage, 3 car garage. Walk to Denlow school. Don't miss! Corinne Kalles* ext. 555 SOLD

COUNTRY SETTING IN THE CITY !
Spectacular reno & addition w/top of the line fin's. Located on private child-safe courts at York Mills/Bayview. Magnificent kit/great rm. Don't miss. $1, 375K Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

THIS HOME HAS IT ALL....
Soaring clngs, 5 bdrms, oversized family kit, home office, gorgeous deck & garden, mn flr office & family rm, lower level w/home office, steps to subway.....all the bells and whistles! $969,000. Jack Samuel & Corinne Kalles ext. 345/555

MUST SEE TO BELIEVE !
5 Bedrooms family home with family rm & library on the main floor. 3 walk-outs to magnificently landscaped pie shaped lot with new swimming pool. Located in the Denlow school district. This one won't last. Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

BATHURST/ST. CLAIR – IT IS A 10+
Exciting new listing. Beautifully renovated 3 bdrm plus 3rd flr loft retreat, gourmet kitchen, w-outs to decks, CAC, legal parking, sep. in-laws suite. $469,000. Elaine Chelin* ext. 269
*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

Armour Heights Beauty! - $499,900
Totally renovated home! Modern kitchen, south lot & private yard. Many upgrades, prof finished basement-nanny's quarters, rec room & bath.

Bayview/Willowbrook - $474,000
Large 4 bdrm in mature neighbourhood. Main floor laundry & family rm, finished basement w/sauna, rec room & more!

SALLY ROSEN
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STEELES & DOVE HAWKWAY
Elegant 3 bd townhome, 1,850 sq. ft., move-in condition, 3 baths, hrdwd flrs, 9-ft. ceilings, gar. New kitchen. $309,000.
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HEDVA BEN-DAVID
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BATHURST/FLAMINGO
Highcliffe Dr. $599,000. 4 bdrm, 4 baths, Thornhill prestige area, lg kitchen, fin bsmnt.
CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GRP. LTD.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/S. of 401 Townhouse, large executive. 3 bed., 5 appl., 1 1/2 bath, CAC, newly reno'd. $1600/mo+. Call 416-918-5391.

Brooke, 1 block from Bathurst, 3 bdrms., backyard, fin. bsmt., eat-in kit., 5 appls., pkg. & gar. Avail. June 1. Days, 416-783-0179, evenings, 905-886-5515.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

BathurstSteelesCondos.com
2 Bdrms, Free Colour Brochure
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905-764-6000 - Office
GideonWaichenberg.com
Sales Representative

HEATH/SPADINA
10 Tichester. $489,000, Forest Hill, lux 2 bdrm + solarium, fab view, pool, park, 24 security.
GLENCAIRN- W. SUB.
$209,000. 2 bdrm, 3 pce ensuite, pool, sauna, prkg.
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SKYMARK DON MILLS & FINCH
Skymark I: estate sale. Prime SE corner, 2 bedroom + family + solarium + balcony. Approx. 1,650 sq. ft. Hurry - won't last.
Skymark II: 2 bedrooms + solarium. Approx. 1,200 sq. ft. 2 parking. Vacant. Hurry.
SANTEE LEUNG, B.A., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

For Sale, condo./apt., 1+1, spac., facing South, close to Promenade Mall. **Must Sell! Offers welcome**. Evngs. 905-771-5019, 416-825-0227.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Steeles, Primrose, approx. 1200', 2 bdr./2 full bath, lndry., 5 appls., 12th flr., immac. cond., immed. Rick, 416-368-5535.

Bathurst/Steeles - Primrose, lrg lux penthouse, fully reno'd, very bright, eat-it kitch, 2 bdrm, 2 full bthrooms, parking, avail. July 1. Call 416-665-4121.

Bathurst & Steeles,lux. 1300' 2 br. condo. on 1st flr., 2 baths, eat-in kit., solar., sep. liv./din. rm, full ens, lndry. rm., 5 new appls., util./cable incl., 2 gar. spaces + locker. Call 905-731-1840.

55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Host families req'd for Spanish students attending classes. Fee $710. Call 905-881-6340.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Roommate ASAP, a quiet, responsible F for 2 br., spacious, furn. Cat & kosher, $750 util.+cable incl. 416-487-4182.

65 ACCOMMODATION SWAP/EXCHANGE

I'm looking for a bsmt. apt. for exch. of 1 day/wk. house cleaning/cooking. Single female, refs., between Lawr. & Steeles area. Call 416-222-7251.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bathurst/401, renov. large 1 bdrm., next to shul, Baycrest, TTC. $789, July. 416-751-7495.

Bathurst/Sheppard, country feel in the city, spacious, bright, clean boutique apts., quiet ravine setting off main sts., newly reno, TTC, 2 bdrm. avail. imm. Call 905-474-3600, 416-633-1484.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl.
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or 416-631-0388 - Super

Bathurst/Lawrence, 1 bed. bsmnt., full bath, furn'd, close to shuls, shopping. 416-789-1515.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Bathurst/Lawrence, 2 mature students looking for 3rd roommate for Sept. in 1500 sq. ft. duplex/apt. $425 + hydro. Call 613-820-5667 / 905-889-2542.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Couchiching, Orillia, priv. waterfront, 3 bdrm., den, sleeps up to 10, full amen., hot-tub, rowboat w/motor, docks. Avail. July. 416-489-1205.

Belle Ewart, 4 bdrms., private lot, short walk to shul, steps to lake. Available June-Sept. Please call 416-995-9630.

Lake Simcoe Ikfrnt., Beaverton, lux 4 bd., priv. 1 acre sandy beach, tennis, dock, full amens. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

3 bdrm. waterfront cottage for rent on Sparrow Lake. $2199/wk. Call 416-917-6987.

LAKE MUSKOKA, 4 bdrm. waterfront cottage, minimum 2 weeks. Call 416-489-0111.

Belle Ewart/Lake Simcoe, lakefront w/bch, 3 bdrms, A/C, July-Aug., near shul. 416-494-1642.

Trent Severn (Sparrow Lake area), 3 bdr. cottage, screened gazebo, great fishing, casino, golf, shopping avail. in nearby area, all amen., no pets, booking now: weekly & full season rates avail., can e-mail photos. Please call 1-705-325-5238.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Muskoka, spacious 4 bdrm., 2 baths, fully equipped cottage, close to Gravenhurst, lakefront with sandy beach, avail. July 1-25. 905-889-9146 (lve msg)

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

South Florida. Selling, buying, new const. Call me for all your real estate needs. Enid Berk Hey, 954-292-2298, **Keyes Realty**.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

NORTH PALM BEACH, FLA. Spacious well-decorated, 3 bdrm, 2 bth condo, overlooking the Intercoastal. Beautiful sunsets, most comfortable in well-located, well maintained 12 storey building. $2800/month US. November to April, pictures on demand. Car available. Contact sonia.hazon@sympatico.ca

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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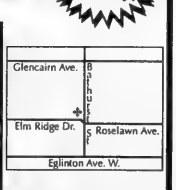

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Coast to Coast

Jewish leaders wanted a meeting with Parizeau

Continued from page 1

he said little publicly about politics, but he was a strong supporter of Canadian unity through his foundation.)

Le Hir quotes Parizeau as saying: "Listen, if Charles Bronfman stays quiet during the referendum campaign, I will be ready to meet the leaders of the Jewish community. Pass the message."

Le Hir, who was first elected in the September 1994 vote that returned the PQ to power after nine years in opposition, says Jewish leaders wanted a meeting with Parizeau because they were worried about community institutions.

Upon his election, Parizeau immediately announced his intention to hold a referendum. Le Hir was minister responsible for restructuring.

In 1993, as director general of the Quebec Manufacturers Association, Le Hir was invited on a Canada-Israel Committee-sponsored trip to Israel, and he developed a rapport with CIC-Quebec president Thomas Hecht.

Through Hecht, whom Le Hir describes as being a little taken aback by Parizeau's demand, Le Hir met with Senator Leo Kolber, Bronfman's longtime right-hand man, at Kolber's home.

"I was particularly sensitive to the surrealistic side of the situation. Sen. Kolber was a very influential man in the ranks of the federal Liberal party. And here I was about to ask him to approach Mr. Bronfman to suggest to him to adopt a low profile during the referendum campaign!"

According to Le Hir, Kolber told him Bronfman was not the type to have anyone dictate how he should behave, but he said he would talk to him.

As it turned out, Bronfman never said anything in the intervening months.

A few weeks before the referendum, Le Hir said, he reminded Parizeau of the commitment the premier made to meet the Jewish community.

Le Hir quotes Parizeau's response: "The referendum is nearing and I must concentrate all my efforts on the 'Tabarnacos' [a derogatory term Parizeau used to refer to so-called soft nationalists]… [vice-premier Bernard] Landry is dealing with the Jews."

Parizeau then told Le Hir that the next day he, Parizeau, would be meeting with the Jewish community in Boisbriand, the Tasher Chassidim.

"I couldn't believe my ears. Not only was he going back on a commitment that he had incited me to transmit to the leaders of the Montreal Jewish community, a community he knew had every reservation about the sovereignty project and must overcome hostility, but there he was showing the most profound contempt for people he was about to solicit votes from."

Le Hir told *The CJN* that he brought up any further comments on his accusations.

Bronfman never said anything in the intervening months

Parizeau's comments 10 years later because he is still sorry Parizeau did not keep his promise and because of the former premier's "insulting" behaviour to the Jewish community. "It was totally wrong, it was cheating, especially when you're talking about a community you know you have a bad rapport with."

Le Hir said, however, that he did not at the time find it peculiar that Parizeau asked a citizen to forgo his freedom of speech in exchange for meeting other citizens that the premier was elected to represent. "In politics it happens all the time, on both sides. Everything is bought and traded."

He said he never found out if Kolber relayed Parizeau's message or if Bronfman paid any attention to it.

Le Hir also said that meeting with the Tasher Chassidim, a "marginal" group that's not involved in community decision-making, shows how poorly PQ leaders understood the Jewish community.

As well, Le Hir said his revelation sheds new light on Parizeau's thinking when he blamed "money and the ethnic vote" for the narrow defeat of the sovereignty option in 1995.

On referendum night in 1995, Le Hir told Radio-Canada that Parizeau's declaration was "unacceptable."

He left cabinet 10 days later, and he resigned from the PQ caucus the next month to sit as an independent. He did not seek re-election and left the sovereignty movement. Today, Le Hir, 57, is a business consultant.

Kolber told *The CJN* he has no recollection of Le Hir making such a request of him or even coming to his house. "He may be right in what he says, but I just don't remember. At that time, we were holding 40 or 50 dinners a year at our house. I can't confirm or deny it, but it sounds plausible."

Hecht, whom Le Hir says was the person who came to him initially to seek a community meeting with Parizeau, said he does remember making the introduction between Le Hir and Kolber and being at Kolber's home the night he hosted Le Hir. Hecht, however, said he was not privy to any conversation Kolber and Le Hir may have had about Bronfman, and knew nothing about Parizeau's alleged request to muzzle Bronfman.

Kolber said it was not likely Bronfman would have made any public comment during the 1995 referendum.

"After 1976, he did not want to put himself on public display again."

Efforts to reach Bronfman and Parizeau for comment were unsuccessful, but Parizeau's assistant Pierre Rousseau said that, in general, the former premier did not not want to comment on the Le Hir article.

Louis-Pascal Cyr, Landry's press attaché, said the current PQ leader "gives no credibility to Le Hir at all, but he is not making

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By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Mike Cammalleri has excelled at pretty well every level of hockey he's played in, and after a monster 106-point year in the American Hockey League (AHL), success in the NHL remains his final frontier.

Cammalleri's been up and down with the Los Angeles Kings, the team that selected him in the second round – 49th overall – of the 2001 Entry draft, but he hasn't really stuck yet.

As a rookie with the Kings in the 2002-03 season, he played 28 games before being injured. During the next season he played 31 games and scored nine goals and six assists.

But it's been with the Manchester Monarchs, the Kings' AHL affiliate, where his success has been most pronounced. In 13 games during his rookie pro season, he scored 20 points, and last season he racked them up at a rate of a point per game, scoring 39 in 41 games.

This past season was something of a breakout year, however. He battled highly regarded Jason Spezza, an Ottawa Senator property and a good friend, for the scoring championship, coming second overall but finishing as the AHL's top goal scorer with 46 in 79 games.

In six playoff games, he scored six points, but the Atlantic Division-leading Monarchs were upset by the Providence Bruins in the first round.

He's back home in Richmond Hill now, decompressing from an intense hockey season and wondering what might have been had there been no lockout in the NHL.

As with most professional hockey players, next season remains something of a mystery. The lockout, he said, has been "terrible for everybody, for fans, for industry that thrives on hockey, and I don't think it will have a positive effect in the United States."

"It's hard on us," he continued. "We play our whole lives. Our careers aren't very long and you want to enjoy it as much as you can."

Only 22, Cammalleri no doubt has many good seasons ahead of him. And he has all the tools necessary for success – he's fast, he's aggressive, he's competitive, he's smart with the puck, and he's equally adept at scoring goals and setting up linemates.

His coach in Manchester, former Toronto Maple Leaf Bruce Boudreau, said Cammalleri was his go-to guy in pretty well every situation, particularly in the second half of the season. "If I needed a big face off, Mike was out there. If I needed a penalty killed, Mike was out there. If I needed regular strength points, Mike was out there."

As a result of Cammalleri's dominant role on the team – he finished 35 points ahead of the second leading point-getter – a lot of other teams took runs at him.

"He put up with a lot of crap," Boudreau said.

But one of Cammalleri's main intangibles is that "he's an incredibly competitive young man. He wants to win, he wants to be the best in every situation. He wants to be leaned on," the coach added.

Despite Cammalleri's modest stature – he's five-foot-nine, 188 lbs. – Boudreau believes Cammalleri has a legitimate shot at being an NHL regular. It was only injuries that ended his seasons with the Kings, he said.

And when it comes to the skill department, there are few who are better than Cammalleri, he continued. His anticipation and puck smarts are tremendous, Boudreau said. "He's the smartest player I've had the good fortune to coach. He sees the ice well. He can take a one-timer better than any player I've seen."

And, "he reads plays like Gretzky and Lemieux."

High compliments indeed.

Cammalleri has always been a top player. Skating for the University of Michigan Wolverines, he was a Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) first team all-star and a NCAA West second team all-American in 2001. The next year, he was named a CCHA first team all-star and was a NCAA West first team all-American.

At the 2002 World Junior Championship in the Czech Republic, he led the tournament with seven goals and four assists, but Canada finished second. The year before in Moscow, he earned a bronze medal as a member of the Canadian team while racking up six points in seven games.

The visit to the Czech Republic brought him to the homeland of one of his maternal grandparents. His grandparents on his mother's side are Holocaust survivors and he accompanied his "Bub," Adele Gelbard, to a recent 60th anniversary commemoration of the liberation of Europe.

Mike Cammalleri

His father's family is originally from Sicily and Cammalleri said both his mom's (Ruth Gelbard's) and his father's heritages are respected at home.

Growing up in Woodbridge and Richmond Hill, Cammalleri was something of a hockey prodigy. He started skating at three and by age 11, he was playing AAA hockey in the MTHL for the Toronto Red Wings.

At 15, he was a star for the Junior A Bramalea Blues. He was so good he was already being courted by several U.S. college and OHL teams.

He chose the U.S. college route and after fast-tracking his way through high school – he finished in three years instead of four – he joined the Wolverines at age 17 for the 1999-2000 season.

The way he talks about it now, he couldn't have made a better decision. "It was just paradise for a kid that age.

"I wanted to be part at the University of Michigan. I just wanted the lifestyle. It was the best three years of my life."

In three seasons with Michigan, he scored 65 goals and 131 points in 110 career games.

He signed with the Kings prior to his senior year. At the time, Kings' GM Dave Taylor said "Michael was generally regarded as the best player in college hockey this past season."

In his first game in the NHL, in Ottawa, he earned an assist, setting up Mathieu Schneider, one of the few Jews in the league, for a goal.

Cammalleri is confident he has a bright future in the NHL. Had it not been for the lockout, he believes he'd have played for the Kings.

"I know where I belong," he said. "In the NHL."

Olympic swimmer to head U.S. Maccabiah team

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Olympic gold medalist Lenny Krayzelburg will serve as captain of the U.S. team at this summer's Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Maccabiah USA officials said last week that Krayzelburg was given the honour in part because he skipped the 2001 World Championships to be flag bearer for the American team during the 2001 Maccabiah Games. Thousands of athletes from around the world will take part in the July competition.

Kosher fressing on tap at Marlins game

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MIAMI — The Florida Marlins recently hosted a Jewish day at the ballpark. At last Sunday's game against the New York Mets in Miami, Israel's national anthem was to be sung in addition to *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Glatt kosher snacks, including hot dogs, falafel and Chinese food, were also served in the ol' ball park.

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Stronach's self-assurance makes her a role model

Since I was little, I've often been accused of overanalysing situations, driving myself crazy by thinking things through until they no longer made any sense to me.

I used to think my "over-reactionary" tendencies had a lot to do with being insecure and so, it made sense that I would always be second-guessing everything about myself.

Now, I think I was probably just trying to get a clear picture of the kind of girl I am.

By SANDIE BENITAH

I used to have this wonderful English teacher who made his students giggle by explaining that we should drop the "I think" from our essays and from our vocabulary.

"Of course you think, dummy, that's why you're saying it," he would say.

So let me rephrase.

I was trying to get a clear picture of the kind of girl I am.

There. A little more of a bold statement but a much scarier one to make.

As I'm starting my career in the field of journalism, where your words and ideas are out there for everyone to see, I can't help but take a step back after every word I write and every idea I put forth as it is often through this column and other stuff that I write that I begin to understand what and who is Sandie Benitah.

However, it's not so easy to take a step back from conversations with people.

At work the other day, I got a letter from an angry gentleman who didn't like a story I wrote about his favourite politician. My boss patted me on the back for stirring up controversy and at home, my mom patted my back and tried to stop my tears.

That didn't stop me from going over the story again and again, poring over each detail and scrutinizing where I might have interjected a bias.

Here I was, second-guessing myself and my research because one person, one stranger, took offence to something I said. But as I looked through my words, I knew I wasn't really searching for a mistake that I had made. I was looking for signs that maybe, throughout this journey, I had somehow become a person who was jaded, mean-spirited and ignorant.

Soon after, the news hit about Conservative member of Parliament Belinda Stronach crossing the parliamentary floor to the Liberals, and right away, I saw just how crucial self-assurance can be. Stronach has always been somewhat of a role model for me because she has never been afraid to wear pink while being a powerhouse. She puts herself on the line without making any apologies for who she is, and when people treat her as a sex symbol and ignore her insights and articulate ideas, she continues to stand on the public podium with the same dress, the same smile and the same views as if she is deaf to public opinion. While other politicians survive only on conforming to the popular view of the day, Belinda knows who she is and is her own biggest supporter, and for that, she's an incredible force all on her own.

In journalism, when the job is to write about other people, it's easy to stop questioning the kind of person you have become, and I guess to that end, it's easy to understand why journalists are considered to be the most hated people, along with politicians. To that end, I hope I never do stop second-guessing myself, but at some point in my life, as a journalist or as a young woman, or as anything I want to be, I know that if I don't stand firmly behind my convictions, my words, my self, I certainly can't expect anybody else to do so either.

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1/2 tsp cinnamon

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I recently went out for dinner with a group of friends and we got into a discussion about tipping. It's amazing how diverse the opinions were. I know there is an acceptable amount most people tip, but it's amazing how many people don't know! Could you please list appropriate tipping information. I would appreciate it.

Tipping Tips

Dear Tipping Tips,

This topic has come up a few times, so after doing a bit of research, here is what I came up with.

- Restaurants – 15-20 per cent before tax. I always add up the taxes on the bill and leave that. If the service is terrible, speak to the manager and remember not to blame the server for mistakes made in the kitchen.
- Wine steward – 10 per cent of the wine bill.
- Maitre d' – no tip unless you get a special table, or come in without a reservation, then $5-$20 depending on the restaurant.
- Coat check – $1
- Restroom attendant – $1
- Valet parking – $1-$2, given when car is returned.
- Buffet or self-serve – it is not necessary to tip unless there is some service, then tip 10 per cent.
- Food delivery – 10-15 per cent of total bill, but not less than $2.
- Taxis – 10-15 per cent of total. Not less than $1.
- Barber – $2-$3.
- Hair stylist or colourist – 10-20 per cent. Shampoo or other assistant – $2-$5 each person.
- Manicure or facial – 15 per cent
- Massage therapist – No tip if at doctor's office. 10-15 per cent otherwise.
- Spa package – If gratuities are not included, then 10-20 per cent split among the service providers. This is a great time to use those little envelopes at the front desk.

Owners who provide any of the above services should be tipped as shown above.

Common sense must play a role as well. Tip more for exemplary service and less for poor service. These amounts should be used only as a guide. Tipping is still a way of saying thank you to the people working in the service industry.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Ending bullying through LOVE

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

In 1993, Sheila (Twinkle) Rudberg and her husband witnessed a petty theft in the streets of Montreal. Mr. Rudberg prevailed upon the thief. He was stabbed to death by the young teen.

Some people get angry when such acts are perpetrated against a loved one. Others get even. Twinkle got creative.

After the murder, the courageous widow became curious about the 14-year-old who killed her beloved husband. She discovered that his mother was rarely around and he had run away and joined a gang.

Twinkle saw the boy as a victim and began taking a daring stand against violence and bullying among youth, with the hope of finding ways to help them through compassion and caring.

Out of this was born LOVE (Leave out ViolenceE) – a non-profit organization that develops violence prevention programs by taking young people who have had direct experience with violence and training them to promote non-violence in our communities.

Today, LOVE operates in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Vancouver and New York City. Its staff of 25 have trained more than 1,000 youth – through such creative programs as its photojournalism and broadcast journalism course – who subsequently have taught more than 35,000 others about the ills of bullying, and about methods to overcome anger and the inclination to intimidate others.

Dana Zosky is executive director of LOVE's Ontario office. A highly energetic person who beams when she speaks about LOVE, Zosky says the organization has helped raise the self-esteem of many reformed bullies and victims of bullying, and encouraged them to continue on to post-secondary educational programs.

"Many," she adds, "would otherwise have practised self-mutilation, continued to fight and isolate themselves from their parents, or be dead."

The need for LOVE is crucial. Surveys show that up to 30 per cent of children in school have been bullied, and 10 per cent have been bullied relentlessly. Further, studies show that many bullying victims take their own lives rather than return to the terror they suffer in school.

Zosky adds that while bullying occurs regularly in high-risk neighbourhoods, many private schools, including Jewish ones (where LOVE has held workshops), exhibit similar problems. (Recently, a Jewish day school caught three of its students beating up a fellow student and called the police.)

LOVE's literature states that schools are not set up to fight bullying and that the vast majority of students are "good," but often remain silent when challenged by this issue. LOVE's brochures and newsletters also note that bullying happens at most schools, and it happens among boys and girls.

Kosky says female bullies can be ruthless, using verbal and emotional intimidation on students they perceive as weak. Female bullies have also been known to publish websites showing pictures of a victim in compromising positions, or writing "bitch" or "slut" on a person's locker.

Kosky says there are no innocent bystanders when it comes to bullying and violence in schools. Although she doesn't agree with the extreme nature of "zero tolerance" polices toward violence, she believes anti-bullying policies and quick and effective responses are key.

Kosky advises students who witness bullying to collectively approach the bully and tell the person to stop. She says bullies get power from groups and if they are alone, or challenged, they will often stop their shameful behaviour.

LOVE is an inspiring organization. It has worked with school superintendents, principals, guidance counsellors, teachers, parents, police and, of course, young people. It also publishes *ONE LOVE*, a newspaper distributed to more than 100,000 people through schools, libraries and health clinics. In 2002, LOVE was the recipient of the Mayor's Community Saftey Award for its work in youth violence prevention.

"Most students are good kids, but they need to stand up. It's hard, but it's right," Kosky says.

For more information, visit www.leaveoutviolence.com, or call 416-785-8411.

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This Week

National

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Hungarian Jewish survivors could receive humanitarian aid. *Page 6*

Party Supplement

Mazel Tov! Our summer simchah pages are here. *Section B*

Arts & Travel

Berlin museum charts the Jewish presence in Germany. *Page 40*

Sports & Leisure

Israeli rink to host major hockey event. *Page 50*

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MAKING PEACE: Inspired by their common heritage in the patriarch Abraham, more than 480 Arab and Jewish children, aged 9 to 11 come together at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem in a special program called the "Image of Abraham Project." The children are pupils at local schools. The project, now entering its eighth year, aims to create understanding and respect between Arabs and Jews at a young age through shared history and culture. *[Israel photo]*

Capacity crowd attends Jewish Book Awards night

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

As he accepted the top fiction prize at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards, Toronto author David Bezmozgis noted the special appropriateness of receiving such an honour so close to the thriving Russian-Jewish community he writes about in his internationally acclaimed collection *Natasha and Other Stories*.

"It's something special for me to be standing here because the stories are written up and down Bathurst Street," he told the capacity crowd at the Leah Posluns Theatre on May 30. He also said that since Isaac Bashevis Singer had spoken some Yiddish when accepting his Nobel prize, he, too, would venture to speak a few words of Russian, as his grandfather and parents were in the audience.

"I was surprised by the size of the turnout," Bezmozgis told *The CJN*. "I hadn't expected it to be such a large event. The hall was packed, so it was very encouraging. I think it's great that these awards exist."

The presence of the 31-year-old locally grown literary sensation was not the only factor to lend an aura of big-league excitement to the 17th annual awards, which drew its biggest audience ever. This year's awards ceremony was the first to benefit from a generous operating grant from Lillian and Norman Glowinsky in memory of Lillian's parents, Helen and Stan Vine.

Continued on page 41

Hamas are terrorists: Martin

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Hamas cannot be a regarded as a player in the Palestinian political process until it disarms, Prime Minister Paul Martin emphasized in an interview with *The CJN*.

"Let's not waffle. Hamas are terrorists. Period. Terrorism is incompatible with democracy… They should lay down their arms," Martin said.

'They should lay down their arms'

Martin, however, was not as categorical on whether the Canadian government's position might change if Hamas wins significant support in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections scheduled for July 17. He said he cannot "anticipate" the outcome of the election or answer "hypothetical" questions.

Asked if Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas has done enough to rein in Hamas and other groups using violence, Martin replied: "I think he has made great progress. He should be encouraged to do more. We have to be very supportive of him."

Martin described the election of Abbas in January as "a window of opportunity… It is important that he succeeds."

Martin did not backtrack from his firm statement during Abbas' visit to Ottawa in May that Israel's settlements are illegal, but he did describe Israel's planned disengagement from Gaza and part of the West Bank as a "major move" that also must succeed.

"The pullout from Gaza has got to go well. Very clearly, Israel's building settlements is not acceptable under the road map," Martin said.

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More terror coming after Gaza pullout, Ya'alon warns — See page 32

The News in Brief

CANADA

Rabbi Gets Award

TORONTO — Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director and founder of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto, has been named one of three recipients of the 15th annual Covenant awards for outstanding Jewish educators in North America. The awards, worth $25,000 each to the winners and an additional $5,000 each to their institution, will be presented in November at the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Toronto. The New York-based Covenant Foundation was set up in 1990 by the Crown Family Foundation and the Jewish Education Service of North America.

WORLD

Cdn. Mission to Cuba

HAVANA — The Toronto-based Canadian Friends of Cuban Jewry (CFCJ) recently completed its 91st mission to Cuba. In addition to bringing supplies and humanitarian aid, the group helped a young local man, Shimon Barrocas, who had been studying in the CFCJ's student placement program, get married and travel to Buenos Aires, where he enrolled in rabbinical college.

Firm Wins Contract

TEL AVIV — Ormat Technologies has won a contract to build a $9.2 million (US), five-megawatt power plant fuelled by recovered energy for an unnamed pipeline company in Western Canada, the Israeli energy firm said last week. The plant will convert waste heat from an existing gas turbine on the Canadian company's pipeline into electrical power.

Malta Mikvah Saved

VALLETTA, Malta — Malta's only mikvah has been saved. The 80 Jewish families on the Mediterranean island were told the mikvah building would be sold unless they raised $40,000 (US). A New York donor linked to Chabad Lubavitch donated $25,000 and local Jews raised the rest. The donor, who has no other link to Malta, was said to be moved by the late Lubavitcher Rebbe's words that a community must have a mikvah, even if it's just for one woman.

Rabbi Speaks in Syria

JERUSALEM — An American Orthodox rabbi took part in a televised, interfaith conversation in Syria. On a panel with Muslim and Christian leaders, Rabbi Marc Gopin spoke May 25 about Judaism and peace at the Arab Authors Union in Damascus, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. It was his second bridge-building trip to Syria this year. "There has never been a meeting like this before, not only of the three religions but also with a group that can ask questions," said Rabbi Gopin, an academic and head of the Center for World Religions and Diplomacy at Virginia's George Mason University, referring to the dozens of people in the audience.

'Deep Throat' Is Not Jewish

NEW YORK — A former FBI agent who outed himself as Watergate's "Deep Throat" is not Jewish, contrary to what former U.S. president Richard Nixon and his aides believed.

Mark Felt, 91, revealed himself to *Vanity Fair* magazine late last month as the man who selectively leaked information to the *Washington Post* in the 1970s-era Watergate scandal. The leaks led to Nixon's resignation and made "Deep Throat" the best-known anonymous source of the last century.

Nixon, who clashed with Felt over the FBI's refusal to use questionable means to track down leaks, came to suspect that Felt leaked information.

In a 1972 conversation recorded on tapes made by Nixon, top aide H.R. Haldeman tells Nixon that Felt is Jewish. Nixon expresses shock that a Jew could have reached such a senior post, and speculates that Felt – former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's right-hand man – might be leaking information because he is Jewish.

In fact, Felt is of Irish ancestry and has no religious affiliation, news coverage of his admission stressed last week.

Citizenship Stripped

MILWAUKEE — The U.S. citizenship of a former Nazi concentration camp guard was revoked. Yugoslav-born Josias Kumpf, 80, of Racine, Wisc., testified in court that in 1943 he stood guard at a pit containing dead and wounded Jews with orders to kill anyone who tried to escape. He was also an armed guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and an SS labour camp in Poland. He plans to appeal.

Khodorkovsky Jailed

MOSCOW — In a widely expected decision, a Russian court last week sentenced Jewish oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man, to nine years in jail after finding him guilty of six charges, including tax evasion, fraud and embezzlement. Khodorkovsky's business partner, Platon Lebedev, a non-Jew, was also given nine years on the same charges. Most observers say Khodorkovsky wasn't targeted because he is Jewish, but many Jews feel his trial led to a rise in anti-Semitic sentiment in Russia.

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USDS to consolidate its three campuses

Enrolment down over 200 students in two years

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Faced with an enrolment drop of more than 200 students in two years, United Synagogue Day School last week unveiled a plan to combine three campuses into two for September 2006.

The mood at the school's annual general meeting, held last Thursday at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, was tense as USDS board president Allen Gales described how USDS' Richmond Hill campus – on Bayview Avenue north of Weldrick Road – and its Bayview campus – at Beth Tikvah Synagogue south of Finch Avenue – will merge and be housed at Beth Tikvah for the 2006-07 school year.

Meanwhile, USDS will try to sell the Richmond Hill campus, which is also home to Beit Rayim Synagogue.

The Bathurst campus, located at Beth Tzedec Congregation south of Eglinton Avenue, will undergo an extensive $18-million renovation to add more classrooms, a gym and underground parking. To date, $6.1 million has been raised to finance that renovation.

At Bathurst and Weldrick, USDS' new northern branch will join a new Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) campus and Jewish Community Centre (JCC) on the northern site of UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) development.

The Vaughan campus is set to open in time for the 2008-09 school year.

According to the school's overall plan, once the redevelopment of the Bathurst campus is done, students at Bayview will relocate to Bathurst.

Bayview will then either close or have its status "redefined."

At the meeting, Gales had the difficult task of convincing hundreds of parents and teachers that downsizing from three campuses to two is a logical first step.

"Right now, USDS comprises three campuses serving 1,000 students. At one time, we had 1,400 kids in three campuses. One thousand students cannot work with three campuses. Our population continues to decline and this is consistent with [the experience of] other Toronto Jewish day schools," Gales said.

He said that USDS has about 100 fewer students this year compared to 2003-04 (when it had about 1,100), and the board estimates enrolment will continue to decline, dropping to 887 by next September.

He blamed the drop on many factors, including lower Jewish birth rates, rising tuition – which at USDS hovers at around the standard Jewish day school fee of $10,000 – as well as increased competition and location.

While it's expected that USDS' enrolment will jump back to 1,017 by 2010 as birth rates rise again, Gales said USDS must deal quickly with the same problem that many Toronto Jewish day schools are facing rather than wait for the situation to get worse.

"One of the major challenges at USDS is that two of our campuses are not in the right location. It's not where Jewish populations are growing," he said, referring to the Bayview and Richmond Hill branches.

He cited research conducted by UJA Federation that suggests 70 per cent of people moving into the JTT Vaughan area are Jewish and that until recently, 50 per cent of new USDS students were coming from north of Steeles Avenue, the Toronto-Vaughan border.

The hope, said Gales, is that the Richmond Hill-Bayview merger will save USDS more than $1 million. This, along with the sale of the Richmond Hill campus, will eliminate the school's operating deficit.

He said if the board fails to act now, by the end of 2006, USDS will have a $2.5 million debt. "If we leave status quo and don't touch anything, we will continue to lose $1.7 million more a year."

Anticipating a heated debate, Brian Goldberg, USDS' immediate past president, asked that parents allow each other to make statements and ask questions without interruption.

Continued on page 22

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Anticipating summer

This is the time of year that, for most of us, brings with it a sense of happy anticipation. Summer is just a few days away. The longer days and higher sun lighten our mood. And we think of vacation and the possibilities of frivolity that the weighty winter somehow abjures.

In Israel, however, there is nothing frivolous or light about the particular summer that looms ahead.

"There is a pervasive feeling that this will not be a pleasant summer," Amotz Asa-El, the executive editor of the *Jerusalem Post* told a luncheon gathering last week in Toronto. "Chances are high that blood will be shed, that Jews will be killing Jews. We don't want to be surprised as we were last decade. But there are extremist circles whose responses could get out of hand."

Asa-El was referring, of course, to the possible responses to Israel's upcoming withdrawal, after Tisha b'Av, from the 21 communities in Gaza and four in the northern West Bank.

The image of Jews forcibly removing other Jews from their homes is a harsh one. And yet, despite the pain, the upcoming withdrawal is supported by the majority mainstream within Israel.

"The disengagement plan," Asa-El said unequivocally, "heralds the re-emergence and restoration of the Israeli – and, I would add, the Jewish consensus." (By "Jewish," I believe he meant the Jews around the world.)

"By the mid-1980s, the internal conflict was tearing Israel apart." The "internal conflict" referred to is the conflict between the two different ideological blocs within Israeli society that emerged after the Six Day War regarding the future of the territories that came under Israel's flag in June 1967, namely the "Land-for-Peace" school and the "Greater Israel" school. Both blocs saw themselves as fulfilling historic Jewish aims: the former, of granting Jewish people peace, and the latter, of returning to the biblical borders of Israel.

"Then we went to Oslo, trying to reshape the Middle East through diplomacy. Israel was prepared to make peace with its neighbours by giving land for peace. The Cold War was over; perhaps it could be done.

"But since then," Asa-El quickly added with the first trace of bitterness, "we have sobered up. The failure of Camp David opened our eyes. Not only did Yasser Arafat not make peace, but he resorted to violence, not only to violence but to violence directed at civilians."

There is no doubt, Asa-El said, the resort to violence by Arafat and the subsequent seeming embrace of that violence by the Palestinian people marked the turning point in the thinking of the large middle within the two ideological blocs.

"A new consensus has emerged in Israel. The moderate middle Israelis drew new conclusions about the adversary," Asa El said. "Peace was not possible with the Arabs in this generation.

"Ariel Sharon has disavowed parts of the 'Greater Israel' stream of thought and is now building a security barrier. He is not deluding Israelis that this approach is Utopia. It is, rather, pragmatic. It is not yet peace, but perhaps it will be a more peaceful life… While we are in for an unpleasant summer, in the longer term we are doing the right thing. Israeli society will emerge through this more humble and more optimistic."

In Toronto as part of a speaking tour of Canada arranged by the Canada-Israel Committee, Asa-El is uniquely qualified to talk about the mainstream majority in Israel. An Israeli-born scholar journalist with advanced degrees in journalism and history from Columbia University and the Hebrew University, he writes a column in the *Jerusalem Post* called "Middle Israel." He joined the *Post* in 1995 and has been the paper's business, news and overseas edition editor.

Asa-El was soft-spoken, yet forceful in his observations. He spoke without rancor but with grim determination.

The "extreme" popularity of Hamas among Palestinians, he pointed out, "enhances the view of Middle Israel that no change of heart [among the Palestinians] accompanied Oslo. There has been no educational effort undertaken among Palestinians the way [Anwar] Sadat attempted with his people after 1979.

"The Archimedean balance point [for Israelis] is simply this: what is the attitude toward Israel on the part of the average Palestinian? The damage that the Palestinians inflicted on the minds of Israel was immeasurable by releasing suicide bombers and terrorists to attack Israeli innocents and children."

He believes that Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas "squandered his opportunity that arose right after the elections to start the re-education process [of Palestinian society]. He had the momentum right after the election, but he chose not to embark on a new path."

With a steely resolve born of a life defending Israel, Asa-El provided the following perspective on Israel's existential struggle: "Israel's detractors do not realize that their treatment of Israel harkens back to the echoes of the treatment of the 'historic Jew.' Ever since 1967, Israel has been perceived as a military power while its enemies have been perceived as an underdog. But Israelis believe that we are more vulnerable than the other side. Israelis are the historic Jew whose immediate ancestors went through [the European inferno]. We are the historic Jew, but we no longer wander. We are the historic Jew, but we will defend ourselves. We are the historic Jew, but we will no longer be publicly humiliated."

—MBD

SeeJN

LAG B'OMER: Netivot HaTorah Day School students enjoyed a day of outdoor activities to celebrate Lag b'Omer. Having fun blowing bubbles are preschoolers William Ayayi, David Arshawsky and Daniel Cohen. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

International Caravan to open without Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

More than 50 countries and ethnic communities will be represented at the upcoming International Caravan festival in Toronto, but neither the State of Israel nor the Jewish community will be among them.

Communities from India, Belize, Peru, Cyprus, Mongolia, Tahiti and even "Palestine" are expected to operate pavilions at the festival, alongside more established communities such as Ukraine, Russia, China and the United States. However, the Jerusalem Pavilion, which for many years was mounted by B'nai Brith Canada at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre (now the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre) won't be included.

Absence of an Israeli cultural pavilion could mean a lost opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of the Jewish state

"Jerusalem" has not been part of the Caravan celebrations for at least four years, said Jon Witchel, a volunteer organizer who was involved in mounting the pavilion for 19 years. Financial considerations, along with the difficulty in staffing the site and the disruption caused by the renovation of the downtown community centre, put the pavilion in mothballs, he said.

Witchel was asked by Kirk Jensen, president of International Caravan, to head a reconstituted Jerusalem Pavilion, but he said he found the effort too great for a single individual.

Absence of an Israeli cultural pavilion could mean a lost opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of the Jewish state.

A public policy research analysis conducted on behalf of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), in conjunction with the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), concluded that one way to make Israel's case would be to highlight similarities between it and Canada.

Three of the four "important advocacy imperatives" would "put a human face on Israel; demonstrate that Canada and Israel share common values; and... create family-oriented messages that Canadians can relate to," the report stated.

CIJA's website states the organization aims at "providing an informed perspective on our community for all Canadians."

The festival's new format would appear to lend themselves to presenting that message in a family-oriented venue before a mass audience. Jensen said as many as 300,000 people are expected to attend this year's festivities, which run from June 21 to July 4.

For the first time in Caravan's 37-year history, the event will be held in a single location at Downsview Park, as opposed to pavilions scattered across the city. Two hundred thousand square feet of indoor space has been set aside, along with nine acres of land outdoors.

Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto, said his office had hoped to participate in Caravan by bringing in cultural entertainment from Israel

In addition to the displays mounted by various cultural communities, visitors will be treated to traditional dance troupes on stage 12 hours a day, with more than 200 flying in from around the world, authentic cuisine in an international food court, an international bazaar, an international art gallery featuring works from 22 countries, a men's soccer tournament, a kids' world entertainment area and a fashion competition.

Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto, said his office had hoped to participate in Caravan by bringing in cultural entertainment from Israel, but could not do so because of financial constraints.

"The budget is limited, so regrettably, sometime we have to give up some things.

"We strongly believe that every cultural event we bring from Israel contributes to [showcasing] the other angle of Israel we are proud of and shows the other side of Israel, not just the political, the terror side," he said.

Jensen said sharing others' cultures is the raison d'etre of Caravan.

The beauty of the event is "I get to know your culture," he said.

"If I take the time to learn more about your cultural background, then I get to know you better as a person. Once I have that understanding, we will most likely get along better... Now I can respect our differences, and we can get along as brothers and sisters. In the long run, we will live in a more harmonious and peaceful neighbourhood," he stated.

Despite the proximity of the Caravan launch, Jensen said it was not too late to include the Jerusalem pavilion. "I would embrace that wholeheartedly," he said.

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Hungarian survivors may receive $1.5M in aid

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors in Canada could receive more than $1.5 million (Cdn) in humanitarian aid if a proposed settlement with the United States government is approved later this year.

Canada stands to be allotted six per cent of a $21-million (US) settlement in the so-called Gold Train case, in which Hungarian Holocaust survivors sued the U.S. government for the loss of valuables seized from the Nazis at the end of World War II.

Late last year, the U.S. government agreed to pay $25.5 million in humanitarian aid to Hungarian Jews rather than individual damages. In April, a Florida court gave preliminary approval to the settlement.

The action had been launched in Miami in 2001 on behalf of all Hungarian Jews who claimed losses arising from the seizure of the Gold Train.

According to the suit, the Nazis and their Hungarian collaborators stole thousands of valuables – paintings, jewelry, stamps and coins, Oriental rugs, fine china and glassware, lace, silver and religious items – mostly from Hungarian Jews, and packed them onto a train bound for Germany.

Shortly after the Allied victory in Europe in May 1945, American troops captured the train, consisting of about 24 freight cars, in Austria.

But the lawsuit alleged that the U.S. government never returned the valuables to the Hungarian victims, their survivors or to Hungary. Some of the victims were also from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Romania, parts of which had been been ceded to the fascist Hungarian government.

The action said the loot had been appropriated by the U.S. Army, with some senior officers even taking the choicest goods for themselves.

Between 30,000 and 50,000 Hungarian Jews or their survivors in the United States and other countries might have been eligible to receive a maximum of $10,000 (US) each had the case gone to trial. The original amount sought by the plaintiffs was $300 million.

Instead, the U.S. government agreed to settle the action. In so doing, "the United States denies that it did anything wrong. The settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing or an indication that any law was violated," according to a statement at www.hungariangoldtrain.org.

The settlement includes all those whose personal property was seized or stolen by the Hungarian government, and all heirs or estates.

The agreement will cover basic services, including health care, for Hungarian Jews in the United States, Canada, Hungary, Israel and other countries, based on need.

The six per cent allocated to Canadian agencies is a proposed figure, stressed Hillary Kessler-Godin of the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also known as the Claims Conference.

She told *The CJN* that a fairness hearing will be held before a judge in late September. The settlement could be finalized soon after that, with the Claims Conference to oversee the distribution of funds in Canada.

Kessler-Godin said a distribution formula for Canadian agencies has not been worked out yet.

There are 2,960 Holocaust survivors of Hungarian descent in this country, according to Judy Cohen, who serves on the executive of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada and is a Hungarian survivor herself.

Of those, 1,455 live in Toronto, 1,140 in Montreal, 95 each in Vancouver and Ottawa, 65 in Winnipeg, 20 each in Kitchener and Calgary and about 15 in Edmonton.

"It's a lousy settlement but maybe it's the best we can get," Cohen said. "There's no alternative and nobody's going to put up another fight."

Cohen said there's no way of knowing how many of the Hungarian survivors are needy. But an extensive study released last summer showed that one-quarter of Canada's 23,000-plus Holocaust survivors were poor, that over 3,000 were poor and lived alone, and that over 10,000 had one or more disabilities.

In Toronto, three agencies stand to benefit from the Gold Train settlement: Jewish Family & Child Service, the Baycrest Centre and Circle of Care.

Arnold Foss of Circle of Care told *The CJN* that he has already been asked by the Claims Conference to submit a grant proposal on how the Gold Train funds would be spent by his agency.

The funds would help clients with home services (including housekeeping, cooking and personal care), respite care, kosher meals-on-wheels, transportation, and emergency services, Foss said.

Earlier this spring, Hungarian Holocaust survivors in Canada already receiving war-era compensation were mailed a notice of the proposed settlement. It advised that no action be taken if the recipient wishes to be part of the settlement. But in so doing, the applicant "gives up the right to be part of any other lawsuit against the U.S. government about the Hungarian Gold Train."

To be eligible to benefit, one must have been born before May 8, 1945 and lived in the 1944 borders of Hungary sometime between 1939 and 1945. One must also meet qualifying criteria for "need."

According to hungariangoldtrain.org, "need will be determined based upon criteria similar in nature to those used in that place for existing programs benefiting Nazi victims (e.g., individuals' health, disability and financial situation)."

Some $4.5 million (US) was deducted from the total settlement to pay legal fees, expenses and awards to the named plaintiffs.

The U.S. government has also agreed to set aside $500,000 to fund and create an archive that will document the story of the Gold Train and the looting of Hungary's Jews during the war. Three experts will be chosen to select a museum or research institute to house the archive.

When the case is finally over, the U.S. government says it will an issue a "statement of acknowledgment" about the Gold Train.

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A PERFECT SCORE: Marky Freeman, a Grade 6 student at Associated Hebrew School's Danilack campus, got a perfect score in the Canadian National Mathematics League competition, tying for first place. Over all, Associated placed ninth in Canada and fifth in Ontario. More than 35 students from the school participated in the competition, which attracted 467 schools from across the country.

USDS MATH CHAMPS: Grades 6, 7 and 8 students from the United Synagogue Day School Bayview campus were successful in the National Mathematics League and Gauss Mathematics competitions. Winners in the two competitions are, from left, Marlee Klaiman, Sammy Ptasznik, Dustin Ashley, Jeremy Chad and Rachel Carr. Ptasznik and Chad had perfect scores in the Gauss Mathematics test.

New Israel Fund backs Gaza disengagement

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It wouldn't come as much of a surprise to an observer of the Israeli political scene that the New Israel Fund (NIF) has come out foursquare behind the planned disengagement from Gaza. As part of its commitment to supporting the plan which, according to polls, is popular with Israeli voters, NIF has provided grants to a variety of religious Zionist organizations to help smooth the transition to life outside Gaza.

The money is going to groups that comply with NIF's mission – to promote democracy, social justice and respect for the rule of law while fostering dialogue between various political camps in Israel.

Last week, Peter Edelman, president of the NIF board, was in Toronto to meet with the organization's local supporters and to cultivate the next generation of leaders and philanthropists.

Edelman said the NIF, through the approximately $300,000 (US) in grants it allocates every year to 130 recipient organizations, strengthens civil society in Israel. With disengagement looming, NIF is focusing on supporting organizations that back the withdrawal policy while isolating political extremists who have vowed to prevent it.

Among the recipient organizations are settler groups "who are either willing to support the government in this or who are working hard to ensure there is no violence and promote dialogue so settlers feel they can be re-integrated successfully within the Green Line," Edelman said.

Edelman, professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center and former assistant secretary for planning and evaluation during the first Clinton administration, said NIF backs public education programs that support the Gaza disengagement.

While support for the pullout "is broad but not deep," a successful disengagement would be "symbolically...hugely important," he said.

"To say it's strategically not useful for Israel to have these settlements in Gaza, to say these areas should be fundamentally Palestinian, is a step in the right direction," he added.

Examining other aspects of the NIF agenda, Edelman suggested that over the past 10 years, Israel has only a mixed record in addressing issues of human rights and social justice. Progress has been better on questions of human rights, while those on the periphery of economic life have seen their situations worsen. The rate of child poverty in Israel is 30 per cent. "That's a shocking number," he said.

On the human rights front, which can be addressed through court challenges, NIF-supported groups have registered a number of successes in past years. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), at $475,000 (US), NIF's single largest grantee, has won Supreme Court cases that ruled it unlawful to discriminate against Israeli Arabs in the sale of houses. Other victories gave Arab citizens better representation on community administrative councils and more access to early childhood education programs, Edelman said.

NIF also supports Bedouin projects to assist the desert dwellers in the transition from a nomadic life to a more sedentary one. That means helping Bedouins develop the internal governance and advocacy skills to push government authorities to provide infrastructure like water and electricity, he said.

Gesher Theatre celebrated as a positive force

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In an evening of cross-cultural pollination last week, Tel Aviv's Gesher Theatre was lauded as a bridge between Canada and Israel and as a force helping integrate new Russian immigrants into Israeli society.

The event at the Four Seasons Hotel, capped by a lively 30-minute performance by the theatre, was jointly hosted by the Koffler Centre of the Arts and local businessman Leslie Dan and his wife Anna.

Formed by Moscow-born Yevgeny Arye in 1991, the theatre staged two shows in Toronto in Hebrew and Russian.

The first, *Shosha*, is based on a story set in Warsaw by Isaac Bashevis Singer. The second, *City Odessa Stories*, featured music and songs from that city dating back to the early 20th century.

Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, described the theatre as a link between Israel and Canada.

Yaacov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto, said it exemplifies an important Israeli value, immigrant absorption.

Arye founded it shortly after his arrival in Israel in 1990, recruiting Russian and Israeli actors.

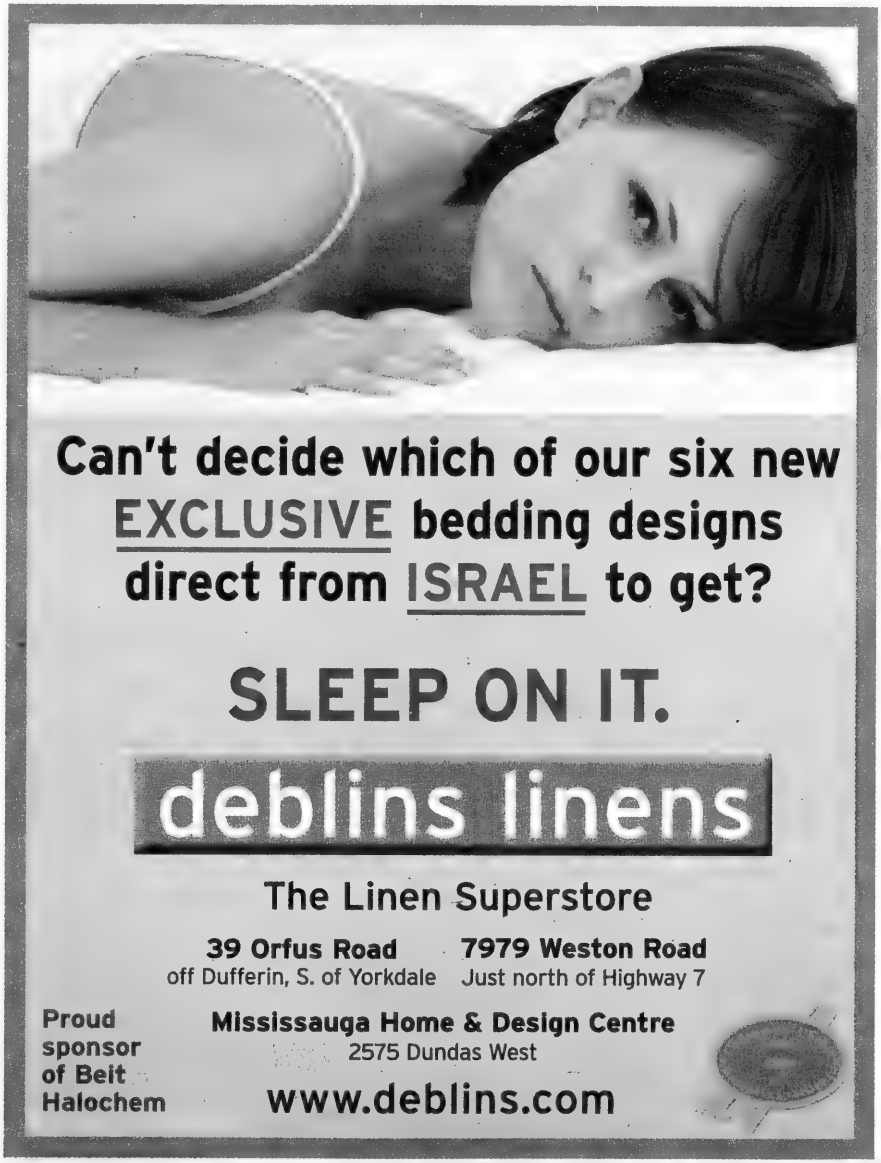
In a videotaped message, Nira Makov, chair of the Friends of the Gesher Theatre Group, spoke of its remarkable successes.

The theatre has put on 90 plays in the past 14 years, from *The Idiot* to *Rosencrantz and Guilderstern are Dead*, and toured such cities as Moscow, Riga, London, Berlin, Rome and Dublin to critical acclaim.

Describing culture as a unifying force in Israel, Baker said it brings people together.

Calling Israel's cultural relations with Canada strong, Baker said both nations have many things in common, from a diversity of cultures and languages to a commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

Sarmite Bulte, a Toronto member of Parliament and parliamentary secretary to the minister of Canadian Heritage, Liza Frulla, officially welcomed the theatre to Canada.



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A human rights ruse

Last month, the non-governmental organization Amnesty International (AI) released its annual report on the alleged human rights abuses by Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians. The 65-page report, titled *Israel and the Occupied Territories – Under the rubble: House demolition and destruction of land and property,* was the organization's annual ritual denunciation of the Jewish state.

Among its findings, AI concluded that the demolition and destruction of Palestinian homes are "grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and are war crimes." Certain other alleged practices by the Israeli army and security services were called crimes against humanity.

The report laments that "the human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Territories has seriously deteriorated since October 2000. Since then, violence and human right abuses have reached unprecedented levels." As it has consistently done over the years, AI blames Israel for the devastation to the Palestinian economy wrought by the five years of violence. "The Palestinian economy has virtually collapsed, and unemployment and poverty have increased dramatically in the West Bank and Gaza. Two-thirds of the Palestinian population now live below the poverty line, and malnutrition and other medical conditions are spreading."

AI's report is an exercise in political assassination. It aims its guns at Israel but lets the Palestinian terrorists, their accomplices and sponsors fly far below the organization's radar. The Palestinian terrorists live with, hide behind and sadistically exploit the civilian population in whose name they carry on their bloodthirsty, nihilistic struggle against Israel. Even as Israel is preparing to leave the Gaza, Hamas and Islamic Jihad launch rockets, dig their arms smuggling tunnels and shoot at the Jews across the border and continue to send young teenagers packing suicide belts into the Jewish cities. Faced with the same situation, no country on earth would show the equivalent restraint and deference for the maximum saving of innocent life that Israel has. Demolition of homes used by arms smugglers, rocket launchers or bomb makers is a legitimate tactic.

That abuses of Palestinians' human rights by Israelis have occurred over the years, and especially over the past five years, is hardly debatable. Of course they have. All wars evoke such abuses – the war between Israel and the Palestinians, no less. But individual Israeli abuses are, far and away, the exception, not the rule. Moreover, when brought to light, they are rooted out by the Israeli Defence Forces officers in charge and the larger society to which those officers are accountable. In light of the fact that the Palestinian war has been almost exclusively directed at Israeli children and innocent bystanders, it is a wonder that abuses by Israelis have not been far greater in number. Once again, AI has shown itself utterly lacking in balance, proportion, perspective, context and minimal fairness in its accusations against Israel.

Abraham H. Foxman, Anti-Defamation League national director in New York, condemned the AI report as "a gross distortion of reality and counterproductive to efforts to get the Palestinians to halt the violence they initiated. Israeli soldiers are using great restraint in the face of live ammunition and Molotov cocktail-throwing rioters. For Amnesty International to issue a statement of this nature is outrageous and destructive."

We agree.

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Canada and Nazi war criminals

Those of us who for many years have pushed the Canadian government to bring Nazi war criminals to justice are not surprised at the poor grade given to Canada by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem ("Canada's efforts on Nazis get poor grade," *CJN*, May 26).

Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau was always concerned that steps taken against Nazi war criminals, many of whom are from eastern European, would irritate Canada's European population. It was not until Brian Mulroney became prime minister that Canada established the Deschenes Commission, which identified hundreds of potential Nazi war criminals living in Canada. A number of prosecutions were launched, but unfortunately the Supreme Court of Canada in the infamous Finta decision, put an end to criminal prosecutions, leaving the only remedy against war criminals as denaturalization and deportation. Quite a number of cases were launched, but many floundered because the accused were too old and it was difficult to obtain eye witness evidence from elderly survivors in Europe. Any impetus under the Mulroney years soon faded with the election of Jean Chrétien as prime minister. Under his tenure, the political will was lacking, and little or no progress has been made to date. Obviously due to the passage of time, few prosecutions will occur in the future.

The irony of all of this is that much of the financial backing for the federal Liberals comes from affluent Jewish Canadians who fail to use their financial clout to push the justice ministry into more positive action.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

Wants to hear the settlers' side

I read Paul Michaels' column "Some truths are hard to hear," (*CJN*, May 26) and was dismayed by it, especially as he is the communications director for the Canada-Israel committee.

Most of us appreciate the risks associated with being a settler in Judea and Samaria. It is hardly news that the settlers would do what they can to protect themselves and their families and their settlements. Nor is it appropriate for them to be convicted of crimes that they have not been charged with. Nor is it fitting for a spokesperson of the CIC, no less the communications director, to present a case for the Palestinians without so much as a proper response from one settler on this issue.

Again we see here the continuing spectre of Diaspora Jews attacking settlers from the comfort of their North American homes, while the pioneer settlers strive to develop the lands of Israel. It's truly a sad reflection of the lack of support for Israel in the Diaspora.

Howard Wolle
Toronto

Muslims and terrorism

Though Consul General Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh's remarks may have been insensitive to some Muslims, they were hardly original ("Consul's statement of regret doesn't satisfy Muslim groups," *CJN*, May 19). Shortly after the terrorist attack on a school in North Ossetia, Russia, which killed over 300 people, including more than 150 children, Abd Al-Rahman Al-Rashed, the former editor of the London-based Saudi daily *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, was widely quoted after writing that "obviously not all Muslims are terrorists but, regrettably, the majority of the terrorists in the world are Muslims." An excerpt of his editorial is on the invaluable MEMRI site at http://memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP78004. Oddly enough, his remarks were not met with "shock and anger" from Muslim leaders.

Kenny Silverman
Toronto

* * *

Ostentation personified

At first I could not believe what I read in the article "$7.3M Bar Mitzvah" (*CJN*, May 26). Philip Green should be rebuked for the amounts he paid for his son's bar mitzvah and his own birthday party ($9 million). My concern is why he did not devote these amounts to worthwhile causes – and there are many. The publicity would have been to our benefit – instead of the reverse, adding fuel to the fire of anti-Semitism.

Henry Alkin
Toronto

* * *

Class reunion in cyberspace

In 1968, I spent a remarkable year in Jerusalem at the Institute for Jewish Youth Leaders from Abroad (Machon Lemadrichei Chutz L'aretz). One hundred and ten Jewish students from all over the world participated in this study-work program. Now, 36 years later, our class is reuniting in cyberspace. We have tracked down more than 80 of our friends but are still looking for others. In particular, we are looking for Marty Solomon, formerly of California, but last heard of living in Toronto. If anyone knows where we can find him, please e-mail merez08@rogers.com. If you were on *machon* and would like to reunite with your *machzor*, please contact the *machon*'s alumni association, machonbogrim@jazo.org.il.

Chaya Galper Erez
Thornhill, Ont.

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Reflections on returning from Poland

By DANA DAVID

Before arriving in Poland as a university participant on the March of the Living, I had several expectations.

I expected to cry all day, every day, for a week. I expected to find the answers to my many questions. I expected to understand the atrocity that occurred only six decades ago. I expected to leave Poland feeling depressed. Prior to leaving Toronto, these expectations seemed realistic to me. While in Poland however, it occurred to me how idealistic they really were.

I did not cry all day, every day. My group landed in Krakow early Wednesday morning and we were driven straight to Auschwitz. I stood by the gate and waited to feel something, but I could not. I tried to evoke emotion by thinking of the people who were there, but I still did not feel anything. More than anything, I felt like I was standing in a photo from a history textbook.

I walked into a large room where the entire length of one wall was a display of human hair. This was hair from the heads of the countless innocent people who were shaved of their dignity. I froze. My heart raced. Millions of thoughts raced through my mind. My legs did not move. Part of me did not want to move, while another part needed to see that this was real and not just another photo from a book. I was in shock. Slowly, I walked the length of the room. I burst into tears. That was the last time I cried for several days. Although I felt deep emotions that were foreign to me over the next few days, I did not cry.

I had been learning about the Holocaust since I was eight years old. I was already aware that this evil took place. I took in as much as I could using all of my senses – not just my eyes. While in Poland, I smelled the air, I listened to the wind, I touched the ground, I tasted the rain and I looked on. I found many ironies. What used to be the Warsaw Ghetto is lovely, and the birds were singing in the Jewish cemetery as I walked through. It is funny how things are not always as they seem. I am still grappling with these feelings. Is it wrong of me to think that what used to be the ghetto is pretty today? Should I not have heard the birds singing while I was in the cemetery?

Many participants in my group had been told to hate the Polish people for what they did. They were told to hate by their grandparents, who witnessed the horrid behaviour of many Poles. I do not blame them for hating. The hatred is not just a reaction to what many Polish people did, but more so for what they did not do. Personally, I feel that hate only hurts the individual who hates, but it is unfair of me to even attempt to even try to imagine how the survivors feel, as I did not suffer the way they did.

It was on the Saturday evening I had a life-altering experience when I met a Polish man named Edmund Masajada. My grandfather, Sam Levinson (Levin), insists that he and his younger brother Alex Levin would not have survived had it not been for the generosity of Edmund's mother, Felicia, who fed them soup on several occasions and gave them scissors and matches.

My grandfather and great-uncle had run away from their town Rokitno and were living in the forest of what is now the Ukraine for a year and a half. My grandfather vows, to this day, that he would not be here if it were not for the soup that Felicia fed him. Three years ago, Sam and Alex arranged for Edmund's mother to be designated Righteous Among The Nations by Yad Vashem.

From left, Ashley Levinson, Edmund Masajada and the author Dana David

Edmund addressed my group and talked about how he feels regarding what happened more than 60 years ago. I walked into the room and was brought directly to him. I looked into his eyes and realized, only then, that I would not be standing there had it not been for the courage and humanity his family displayed during the war. That is when I cried again. Only this time it was not because of sadness, but rather because of joy. It was an overwhelming feeling. I do not know of words to explain how I felt at that moment. My first cousin, Ashley Levinson, was also fortunate to be a participant on the trip with me, and I feel so lucky that we were able to share that special moment.

Edmund said his mother was not only murdered by the Ukrainian police who caught her, but tortured as well. He lost his mother as a young teenager. He does not blame the men for whom she lost her life. He blames the people who killed her – he blames the Nazis. After spending several days learning of the appalling things that happened in Poland during the Holocaust, it was heart-warming to hear about a woman who risked her own life to save the lives of others. There was not a dry eye in the room.

I gave Edmund a gift from my family – a pen with the engraving "we will always remember." I started crying again as I thanked Edmund, and told him in front of the people in the room that he and his mother are heroes and will always be in my heart. He hugged me and in broken English said, "No cry."

Edmund came with us to the *Havdalah* ceremony with all 1,000 March of the Living participants from Canada. Edmund's mother was recognized as Righteous Among The Nations and he addressed the auditorium. He said it is our duty to make sure that such a horrible event never happens again. The ceremony was wonderful and involved a lot of singing and dancing.

Edmund turned to me at one point and said that he wishes his mother could have seen how much spirit and energy the Jewish youth have. He told me that his mother would have loved being there. Edmund reminded me of the many people in the world who mean well, appreciate life and want to make the world a better place.

Before heading to the airport on Sunday evening my group had a ceremony on the Umschlagplatz – the platform where many Jews were rounded up and put onto trains to be murdered. We stood in a circle and one at a time we lit candles and shared with the group what and whom we would bring to Israel if we could bring anything or anyone. I explained that I would have brought Felicia Masajada with me, so that she could experience the strength and bond of the Jewish people in the State of Israel.

As for the expectation I had before I arrived in Poland – that I would cry all day, every day, for a week – I cried only twice, and at the most disgusting sight I had ever seen and at the most wonderful experience I have ever had in my lifetime.

Not only did I not find the answers to all my questions, I came home with many more questions. I have come to believe that these questions will never be answered and I will only have more over the course of time.

I do not understand what happened during the Holocaust. I have learned that it is important to make the distinction between understanding how it happened as opposed to what happened. I understand how it happened and I know what happened, only I will never understand what happened.

I did not leave Poland feeling depressed. I left Poland with hope and with a mission. I have vowed to do what I can to make sure the Holocaust does not happen again. Hate and anti-Semitism were the roots of this atrocious event. It is our duty to address these issues and to take preventative measures, as clearly another Holocaust is always possible. We can never be too comfortable or else we let our guard fall. It is our duty to keep the Jewish people strong and united, and fight for the State of Israel.

My next point I direct at the younger generation: we are the last generation to know survivors of the Holocaust. One day we are going to be the elder generation telling of our grandparents' courage and the horrors they were subjected to. We have a responsibility – to become educated, to educate as many people as possible and to never forget.

I have taken a vow: I will continue to become educated about the Holocaust, I will continue to share my knowledge with others, and I will always remember. I hope others will join me in my mission.

Dana David is an M.Ed. candidate, cognitive psychology, faculty of education, Queen's University.

Canadians on the March of the Living last month. [Ryan Blau photo]

Life is no dream

I have walked past the sign on the church grounds many times. It read: "Live the Dream." It troubled me. What utter nonsense! Dreams are flights of fantasy, composed of the improbable, if not the impossible. Life is to be lived in real time, planned with rational faculties and functional practicalities. To confuse the two is to frustrate life, not enhance it. To misappropriate dreams is to lose a precious diversion that enriches life.

Narma Bammel Joseph in Montreal

Dreams are important. They are necessary to our lives from every perspective. We know that without a sufficient dream sequence during sleep, humans cannot survive and might even lose their sanity. Somehow, the brain needs this playful intermission.

But that time-out can't be considered constructive life planning. Dreams can be frightening or funny, filled with fantastic images or memorable experiences. They mix things up, remove or replace contexts and, in general, make no sense. They cannot be lived. To have any impact on our lives, they must be interpreted, translated and understood in real time. They should not be reduced to goals or ideals or plans.

In biblical fashion, dreams that we remember bring all sorts of messages to us – important messages. They led Joseph to understand and predict future human interactions. They also got him into trouble. Whether we see dreams as messages from God or as containing clues about the future, they are also a gift from God that we can't survive without. Dreams have always been seen as important. But the role given to dreams depends on our cultural understanding and expectations.

Freud was not the only one to impress upon us the value of dream sequences and dream interpretation. In a post-Freudian world, we should be sophisticated in our appeal to dreams and in our assessment of their value. Clearly, psychological hints and clues are embedded in dreams. A wise counselor can help us focus on problems and solutions based on dream evidence. But to rely on dreams for factuality or for life's blueprints is to misappropriate this faculty.

More significantly, this symbolizes a confusion of assets in our culture. It loses sight of the wonderful world of fantasy and makes it subservient to a utilitarian function.

Must our dreams be livable? What place imagination? Flights of fantasy are the essential character of dreams. To dream is to leave the space-time continuum of our daily lives and explore the impossible. To dream the impossible dream! Now that is an expression worth repeating. Dreams should be just that: illusions that occupy our sleeping time, that give our brains and spirits an escape from reality.

Life must be lived on a different plane, enriched by imagination and fantasy, but not equated to, or replaced by, either.

Benedict carries forward John Paul's damaging legacy

Many Jewish organizations (and this newspaper) mourned the passing of Pope John Paul II.

It's true that the late pope visited Israel in 2000 and was very open about the Church's responsibilities for anti-Semitism in its teachings about Jews and Judaism. I don't denigrate this supposed sea change in Catholic doctrine. I'm just not sure I believe it, and I think it's important to recognize some of the less attractive legacies he has left and that his successor will carry forward.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

John Paul was an actor who projected kindness, caring and compassion for his flock. He could work a crowd of seniors or a swarm of teenagers anxious for spiritual growth. In Poland, he was an icon of resistance to Communism, and his ruling that Jewish children after the Holocaust should be returned to their Jewish families wherever possible rescued many for Judaism.

But his papacy will be judged on the direction he set for the Catholic Church, and not on tiny windows he opened toward the Jews.

He adamantly opposed the use of condoms to protect against AIDS. While I don't know how many Catholics in Africa – where this issue hits home the hardest – listened to his admonitions, his refusal dooms his papacy to moral failure. When a whole continent is drowning, you don't pull up the lifeboats and sail away.

John Paul, like Pius XII, sought tight control of doctrine by the Vatican. That may not mean much to *CJN* readers, but let me put it this way: suppose the chief Ashkenazi rabbi of Israel radiated such power that every single Orthodox rabbi in the world had to adhere to his rulings, preach only the sermons he approved of, and in yeshivas accept only his point of view as *Torah mi'Sinai*. Whereas our tradition (and liberal Catholic tradition) allows for a dialogue in halachic discourse, both John Paul and the now Pope Benedict XVI drove the church down a narrow highway to doctrinal truth.

This has helped bring down the curtain on social change in Latin American countries, where priests had stood against evil and bloodthirsty dictatorships in that part of the world. It also means that theologians who dare to disagree with Vatican pronouncements were and will be removed or silenced in their efforts to teach non-conforming Catholic theology – never mind that the issues of married priests or the ordination of women have been stored firmly away for another century or so.

John Paul did not seem to comprehend the damage done by pedophile priests and their protectors, nor does Benedict seem interested in this issue. When Cardinal Law of Boston celebrated mass at John Paul's funeral, who did not shudder at the great harm Law had done by burying the wickedness of his parish priests? Yet, he has been promoted, not punished.

John Paul also refused to open the archives on the papacy of Pius XII concerning his relationships with the Nazis. Clearly Pius XII felt that tight control of Germany's churches was more vital to protecting his reign than any Christian duty to protest Hitler's genocidal policies. His silence gave consent. And yet John Paul hurried to beatify Pius XII, a drive to sainthood the new pope is unlikely to challenge.

Why should we care?

John Paul may have kissed the Western Wall and blessed the Jewish people, but he was less comforting to those of his own people in danger of disease, oppression and abuse. It's not about us, but about the Catholic Church that we should worry.

Not least of all, Benedict bodes ill for Catholics seeking more enlightened Vatican policy. I can't echo the many Jewish leaders who have hailed his appointment, because Benedict, simply put, does not believe that Jews merit salvation until they convert.

Benedict, the doctrinaire and narrow man that he is, leaves no room for the Other in his philosophy, so where in that worldview will we, the ultimate "Other," exist? There has never been a place for us in totalitarian structures – we thrive in democracies, where we are part of the whole, rather than people forced to wear the badge of shame.

But really, does it matter if the Pope likes Jews or not? He should be seeking the good of all his people, and speaking peace to them. Our turn can wait.

Ending violence in the name of God

Daily news reports starkly remind us of a troubling and destructive phenomenon. We witness the modern scourge of the mass murderers that are politely referred to as suicide bombers operating in the Middle East and elsewhere, as well as bombings in Indonesia in a Muslim-Christian dispute and other acts of violence that shatter the lives of innocent people.

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

Whatever form the violence takes, there is one common denominator: these acts are taking place in the name of religion, for the sake of religion – or, put succinctly, in the name of God.

In today's world, using violence to further religious objectives is largely limited to extremist factions of various religions. But it is sufficiently present worldwide to pose a serious threat to international peace and stability, and it promotes hostility and injustice toward too many people.

We have witnessed the impact of religious violence in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran and elsewhere in that region, and we see its threat to overall world peace.

Violence, of course, is not limited to killing, wounding and maiming. There are less physical manifestations of violence, including harassment and threats, the espousing of hatred and violence and, of course, the oppression and abuse of women – all in the name of an organized religion. In Canada, the recent advocacy in an Ottawa Islamic school of violence against Jews is an example that is frighteningly close to home.

To be sure, this is not a new issue. One can harken back to biblical times, to the eras of the Inquisition and Crusades and the Salem witch hunts for a few of the many historic examples of God's name or God's intent being used as an excuse for violence and oppression.

Most, if not all, religions espouse the belief that there is a loving, compassionate and caring deity. So how do we explain the horrific acts of violence that are being carried out to further religious causes?

Many theologians and religious leaders have addressed this question and tried to provide an explanation, but there are no easy answers.

Some recent examples of thoughtful analyses on the role of religion in society, generally, and on the theme of violence in the name of God include works such as *History of God: The 4000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity* and *Islam* and *Holy War: The Crusades and Their Impact on Today's World* by Karen Armstrong, *A Fury for God: The Islamist Attack on America* by Malise Ruthven and *A Problem for Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* by Samantha Power.

The John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights is an Edmonton-based national organization named after the late Prof. John Humphrey of McGill University, the Canadian co-author of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The centre is currently planning an international conference, on the topic of "Violence in the Name of God: A Challenge to World Peace" to be held in Edmonton in October 2006. This conference is being chaired by former senator Douglas Roche, a well-respected theologian and human rights advocate, and will attempt to address the issue of violence as a major challenge to religions.

About two years ago, the UN did convene a similar meeting (organized largely by media mogul Ted Turner) and, it appears, no tangible results materialized.

One may not expect a miracle from the upcoming Edmonton conference, but it's certainly worth the effort to continue to explore this important issue and its pervasive consequences.

What is also important is to ensure that discussions among religious leaders not simply result in a comfortable, ecumenical-style, interfaith experience but rather that they squarely address the hard issues of violence, hatred and killing in the name of God. That is the challenge before us.

Organized religion must face the question that acts of killing and other forms of violence are being carried out in the name of supreme powers that are properly and normally associated with peace, justice, love and human rights.

Rather than associating religion with violence, the two concepts ought to be mutually exclusive. Religious doctrine and practice, in our "enlightened" world, should be free of hatred and violence.

The Kirshner File

Germany struggles with its Nazi past

Sixty years after Adolf Hitler blew his brains out in a Berlin bunker and Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Allies in World War II, Germans are still grappling with the protracted, painful process of coming to terms with their past.

Sheldon Kirshner in Berlin

Yet they are doing it better than anyone else. Japan still refuses to acknowledge the enormity of the atrocities it committed in China, while China tiptoes around the crimes of fanatic Maoists during the Cultural Revolution. Italy has not fully faced up to the fascist period and France has only begun to look fearlessly at the Vichy era. Until quite recently, Romania steadfastly denied Jews had been murdered on its soil during the Holocaust and for decades, Austrians insisted they were merely victims of Nazism rather than also willing collaborators.

Germany, however, has not flinched from its historical responsibilities.

Successive German chancellors, beginning with the conservative Konrad Adenauer and extending to his current social democratic successor Gerhard Schroeder, have vowed to keep alive the memory of the Nazi genocide.

More recently, in light of a 1985 landmark speech in which then-German president Richard von Weizsacker warned his nation that "anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present," Germany's elite has pledged to incorporate Nazi crimes into its national identity.

On a practical level, Germany has tried to repent by funnelling billions of dollars of restitution payments to Holocaust survivors, fighting neo-Nazism and seeking a Europe-wide ban on Nazi insignia, encouraging the growth of a new Jewish community in Germany, forging a strong relationship with Israel, preserving former concentration camps such as Dachau and Buchenwald and building an array of sombre monuments dedicated to the Jewish victims of National Socialism. The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, which was opened in Berlin last month after years of passionate debate regarding its size and form, is but the latest concrete expression of remembrance and Germany's first national Holocaust monument.

That there are Germans who complain of Holocaust fatigue, of the kind archly described by prominent writer Martin Walser in the late 1990s, is beyond doubt. Micha Brumlik, the director of the Fritz Bauer Institut in Frankfurt, which studies the impact of the Holocaust on German society, said that more 50 per cent or Germans no longer wish to be reminded of the 12-year interregnum that tarnished their country's honour and integrity.

This phenomenon goes hand in hand with clever but transparent attempts to "relativize" the Holocaust and, by implication, to wipe the slate clean. Last year, Martin Hohmann, a parliamentarian from the Christian Democratic Union party, claimed there is no essential difference between the horrors perpetrated by Jewish communists during the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the horrors carried out by the Nazis after 1933. Hohmann's analogy brought to mind the so-called "historians' debate," which roiled Germany in the 1980s. The basic but subliminally subversive question it raised was whether the crimes of the Nazis were indeed unique and whether they were comparable to Stalin's reign of terror or the slaughter of the Armenians.

Nevertheless, judging by a survey published in a recent edition of the newsmagazine *Der Spiegel*, a plurality of Germans believe that, due to Hitler's anti-Semitic policies, they bear a special responsibility toward Jews.

For approximately the first 10 years after the war, western Germany – notwithstanding its decision to compensate Jews for their suffering, to prosecute some Nazi war criminals and to dabble in de-Nazification – did not seriously deal with what was commonly referred to as the "unresolved past." By contrast, the Communist regime in eastern Germany, which collapsed with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, exploited the Nazi epoch within the context of Cold War tensions.

In a new book published by Harvard University Press, *Beyond Justice*, author Rebecca Wittmann, a University of Toronto historian, argues that Adenauer's priorities were economic recovery and political democratization rather than a judicial confrontation with the Nazi legacy.

Repression gave way to full-throated debate in the late 1950s. German students in Karlsruhe, the seat of the Supreme Court, mounted an accusative exhibition on the complicit judiciary during Nazi times. *The Diary of Anne Frank* galvanized an angry, questioning generation. Public figures ranging from novelist Gunter Grass to student leader Joschka Fischer, now Germany's foreign minister, demanded a frank accounting.

According to Wittmann, Germany's first difficult confrontation with its past coincided with the 1963 Frankfurt trial of 20 former Auschwitz guards. The trial and execution of Nazi functionary Adolf Eichmann, plus the Six Day War, were also events of lasting importance in consciousness raising.

In 1968, a university student named Beate Klarsfeld caused a sensation by slapping Georg Kiessinger, the German chancellor who had been a member of the Nazi party. Two years later, his successor, Willy Brandt, raised eyebrows by kneeling at the Warsaw ghetto memorial in Warsaw. The 1979 U.S. television miniseries *Holocaust* left a deep impression, as did Steven Spielberg's 1993 award-winning film *Schindler's List*.

As a result of these developments, Germany is intensely and resolutely conscious of its historical obligations, probably far more so than any other country, save for Israel.

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Last month, as I was strolling down Berlin's Unter den Linden on an unseasonably cold morning, I caught sight of a blue banner draped on a grey building on the campus of Humboldt University. It read: "We thank the Allies for liberating us from the Nazi dictatorship." Across the road, at Babel Platz, opposite the faculty of law, there was a plaque attesting to Nazi book burning. Nearby, strung on a wrought-iron gate, was a sign: "Sixty years since the end of the war. What have we learned?"

While exploring a gentrified corner of eastern Berlin known as the Hackische Hoefe, I literally walked on several small commemorative brass plates fixed flush with the pavement. The work of Cologne-based artist Gunter Demnig, they memorialize German Jews deported and murdered by the Nazis. By all accounts, there are 3,000 such *stolpersteine* throughout Germany.

Although Germany has compensated Jewish property owners for their losses, new cases pop up periodically.

Last year, the descendants of the Wertheim family, which lost its department store fortune under Nazi Aryanization laws, won a pivotal court battle that sets the stage for further legal wrangling. Four months ago, in a parallel case, a judge in Berlin ruled that a Jewish woman who had been forced to flee Germany was entitled to be compensated for furnishings in a medical clinic expropriated from her late parents.

Similarly, reparation payments are a jolting reminder of former days.

Last month, after talks with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the German government announced it would compensate Jews who had been incarcerated in North African labour camps for at least six months. Vichy France, an ally of Germany, established some 30 camps in Morocco and Algeria in 1941 and 1942. When Germany occupied Tunisia in 1942 and 1943, 32 camps were set up.

In the wake of this announcement, Germany agreed to add an additional payment of $11 million (US) to meet the home care needs of survivors in 17 countries.

Most Germans who personally or administratively killed Jews during the Holocaust have passed on. But occasionally, newly found perpetrators, all in their 80s and 90s, are arrested, thus reminding Germans of their ever-present past. Nearly a year ago, an unidentified man was taken into custody in Munich, charged with having organized a massacre of Czech partisans and civilians. In Gottingen, meanwhile, prosecutors opened an investigation against a former SS officer, identified only as Hans F., who participated in the mass shootings of Jews in Ukraine.

Since 1945, 100,000 or so German citizens have been investigated for participation in war crimes, but only 6,487 have been convicted. Of these, 13 were executed, 163 sentenced to life imprisonment, 6,197 given temporary prison terms and 114 subjected to fines.

Not surprisingly, the past is also an issue in Germany's foreign ministry. In March, after Fischer banned posthumous tributes in the ministry's in-house magazine for diplomats who had been Nazi party members, he created a commission to study the matter.

Clearly, the spectre of the Third Reich continues to haunt Germany.

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Thailand's chief rabbi pays visit to Toronto

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Josef Chaim Kantor never fails to get laughs when he quips that he's the chief rabbi of 60 million people, "but only several hundred are Jewish."

As chief rabbi of Thailand, a post he's held since 1993, Rabbi Kantor presides over a vibrant Jewish community whose roots go back several hundred years. He also caters to the spiritual and practical needs of the 100,000 or so Jews passing through every year – businesspeople, Jewish travellers and young Israeli backpackers drawn to the nation's popular tourist resorts.

Rabbi Joseph Chaim Kantor

There are five El Al flights to and from Israel each week, bringing thousands of young trekkers in between army duty and careers. "It's exotic and cheap," Rabbi Kantor explains. "From there, they can go to Laos and Vietnam."

Do people do a double take when he reveals his job title? "Only customs," he told *The CJN* in an interview. "They always stop me and put me through rigorous checks. They figure I must be up to some mischief."

In a country that is 95 per cent Buddhist, Rabbi Kantor and his flock of about 250 permanent Jewish residents – mainly Israelis, Americans and Britons living in the capital, Bangkok – are considered an unknown quantity.

For example, when he goes out in Bangkok, many locals either consider him a Muslim or "have no clue. When they ask me, I explain that I'm from the religion of Israel and I'm an American citizen. Sometimes they understand. More often than not, they don't."

Anti-Semitism, thus, is virtually non-existent. And the government deals forcefully with Muslim insurgents in the country's south. Relations with Israel are normal.

The 36-year-old New York-born Chabad rabbi oversees the activities of three other rabbis in Bangkok, one in Chiang Mai in the north, and one in Surattani in the south. His staff includes 10 visiting yeshiva students. Chabad also recently opened an office on the resort island of Phuket.

As well, Rabbi Kantor leads services in Bangkok's three synagogues, looks in on the daily pre-school classes for young children and supervises kashrut at the restaurants and bakeries in all three Chabad houses (to boot, he doubles as a shochet by ritually slaughtering chickens.)

For Israelis especially, a big attraction are the drop-in centres Chabad runs, where travellers have access to free Internet and telephone service and kosher snacks.

The hubbub is another sign of the success Chabad has encountered in exotic locales. In the Nepalese capital of Katmandu, for example, Chabad annually hosts the world's largest seder.

In Bangkok, this year's Passover seder drew 1,800 people. Over 2,000 worshippers turned out for Rosh Hashanah services last autumn.

"I'm very busy," understates Rabbi Kantor, five of whose six children were born in Thailand.

But not nearly as busy as he was last December when southeast Asia's tsunami struck, killing between 7,000 and 8,000 people in Thailand alone.

Rabbi Kantor set up a command post in Bangkok and spent a sleepless week co-ordinating the frantic rescue and recovery efforts. In the hardest hit areas, which included Phuket, "there were bloated bodies in the street, dazed people walking around. The smell of death was in the air. It was confusion, bedlam," he recalls.

"But we hit the ground running. We sent some of our guys to hospital. Others were in charge of contacting survivors. The people most attracted to us were Israelis but we helped anybody who needed help, Jews and non-Jews."

In all, nine Israelis and several Jewish tourists were killed in the disaster.

Rabbi Kantor also worked closely with the Israeli response team, which included experts trained in the grisly task of body identification.

When will his exotic posting come to a end? "When Moshiach comes," he smiles.

Rabbi Kantor was in Toronto as guest speaker at the second annual Spirit of Community Dinner sponsored by the Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre in Thornhill. This year's theme was "In the Merit of Brotherhood."

Over 1,000 people packed the Renaissance Parque Centre for the lavish event, where three supporters were honoured. Rabbi Pinchas Tessler, an educator, received the Guardian of Heritage Award. The Honour of Brotherhood Award was given to community leader and philanthropist Mario Cortellucci. And Rabbi Yisroel Landa, executive director of the Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre, presented entrepreneur Ami Tamam with the Award of Patronage.

Greetings came from Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase, York Region Chair Bill Fisch, and dinner co-chair Mario Racco, Liberal MPP for Thornhill.

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian Region

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With the Study of Torah **SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2005**
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Joint programme held at
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, 55 Yeomans-Rd.
416-633-5500
9:30 –10:45 pm
Pre-Tikun with Rabbi David Bauman
Maimonides: 12th Century Wisdom for the 21st Century!
11:00 pm-12:30 am **Keynote Panel Discussion**
Tradition and Modernity: Where do they meet?
Panelists:
Rabbi Michael Dolgin
Rabbi Howard Morrison
Rabbi Steven Saltzman
Moderator: **Rabbi Lori R. Cohen**
1:00 am Rabbi Erin Polonsky –
"Whose life is it anyway?
Traditional texts about the saving of a life on Shabbat."
2:15 am Rabbi David Seed –
"Clean Your plate: Contemporary responsa about the food we eat."
3:30 am Rabbi Philip Scheim –
"If I am not for myself..." Self versus community in Jewish tradition.
Sunrise Service
Refreshments throughout the night.
Participating Rabbis:
David Bauman, Lori R. Cohen, Michael Dolgin, Howard Morrison, Erin Polonsky, Steven Saltzman, Philip Scheim and David Seed

BETH TIKVAH
416-221-3433
Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:45-9:15 p.m.
Se'udah 9:15-10:15 p.m. (by reservation only)
Keynote Lecture 10:15-11:30 p.m.
Rachel Urowitz will speak on
"Torah in Transition in the Second Temple Period"
Refreshments 11:30-12:00 midnight
All Night Study Session
12:00-5:15 a.m.
This session will be led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen**
Topic: ***"Are Other Religions Good or True?"***
Rabbi Allen will offer an analysis of Talmudic, medieval and modern sources that grapple with the question of the efficacy of other religions and the practical relationships with practitioners of other religions.
Early Shaharit 5:15 a.m.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE
905-770-7639
Ma'ariv Services begin at 6:45 p.m.
Light meal to follow – reservations required
Study Session
Topic:
"The Book of Ruth: History, Literature and Religious Inspiration"
Speakers: Dr. Nick Maes and Michael Cole
All invited to attend

BETH TZEDEC
416-781-3511
9:30 pm - **Plenary Session - Rav Baruch Frydman-Kohl**
"Re-Membering: Holocaust Survival & Restoration"
10:35 pm - **Session Two**
A. ***"Heschel: Where is Torah" with Rav Roy Tanenbaum, or***
B. ***"To Reve(a)l Tradition's Heresy: Retelling Reb Nahman's Forest in the City with Agnon" with Rav Aubrey Glazer***
Sessions continue with leaders Judy Libman, Mikael Swayze, Ted Zittel, and Ira Teich. Enjoy cheesecake and conversation at breaks throughout the night.
Dawn Shaharit-Musaf services at 4:30 a.m.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
905-889-4975
PROGRAMME:
"MARRIAGE THROUGH THE YEARS"
SESSION I -
MARRIAGE IN THE BIBLE, **DIANNE CADESKY** - 6:30 PM
Dinner by reservation only 7:30 pm
Candle Lighting/Minha 8:38 pm
SESSION II -
THE MIDDLE AGES, **RABBI BERMAN** - 8:50 PM
Maariv followed by Kiddush 9:55 pm
SESSION III -
MODERN ISSUES, **RABBI BERMAN** - 11:00 PM

THE DREAM CONTINUES: Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, left, was the guest speaker at the recent Beth Tikvah tribute dinner honouring Patty and Allan Freidland, standing beside him. The evening, called The Dream Continues, was attended by more than 300 people. The event raised funds for the Youth and Young Family programs.

Greater Toronto Area

JWI honours Ellie Tesher

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Ellie Tesher, journalist, author and syndicated columnist of the advice column *Ellie*, was recently named Jewish Women International of Canada-Toronto's 48th annual woman of the year.

She was honoured at the organization's annual luncheon for her years of focusing on local and international social justice issues.

Tesher, who did freelance work for *The Canadian Jewish News* in the mid-1970s, began her career at the *Toronto Star* as a general reporter in 1977. She went on to become a features writer, an investigative reporter, lifestyles editor and *Sunday Star* editor.

In 1999, she wrote *The Dionnes*, a book about the Canadian quintuplets who were born during the Depression and brought millions of tourist dollars to Ontario. Since her book was published, the surviving quints who were living in poverty, successfully sued the Ontario government for more than one million dollars each.

When the *Chicago Sun Times* ran a contest to replace Ann Landers a number of years ago, Tesher was interested, she said, but did not feel the time was right. When Landers died in 2002, however, Tesher e-mailed her boss and said, "this job is for me.

"He knew I was right. Everyone has always come to me for advice. I'm a good listener, I'm intuitive, and I'm an intense observer of human behaviour," she said from her *Star* office.

"I've always been more interested in writing about people than about the dry matter of issues. I look at how issues impact people; I always study human reactions."

Several years ago, said Tesher, she wrote an article about an abused wife who later contacted her and said she had turned her life around and gone on to become a successful romance writer. "She said that after the story appeared she took a good look at herself."

With Tesher's column now running in 34 newspapers across Canada and at the *Chicago Sun Times*, she said her job is "everything I had hoped it would be. It is a dream."

With the help of full-time researcher Liz McDonell, Tesher says she has dealt with in excess of tens of thousands of letters, mostly by e-mail, since she took over. "I always think how I can address a person. How can I, in a single answer, offer some spark of encouragement and hope?"

On the occasion that she gets a disturbing letter from someone who sounds suicidal, she answers immediately, she said. "I don't wait for the answer to appear in the paper. I try to live with some compassion."

As well as her column, Tesher also does public speaking, appears on panels and co-hosts a weekly radio show on CFRB 1010 with her daughter Lisi.

"I'm a good fit for what I do because my life experiences have been contemporary. I've gone through a divorce, I've re-married, I've been a single working mother" – her son Stephen is a writer in New York – "I have stepchildren, and I've cared for my ailing mother."

Now, she said with a twinkle in her eye, she's become a grandmother to Charlie, son of Lisi. "I was not prepared for how drawn I would be to this little thing. The whole miracle of birth astonished me all over again. I was there for the birth, and it was fabulous."

Her husband, Vian Ewart, has retired from the *Star* where he was a senior editor, "and he is having a wonderful time, but I wouldn't change any of this to retire. I don't see it at all."

Agism can be so painful, she said. "I'm proud of my age, and I'm happy to show that energy, enthusiasm and curiosity keep you young in spirit."

She accepted JWI's honour, she said, because "I admire the organization. [It is made up of a group of] hardworking women who are devoted to the cause of social injustice.

"They sought out someone who exemplifies the work that they do, and being honoured is a huge professional and personal accolade. I am extremely flattered and delighted."

BRAIN SCIENCE: Forty-six Grade 12 biology students from William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute visited the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care last month to meet with leading neuroscientists and other researchers. The students learned about current research aimed at better understanding the aging brain and how to improve the care of the elderly. Here, Dr. Terry Picton, a senior scientist at Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute, talks with students Prital Patel, left, and Aditya Natarajan about electrical activity in the brain. The meetings are part of a new partnership between Baycrest and the school to integrate educational experiences and promote community spirit.

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Jewish Life

The lonely and the ruthless

By RABBI YECHIEL GOLDREICH

Rabbinic Reflections

I heard of a young widow who was in a really bad situation.

She was new in the country, she didn't speak the language well and she had very few job skills. To make matters more difficult, she had to care for her elderly mother-in-law.

Her mother-in-law tried not to be a burden, but it wasn't easy. The old woman had been "a somebody" in her younger years and hadn't adjusted well to the changes in her life. I'm sorry to say the Jewish community wasn't very welcoming to this young widow. She received few invitations for Shabbat. Her quiet presence simply didn't register with most people. The Jewish community is built for families, not for singles, and especially not for poor singles who are new in town and dealing with a elderly person who needs care.

In shul, she would hear the yentas at work, whispering to each other too loudly, "Who's that? Is she related to so and so? Is she really Jewish? She doesn't look Jewish. Really! How does she make a living? Oh, that's too bad. Mother-in-law, eh! How does she stand it? I hate my mother in law." On and on they went. All she could do was daven and pretend not to hear them.

There were few opportunities for her to meet people. The shadchanim seemed to have no one for her. She ended up marrying a much older man whom she met through her mother-in-law. She married him for security, the chance for a family and for someone to help her take care of her mother-in-law. He may have not been her type, and I don't know if she loved him, but perhaps love really didn't matter under the circumstances.

She immigrated because she believed it would provide her with better economic prospects, and because she wanted to be part of a large Jewish community. This woman never received a Jewish education – she never attended a day school or a seminary – but she was proud of her Jewishness. She identified Judaism with kindness, positivity and decency. The reality of loneliness and even ruthlessness in a community that professes warmth and inclusion must have seemed so ironic to her.

Perhaps she even took such good care of her mother-in-law to prove something to herself and to God: that she could behave better than how she was treated.

The young woman's name was Ruth. She lived 3,000 years ago, and we read her story on Shavuot. May we merit her legacy of kindness, and may her positivity and decency serve as a model for all of us.

Rabbi Goldreich is assistant rabbi at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.

We can't forget what the Liberals did

By JERROLD LANDAU

School Parents SPEAK

Eighteen months have passed since the current provincial government cancelled the Equity in Education Tax Credit (EETC), and there is no indication that it is prepared to offer an alternative solution to the inherent inequity in the funding of faith-based education in Ontario.

In the meantime, the tuition crisis in our Jewish day schools continues unabated. Families committed to Jewish education continue to bear the burden of tuition fees that often challenge their economic well-being, while other families continue to drop out of the system or avoid considering it in the first place.

While previous governments have also failed to address this inequity, this is the first government that has actively rescinded whatever provincial funding was available to non-Catholic faith-based schools – thus becoming the first to be guilty of a sin of commission in this regard.

This rescinding was done retroactively, which was punitive to those families who had already set their budgets with the assumption that such funding would exist. To add insult to injury, the government continues to portray this as an issue of the funding of "wealthy, elitist schools," callously ignoring the fact that many families with children in faith-based schools are struggling with their tuition fees. Meanwhile, Ontario continues to be the only jurisdiction in the free world that provides 100 per cent funding to the schools of one religion to the exclusion of all others.

All those who recognize the vital importance of intensive Jewish education to the cause of Jewish continuity expect our communal leadership to exert maximal pressure on the government to provide a solution to this discriminatory situation. Certainly, proper relations with the government must be maintained, but they must be conducted so as to make the community's extreme displeasure with the situation abundantly obvious.

When surveying the relationship between the community and the government over the past 18 months, a picture emerges of a community that is bending over backward to honour and extol the very government that has been acting in such bad faith toward their concerns regarding the funding of faith-based education.

Premier Dalton McGuinty has been featured at numerous communal events, including the recent TO'05 Young Leadership Conference, a meeting with the visiting Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, and an event to honour Holocaust survivors. He will also be at the upcoming B'nai Brith Award of Merit Dinner this fall.

Greg Sorbara, the finance minister who was responsible for the budget that rescinded the EETC, was invited to the opening event of the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow campaign. And government leaders continue to express their greetings to the Jewish community at holiday times and in program booklets at communal events, as if they can define their relationship to our community with platitudes rather than substance.

The government's presence at any one of these events can be justified as a matter of protocol. However, when viewed together, it seems as if the community is relegating its duty to hold the government responsible for the rectification of this inequity to the background.

It gives government leaders the message that the issue is an irritant that is often raised by the Jewish leadership, but that failing to solve the problem will not damage their relationship with the community. No real incentive is provided for the government to remedy the situation.

But the wrong message goes well beyond the government. Members of the Jewish community at large, especially those who don't realize that the tuition crisis is striking deeply into the well-being of the middle class backbone of our community, are given the message that the tuition crisis in Jewish education is not a matter that requires urgent attention. They will casually accept the fact that some types of discrimination are tolerable in our society. Finally, those affected directly by the tuition crisis – both those who remain in the day school system and those who have opted out – are left wondering whether communal leaders really care about their realities of life.

I strongly urge the leadership of our community, across all organizations and affiliations, to work together to pressure the government as strongly as possible to remedy the discrimination that exists in the funding of denominational schools in Ontario. The rewards in enhancement of the Jewish experience in Ontario will then be theirs to reap for generations to come.

Jerrold Landau is the parent of four children, two preschoolers and two who are students in Toronto's day school system.

Jewish Life

Education for a new kind of society

We will soon reach the time of university graduations and commencement speeches.

Beyond the ritual of cap and gown and old-grad sentimentality lurks a paramount question: apart from the accumulation of facts and information, what perceptions and values have students received as they enter a complex and uncertain future?

Books
Bernard Baskin

1. Is there intellectual curiosity?

Truth often disturbs what makes us most comfortable. The tracking down of ideas involves greater risk than pouring facts into a receptacle called the brain. In the words of Lincoln Steffens, "It is dangerous to think – always." But the educated must take the risk.

Our age demands open-mindedness, unrelenting doubt and ceaseless probing of life's problems at every stage, with enough independence and flexibility to confront emerging and unprecedented dilemmas.

There must be an awareness of the vastness of human ignorance, and an appetite for learning that is satisfied only by life-long analysis and inquiry. Curious minds are able to surmount any kind of inadequate training.

2. Is there concern for the social ills of society?

Contemporary difficulties are explosive, increasingly numerous and perilously urgent.

Some examples? Race prejudice, which sabotages the struggle for peace and undermines the security and moral health of the world; political chauvinism, which in one country after another prefers unrest and disunity to mature compromise; emotional frustrations, that often lead to scapegoatism and group hostility; and hatred for an "enemy" nation, so violent that some people are more eager to see that enemy expunged than to keep their own children alive.

For the educated person, there is nothing harder than the softness of indifference.

3. Is there an appreciation for moral and esthetic values?

Where do we get our persistence to overcome setbacks and disappointments? Whence comes the impulse to aid our fellow men instead of striding over them in the struggle for personal success? Where is the wellspring for the voluntary offering of service to the community, to our neighbour?

The answer lies in non-material values that must be acquired along with knowledge in the educational process.

4. Is there proper humility?

An educated person is one whose mind is always watching itself. Shakespeare said, "Modest doubt is called the beacon of the wise." Bertrand Russell pointed out that the knowledge required of a scientist before he can do research in one technical area may expand to such proportions as to consume all the best years of his life.

Why then transmit simplistic explanations for the complex problems of society or for the supreme riddles of the universe? Changes in our age are so rapid that political and scientific revolutions occur within the span of a single lifetime. The youngest undergraduate has already witnessed greater political, industrial and social ferment than her or his pre-21st-century counterpart would have known in several generations.

5. Is there a critical method of evaluation?

It is obvious that we live in an age of an information explosion. But we are also in the middle of a misinformation explosion. With the proliferation of mass communications, we are surrounded by hawkers, pitchmen, hard and soft sells, persuaders hidden and overt. Bombarded daily with millions of words by print and electronic media, we need some kind of critical apparatus to decide whom and what to believe, and to what degree.

One of humankind's most profitable resources for progress and for peace is in the universities of the free world. To realize our potential, we must mould men and women of intellect and spirit. What a tremendous challenge it is to instil these five ideals into their hearts and minds.

Creating Torah scrolls

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The next time you're called up to the Torah and are concerned about reciting the blessings perfectly, you should know you have it easy. The sofer, the scribe who wrote that Torah, had to inscribe all 304,805 letters perfectly. This coming Monday, the first day of Shavuot, we read about the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

So today, we'll look at the incredible amount of work that goes into creating Torah scrolls – amazing creations that combine the art of calligraphy, the fine detail of Halachah and the secrets of Jewish mysticism. (Thanks to Michael Mirsky for the idea for today's column.)

A Jewish scribe is called a "Sofer STaM." Sofer because he literally counts the letters to make sure his work is perfect. STaM is a acronym for the major areas of work: sifrei Torah, tfillin and mezuzot. (More on the latter two in coming weeks.) **[http://rabbiwein.com/column-888.html]**

Today's sofrim have some pretty high standards to adhere to. According to a midrash, before Moses died, he wrote 13 Torah scrolls. He gave one to each tribe and placed the 13th scroll in the Holy Ark, along with the tablets from the Ten Commandments, "so that no one dare falsify the text of the scroll." If a single letter is incorrect, the Torah cannot be used for its holy purpose.

The Talmud tells us that Rabbi Yishmael once asked his student, Rabbi Meir, "My son, what is your profession?" Rabbi Meir replied, "I am a scribe." To this Rabbi Yishmael remarked, "My son, be scrupulous in your profession, for it is a heavenly pursuit, and should you delete one letter or add one letter, such effort is tantamount to destroying the entire world." (Eruvin 13a) **[www.sofer.net/stam.htm]**

Actually the 613th and final commandment is to write one's own copy of a sefer Torah. If you don't happen to be a scribe, there are many sofrim who will be happy to write one for you. But if you don't have $35,000 (US) or more to spare, you can still fulfill the mitzvah by contributing toward the writing of a Torah or just pitching in for the cost of a letter or two. **[http://tinyurl.com/92zut]**

As for those letters, there are complex laws concerning the shape of each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, as well as the five final letters. To get an idea of how complicated the calligraphic laws can be, take a look at the safrus.com site, which has a graphic of each letter. The letter *aleph* has three distinct parts and 10 laws concerning its form. Even the *yud*, the smallest letter of the alphabet, has eight distinguishing features. **[www.safrus.com/alphabet.html]**

Some of those features have mystical origins. For example, the designs (*taggim*) that crown many of the letters are much more than ornamental squiggles. The kabbalistic book, the Zohar, "teaches us that the right tag, crown, represents God's attribute of mercy, while the left tag represents His attribute of justice. The right tag has to be taller than the left one, symbolizing God's mercy rising above His Justice." **[www.hasofer.com/html/hiddurstam.html]**

When you think of a sofer, the image may come to mind of a talented artisan intricately guiding that quill onto parchment. That picture is accurate. But it seems that in their spare time, many sofrim also have time to design websites, too. **[www.mavensearch.com/subjects.asp?S=571]**

The most impressive site that I have come across belongs to Mordechai Pinchas, who hails from Essex in southeast England. His 27-part Diary of a Sofer tells of his love of calligraphy and his journey to becoming a sofer. Although some challenges faced by sofrim haven't changed in centuries, contemporary scribes face some very modern tests. **[www.bayit02.freeserve.co.uk/]**

Here's what happened when Pinchas set out to create the *d'yo*, the kosher ink used by scribes. "One recipe calls for iron sulphate crystals and tannic acid. [My mentor] told me that I could get them at the chemist, so I went to the one around the corner. 'I know this might sound bit odd,' I say to the pharmacist, 'but I would like to buy some iron sulphate and tannic acid.' He informs me that it is now illegal to buy such chemicals over the counter as I might be making a bomb!" Pinchas eventually convinced a kind chemist that he's no terrorist and went on to complete his sefer Torah.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Toronto student wins National Bible Contest

David Pellow, winner of the National Bible Contest is hoisted on a chair following his victory.

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

The buses rolled in and the planes landed as 111 students from across the country descended upon Montreal to compete in the National Bible Contest.

Students from day and supplementary schools from Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa joined 31 Montreal Hebrew day students for this much-anticipated annual event, which has been running for 46 years. Every year the contest alternates between Toronto and Montreal.

Toronto sent the largest number of children with 81 participants. The second-largest group came from Victoria, which sent a contingent of 12 supplementary school students. This was the largest group of supplementary students from any single city in Canada. There were six and two students from Winnipeg and Hamilton, respectively, and 10 from Ottawa.

All the participants had to pass a tough written exam to qualify for the contest or *chidon*, which is organized by the Canadian National Bible Contest committee, a joint venture of the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre (BJEC) in Montreal and the Toronto Board of Jewish Education (BJE).

Most of the contest was held at the Beth Zion Synagogue in Cote St. Luc. The shul opens its doors to the contestants every other year.

One of the highlights of the *chidon* was Rabbi Sydney Shoham's moving address about his recent trip to Auschwitz on the March of the Living.

He said when the Nazis murdered six million Jews they destroyed a way of life, which included an intensity of Torah learning. "What we lost is something that can never be returned." He told the students that by participating in the *chidon*, which involves a serious commitment to Torah study, "you are bringing back part of what was lost."

At the high school division of the National Bible Contest three winners – the top performers overall and one representative each from Montreal and Ontario – go on to compete in the international tournament in Israel.

Silvia Eilath, education consultant at the BJE, says Canadian participants are usually among the top 16 world finalists, and this year was no exception. Sarah Shainhouse and Josh Gutenberg (both from Toronto) and Sara Bordan (from Montreal) made the finals, with Shainhouse placing fifth and Gutenberg, eighth.

The national contest in Montreal was divided into five different categories – grades 5 and 6 Hebrew and English; grades 7 and 8 Hebrew and English; and grades 9 to 11 Hebrew. The largest single group was the grades 5 and 6 Hebrew division, which had 48 participants.

The contest generated a lot of excitement and suspense. First the students wrote two exams and from those results, the semi-finalists – 10 in each division – were chosen. Then the number was narrowed down to five for each division in the final round of questions. Prizes were given for first-, second- and third-place winners in each division.

The big winner at the high school level was David Pellow from Yeshivat Ohr Chaim of Toronto. He came first overall and will represent Canada. In second place, Yisrael Witty, also of Ohr Chaim, will represent Ontario, while Moshe Cohen, from Hebrew Academy of Montreal, will be the Quebec representative. Binyamin Walfish, an independent student from Toronto, placed third.

The winners of the English Supplementary School division for grades 5 and 6 were Kassandra Loewen (Bet Sefer Solel, Toronto), first; Ian Kapron-King (Temple Emanuel, Victoria); and David Kitai (Temple Kol Ami, Toronto), second; and Matthew Silverstein (Downtown Jewish Community School, Toronto), third.

The winners of the grades 5 and 6 Hebrew Division were Sarah Marcus (Eitz Chaim, Toronto), first; Courtney Firestone (United Synagogue Day School, Toronto), second; and Jonathan Sebag (United Talmud Torahs, Montreal), third.

The winners of the grades 7 and 8 Hebrew Division were Josh Satok (Associated Hebrew Schools Toronto), first; Leo Katz (Associated), second; and Stephanie Glowinsky (Netivot HaTorah, Toronto), third.

Yonatan Clark (Temple Emanuel, Victoria) won the only prize awarded in the grades 7 and 8 English division.

Shlomo Shimon, executive director of the BJEC and the ombudsman for the *chidon*, was assisted in the organization of the event by Helene Kaufman, BJEC assistant executive director; Arlazar Eliashiv, Montreal contest co-ordinator; and Eilath, contest co-ordinator from the Toronto BJE.

Marty Lockshin, a judge for the contest both at the national and local levels, was assisted by some previous *chidon* participants and national winners Yoni Halperin of Toronto and Montrealers Abby Brown, Carolyn Gehr, Sara Ronis and Dalia Rotstein.

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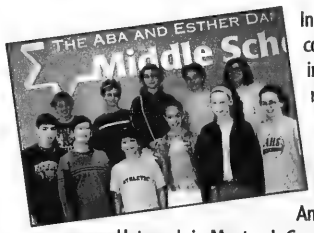

In the Canadian National Mathematics League, an annual math contest in which 467 schools competed, our Grade 6s placed Top 10 in Canada and Top 5 in Ontario. Danilack student, Marky Freeman, received a perfect score and tied for **first** in the country.

And, at the national Chidon Hatanach in Montreal, Grade 8 student, Josh Satok, placed **first**, and Grade 7 student Leo Katz, placed **second** in their categories. Many of our students placed in the Top 10.

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Greater Toronto Area

Reconstructionist workshop reinforces participatory approach

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Two rabbis from the Reconstructionist movement's headquarters in Philadelphia were in Toronto last month to run a leadership workshop that was the first of its kind in Canada.

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Canadian-born director of outreach & external affiliations for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation – the movement's synagogue arm – and Rabbi Fredi Cooper, JRF's director of affiliate services, spent a weekend with about two dozen lay leaders and potential leaders of Darchei Noam, Toronto's only Reconstructionist synagogue, as well as two participants from Buffalo, N.Y.

The workshop, called "Exploring Reconstructionism: A Leadership Approach," focused on community building and policy development using an approach called "values based decision making (VBDM)," which reflects Jewish values and Reconstructionist philosophy. It has been run for seven years in the United States.

"It's a real challenge to do things in a way that includes the largest number of people, but it's also tremendously rewarding when you're able to go through the process and come to a decision that most people are delighted with," said workshop participant Rona Kosansky, secretary of Darchei Noam's board. "It's a real community-building process."

The seminars are designed to respond to each congregation's individual needs, said Rabbi Zevit, who was involved in educational theatre in Toronto before he entered rabbinical school 12 years ago.

For the event in Toronto, part of the focus was on Darchei Noam's $3 million capital campaign, in light of its purchase last September of Adath Sholom Congregation's building. The 30-year-old, 300-family congregation has been meeting in the B'nai Brith Canada building on Hove Street since 1989.

The workshop, in fact, was created in response to a growth trend in the movement.

Thirty per cent of Reconstructionist congregations have been building buildings within the last decade, and the movement has been growing by 10 per cent a year, Rabbi Zevit said.

Although there are only three formally affiliated Reconstructionist congregations in Canada (in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal), they are among 105 altogether, mostly in the United States, and including one in Prague and another in Curacao.

One of the things that distinguishes Reconstructionism – a liberal, egalitarian movement developed by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan over the middle years of the 20th century – is that rabbis work with congregants to educate them in order to develop policies, instead of imposing standards themselves, said Rabbi Cooper, who has a background in education and as a therapist.

"Our rabbis work with the community to enhance participation and empower people," said Rabbi Zevit. "We work more on a partnership level."

Rabbi Zevit, who was born in Winnipeg but moved to Toronto at age 10, was a founder of Kehillat Ahavat Hesed, a now-defunct egalitarian congregation where he led services every other Shabbat.

DJCS MARKS 25 YEARS: Downtown Jewish Community School marked its silver anniversary recently with a gala evening of comedy, music and a silent auction. Founding principal Joan Schoenfeld, who has served the school for all 25 years, was honoured. From left are Linda Bronfman and Paul Swartz, silent auction co-chairs; Schoenfeld; and Ted Winick and Beth Sulman, board of director co-presidents.

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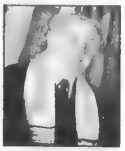

CANTOR SOLOMON GISSER

Cantor Solomon Gisser, Cantor of Shaare Zion Congregation of Montreal for nearly half a century, passed away in Montreal on April 19, 2005, at the age of 86.

Cantor Gisser was born in Warsaw, Poland, and later moved with his family to Lodz. He received an intensive traditional education in the schools and yeshivot of his native land, and, as a young boy, was renowned in Lodz as a soloist with some of the foremost synagogue choirs of that city. As a young man, he also conducted the Lodz Ghetto's famed Hazomir choir for the High Holy Days of 1940.

Cantor Gisser and his brother Meyer (who predeceased him in Israel in 1976) volunteered to work in the German labour camps in 1941, unaware that this was the first step in a four-year ordeal that took them to a variety of Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Buchenwald from which Cantor Gisser was liberated in April 1945.

Cantor Gisser completed his musical education at the Heidelberger Hochschule Fur Musik in Germany, after which he officiated as Cantor in Heidelberg, Mannheim, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Upon arrival in Canada in 1952, Cantor Gisser was engaged as Hazzan of Shaare Zion Congregation where he served until his retirement, as Cantor Emeritus, in 1997. As Cantor of that congregation, he established an uncompromising standard of excellence for hazzanut and synagogue music which became manifest in synagogue services whose spirituality, beauty and dignity became renowned throughout North America.

During his career in the cantorate, Cantor Gisser concertized extensively in Montreal, and throughout Canada, United States, Israel and Europe, performing varied programs including hazzanut, Yiddish lieder, Hebrew melodies, other forms of liturgical music, and opera. He made a number of recordings of his music, and in 2000, published his autobiography. **The Cantor's Voice**, describing his experiences in pre-war Poland and during the Holocaust. Cantor Gisser also promoted, introduced and supported the music of other outstanding composers, musicians and singers of liturgical and non-liturgical Jewish music.

Cantor Gisser's excellence as both Hazzan and musician were equaled by his humanity, kindness, generosity and pastoral qualities, and he was much sought after by a multitude of Jewish and secular organizations to whom he regularly lent his many talents.

Cantor Gisser's work earned him numerous honours from a variety of organizations and institutions, and in 2002, in New York City, was conferred the degree of Doctor of Music, Honoris Causa, by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Cantor Gisser was predeceased by his wife, the late Anna Gisser in 1992. He is survived by his daughter, Helen Burrows of Boynton Beach, FL. (son-in-law Michael Burrows, granddaughter Dr. Sara Bernstein and Glen Bernstein; great-granddaughters, Anna and Gina Bernstein); his son, David Gisser of Winnipeg, Manitoba (daughter-in-law Justice Freda Steel, grandson Jason Gisser, and granddaughter Meira Gisser); his brothers Cantor Hyman Gisser (Zippora) and Sam Gisser of Montreal; and by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Cantor Gisser took place at the Shaare Zion Congregation in Montreal on April 21st, followed by interment at the Shaare Zion Congregation Section,, Eternal Gardens Cemetery, Beaconsfield, Qc. Rabbi Lionel E. Moses officiated, together with Cantors Boaz Davidoff, Eric Moses, and Gideon Zelermyer, and the Shaare Zion Choir under the direction of Mr. Lou Burko.

The family wishes to express hearfelt thanks to Queenie Climan and Riva Rauch for their caring support and friendship. Special thanks as well to Belle Maclan, and the administrative and medical staff of the Palliative Care Department, Mount Sinai Hospital of Montreal, for their care and compassion.

Contributions in Memory of Cantor Gisser may be made to the "Cantor Solomon Gisser and Anna Gisser Memorial Fund", C/O Shaare Zion Congregation, 5575 Cote St. Luc Road, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2C9; (514) 481-7727.

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The Jewish Education Report

Jewish Studies Start Early *in the Kobrin family*

By Suzanne Wintrob

No matter what preschool her students attended, Grade One Hebrew teacher Sharon Goldfarb knows it won't take her long to get them excited about Jewish learning.

"When they get to my class, the children already have a good background," says Goldfarb of Associated Hebrew School's (AHS) Posluns campus. "They know a lot of words and some of the songs. And for those who didn't go to a Jewish preschool, their minds are open and it isn't hard for them to get into the groove. The transition is only a few days."

These days, more parents are considering Jewish pre-schools and many children are graduating from Jewish kindergartens to Jewish elementary schools.

Parent Lisa Kobrin, for example, has two children at the AHS Kamin campus in Thornhill: a daughter just finishing Grade Two and another daughter finishing Senior Kindergarten. Come September, she'll be enrolling her youngest son there, as well, where he'll attend nursery school.

When their oldest was ready to start her formal education, day school was the only option the Kobrins considered. Her transition from preschool to Grade One was particularly easy because she had the basics covered. She knew about Shabbat and the Jewish holidays and was familiar with basic stories and songs that went along with the Jewish calendar. She could recognize Hebrew letters and knew some basic Hebrew vocabulary. Her classmates did, too.

Grade One was an extension of all that. By the end of the year she knew *Shacharit*, the daily morning prayer, and was familiar with additional prayers as well. Fridays were devoted to Shabbat festivities and the telling of *Parshat HaShavuah* (the weekly Bible portion). Her Hebrew language skills expanded tremendously through phonetic reading, conversations, stories and songs. The highlight of the year was a special *Shacharit* service she led with her fellow Grade One graduates, at which they were all presented with their very own *Siddur*.

The Kobrin family - L to R: Hailey, Shaun, Lisa, Ethan and Mia

"Most students coming into Grade One don't speak Hebrew," explains Goldfarb. "Some do have some background so it eases their language acquisition, but it's not so much that if somebody doesn't know Hebrew they can't get it or feel bad. It's the routine of every day – they talk and then they build on it as the year goes on."

It's the dedication of the educational staff that makes it work. Says Kobrin, "I've been very happy with how my children have proceeded from grade to grade. They have very loving teachers."

Although Mrs. Kobrin speaks little Hebrew, her husband Shaun is an AHS graduate and speaks the language well. Still, they investigated their options before enrolling their eldest in a Jewish day school and urge other parents to do the same.

"Make sure the school you choose is good for your family," says Mrs. Kobrin, a class parent and preschool literacy coach. "What are your values? What information do you want your children to have? By choosing something that fits your family, you can help your child make an easier transition from preschool to day school."

Born to Teach *CHAT's classroom sisterhood*

When Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein was studying at New York's Jewish Theological Seminary several years ago, for an MA in Ancient Judaism and a PhD in Midrash (Biblical Interpretation), she had every intention of becoming a university professor one day.

But when she and her husband decided it was time to leave the Big Apple and move closer to her family in Toronto, she had no idea what her job prospects would be. So she did what came naturally: she called upon her younger sister for advice.

Rachel Urowitz is a lecturer at both York University and the University of Toronto and a U of T PhD candidate specializing in Judaism in the Greco-Roman period. She was also a Jewish history teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) graduate. Like Anna, Rachel had planned on becoming an academic. But one day she was called on to take over a CHAT Jewish history class mid-year when a teacher fell ill, and she simply fell in love with the day school scene and stayed on. Eight years later she is a mainstay of the Jewish history department, having written and revised several of the curriculum sourcebooks.

Anna Urowitz Freudenstein (l) and Rachel Urowitz

When Anna came along asking for advice on Toronto area academic postings, Rachel told her to give high school a try. Anna was hesitant but put in a call to CHAT anyway. Before she knew it she was on staff for the inaugural year of the Richmond Hill campus and has since spent three years at the Tannenbaum campus. Her specialties are Rabbinics, Tanach, Jewish history and Jewish ethics.

While they may have experienced the usual sibling rivalry growing up, the Urowitz sisters maintain a strong bond when it comes to their students' well being. They have taught the same courses, sometimes at the exact same time, and regularly bounce ideas off each other and then introduce the concepts into the classroom. They each have their specialty – Anna's is Midrash and text while Rachel's is the historical investigation of the ancient Jewish period with an emphasis on archaeology – and so they often interpret passages in different ways, making for interesting conversation and debate. Rachel has picked up on Anna's fascination with Web-based learning and introduced it to her students.

"We each know that we have our own bent, our own niche" says Rachel, who recently had her second child. "We don't step on each other's feet that way. I've never felt as though Anna was trying to hone in on my material. We're close enough in topic that we have things to talk about and confer with but we have different approaches. There's never any feeling of, 'how come you stole my material or my approach?'" Being CHAT graduates themselves, both Rachel and Anna initially found it odd to be eating their lunch alongside some of their former teachers. But when they both became CHAT teachers, having a sister nearby was particularly calming.

"We respect each other's space and so it works out well," says Rachel. "Anna works in Jewish history as well as in other departments so she spreads herself a little differently than I do. We have a chance to work together but we're not solely always placed together. We have some freedom to be our own people."

Adds Anna: "I miss Rachel now that she's on maternity leave. It's very nice and comforting to have a sister in the staff room with you."

School Year Marked *by innovative initiatives*

How do you get a kid excited about school? Give him a project he can really sink his teeth into. And that's exactly what several schools did this year.

United Synagogue Day School's Grade 7 class focused on the Jewish lifecycle. Students explored different issues from birth to bat/bar mitzvah, including traditions and rituals, and then delved into their own bat or bar mitzvahs and their *Shoreshim* (Jewish roots). The computer-based project was designed to help students discover who they are, where they came from, and what shaped them into the people they are today.

The project began with students examining their own names and how they came to be. Then they created a family tree, complete with photos of various family events. They crafted their own identity cards by thinking of who they are and how they perceived their identities. They explored *mitzvot* that are important to them and how they will contribute to others as part of their bat or bar mitzvah celebrations. They learned about their *parsha* (Torah portion) and figured out how it relates to their lives. They designed an interactive map illustrating the migration of their families to Canadian soil and they interview a grandparent about how he or she celebrated his bat or bar mitzvah.

"This project enabled our students to reconnect to their family roots through dialogue with their parents and grandparents – to inquire, to learn, and to unfold their family stories," says Amiel Sabari, Director of Jewish Studies at USDS. In their explorations, the students rediscovered their families. In fact, to our surprise one student was able to trace his family back to the 18th century."

Or HaEmet Day School was also a buzz of innovative activity this year. Through its *Mishnayot L'Hatzalat Nefashot* (Mishna To Save Souls) program, 70 students in Grade Four to Eight, led by school principal Sarah Wasserman and Hebrew principal Sara Cohen, spent the past year studying sacred texts in class and independently in exchange for points.

The school matched one dollar for every point and raised $3,000 for *Ezer Mizion*, which provides medical assistance and social services not only for Israel's sick, disabled and elderly populations but also for all people in crisis. The children presented a giant cheque to *Ezer Mizion* at a special ceremony, attended by Rabbi Amram Assayag, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Ontario. The organization, in turn, presented the students with a plaque to say thank you.

Students at Or Haemet donate a large cheque to Ezer Mizion

What made the project particularly heartwarming for the children was the learning that took place in memory of one of their friends. Michael Zuk, a Grade 6 student, died of cancer at the beginning of the school year and the tragedy affected the entire student body very deeply. His parents also attended the ceremony.

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

The Jewish Education Report

Moving On. The Class of 2004

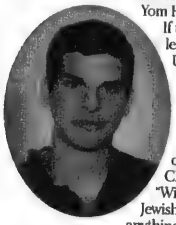
By Suzanne Wintrob

By the end of this month, close to 550 students will have graduated from Toronto's Jewish high schools. They are an impressive bunch, having spent the past four years absorbing as much as they possibly can about their Jewish heritage, excelling at general studies and making lifelong friends along the way. Now, as they embark on the next step in their life journey, they share their feelings about moving on.

Matthew Friedman, 18

Graduate of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Richmond Hill Campus

When Matthew Friedman first arrived at CHAT Richmond Hill fresh out of United Synagogue Day School's Bayview Avenue campus, he knew he wanted to be involved in more than just studying. His first foray into extra-curricular activity was the Grade 9 school play, serving as its assistant director and subsequently acting as assistant producer and head of playbill. By Grade 10 he had signed on as a peer counsellor to help his fellow students with family problems and other troubling issues. He tutored younger students in various subjects, served as Grade 11 student council rep, and worked on a number of special events for Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron.



Matthew Friedman

If that weren't enough, Matthew took on leadership roles outside of school with United Synagogue Youth (USY) and National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) – all the while maintaining good grades.

"Having a day school education has really allowed me to find myself and my community," says Matthew, who calls his CHAR years a life altering experience. "Without the Jewish experience and a Jewish school, I wouldn't be involved in anything. I've opened myself up to the community and it has given me an opportunity to learn about Judaism and find my place in the Jewish world."

Going to day school has also hooked him up with likeminded teenagers: "The friends I've made are pretty awesome. They're 100% genuine. They're not there just to go to school and get out. We work together to make it the place that it is."

Matthew is soon setting off to Israel for a year of Jewish learning at Yeshivat Maaleh Adumim near Jerusalem. After that he plans to study science and engineering at the University of Toronto. His dream is to carve out a career path that combines all of those subjects.

Zippi Shulman, 18

Graduate of Ulpanat Orot

From Israel to Calgary to Toronto and now back to Israel. That's Zippi Shulman's life so far.

The eldest of five children, Zippi was born in Israel to an American father and an Australian mother. When she was five years old, the family moved to Calgary where her father, Rabbi Moshe Shulman, took up a position at Calgary's House of Jacob-Mikvah Israel synagogue and Zippi attended the Akiva Academy day school. They moved again when she was 11, this time to Toronto where her dad took the helm at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and they enrolled Zippi and her siblings at Eitz Chaim day school.

Zippi Shulman

This year, Zippi is on the move solo. She's off to Israel to spend a year at Michlala Jerusalem College for Women and hopes to make aliyah in the near future.

"I'm looking forward to being in Israel but also to learn more texts in detail and broaden my knowledge," says the Ulpanat Orot graduate. "I hope to go to university there, too, and study education. I want to teach Tanach and Jewish history, but I really like the sciences so maybe I'll combine biology, physics and Tanach."

While at Ulpanat Orot, Zippi helped organized Friday afternoon programs and regular study sessions for the entire school. She made it to the national championship of the Bible contest in Grades 9, 10 and 11 and visited public schools to teach Holocaust education.

"The person you are is based on the home you come from, and Jewish education supplements that," she says. "A lot of who I am and where I want to be is due to the Jewish education I've received."

David Zvi Epstein, 17

Graduate of Or Chaim Yeshiva

David Zvi Epstein has two views about going to day school. "It's important in that you're around people who think like you, who act like you, and the things you hold dear are reinforced through the people around you," he says. "But at the same time, sometimes it's a little bit of a shock when you go out into the rest of the world and you see that it's a very different place."

David Zvi has experienced that dichotomy this year, in particular as a member of Or Chaim Yeshiva's Holocaust Education program. Together with his fellow students, David Zvi visited a number of public and Catholic high schools in the city – wearing his kippa, of course – and brought the Holocaust alive through songs and stories. Some of the kids they spoke to had never met a Jew before, he recalls, and many were emotionally affected by the presentations.

David Zvi has accomplished much in his high school days. He was editor of the school yearbook. He helped organize this year's community-wide Yom Hazikaron program and read his poem *The Siren* to the audience. Last year the avid photographer had an exhibition based on the *Shma* prayer at a downtown café. He and his classmate Hillel Nadler were one of only 26 North American students awarded a Bronfman Youth Fellowship and together they spent last summer in Israel studying various Jewish topics and meeting with Knesset members.

He'll be spending this summer working alongside professors at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science and will stay on for the year at Yeshivat Maaleh Gilboa. Then he'll head off to Montreal's McGill University and hopes to teach one day.

"I think I'm ready to move on to a new part of my life," he says.

Anna Neuman, 17

Graduate of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Tannenbaum Campus

Anna Neuman's transition from She'arim Hebrew Day School to CHAT was anything but easy.

"It has been a roller coaster of challenges but also of triumphs," recalls Anna, who attended United Synagogue Day School prior to the special education-focused She'arim. "Grade 9 was a transition year for me, both socially and academically. It was a community-based school so people were very friendly and I didn't have many problems making friends. But academically it was a huge transition because of the workload."

But Anna was determined to make things work and, they did, thanks to CHAT's caring guidance and mediation departments and her own efforts. She was taken under CHAT's wing and fit in with the dedicated teachers who understood her learning style and helped her succeed. She attended special education classes for her difficult subjects like math and science but chose regular stream for her best subjects like English and geography. She became a peer counsellor, helping Grade 9 students transition to high school, and was involved in the school play and various committees.

Given the increase in antisemitism at Canadian universities and colleges, Anna says she's glad her day school education provided a strong sense of Jewish identity. She'll be spending the summer in Israel and then attending York University's Faculty of Arts in the fall.

Supplementary Schools *nurture Jewish learning*

Ellen Mervin had always wanted a Jewish education. But her parents, who weren't observant, believed that Jewish learning was only for boys and so they sent her brother to Hebrew school instead. He quit after his bar mitzvah and never went back. When Ellen eventually married, she found out her husband had done the same.

When the Mervins had their first child, Tamara, Hebrew school was far from their minds. But history repeated itself, with Tamara showing an interest after attending various Jewish camps and seeing her friends sign up for after-school learning. Ellen and her husband Earl were surprised but thrilled.

L to R: Shauna, Mara and Adam Waters

"We have always given, and continue to give, our children whatever experiences they've needed and wanted in order to grow, whether it has been dance lessons or swimming lessons or learning the oboe," says Ellen, who still belongs to the Kiever shul. "If that's what they wanted to pursue, they were given that opportunity. When they said Hebrew school, I immediately said, 'Not my children. Why do you need this?' And then my parents reminded me that I had wanted to go and hadn't. So I found one for them."

Gary Waters, on the other hand, had attended Hebrew school as a child and always knew he would send his kids one day, too. He and his wife, Ruth Goldman, are members of Temple Sinai Congregation and so the synagogue's 50-year-old supplementary school was a natural for their three children. The school, with 150 preschoolers and 350 students in Grades 1-12, provides family education programs, leadership skills and teacher training programs for high schoolers, in addition to trips and visiting speakers.

"They get a nice well-rounded set of influences," says Waters. "They learn to read Hebrew and understand it. They apply that to the prayers and the liturgy so they're familiar with the service at our synagogue. They learn about Israel, which is important to us. They learn about good work, tzedakah of various kinds, and Jewish culture."

Adam Waters, now in Grade 8, admits he's in it as much for the trips as for the Jewish education and the camaraderie. His class went to Ottawa and spoke to MPs about Israel and gathered at Camp George for an action-packed retreat. Still, Hebrew school has taught him a great deal about his heritage, his people and his religion, and has fostered a strong Jewish identity. The experience has been so stimulating that Adam and a number of his friends have chosen to continue their supplementary school education beyond their bar and bat mitzvahs.

"It prepares you for what's to come in life," says Adam who will be representing his Grade 9 class in Temple Sinai's Senior Youth Group next year.

For the Mervins, sending their kids to Toronto's independent Ahavat Yisrael supplementary school, which conducts Sunday morning classes for 680 students on two campuses, has added a whole new Jewish dimension to the household. Shabbat and Jewish holidays now have more meaning and family discussions revolve around Jewish topics.

"Every time they came home they were teaching me," recalls Ellen of the early years. "It brought a whole new atmosphere into the house."

The Mervin children at the bat mitzvah of their sister Miriam (second from right)

Tamara and her siblings Miriam and Benjamin have all been through the seven-year program. Tamara, 17, returned as a volunteer once she graduated. Now Rachel, the youngest, is in her final year and will soon celebrate her bat mitzvah at the school's special ceremony and dinner. Her older siblings are excited about seeing Rachel follow in their footsteps.

"At my bat mitzvah I told a story about taking things one step at a time," says Tamara. "That's what I told my little sister, to keep going and keep learning, that it is a good experience to go to Hebrew school because then you learn about your culture and you learn about your religion, which is really important."

For more information about Jewish education at pre-schools, day schools or supplementary schools in Toronto, visit the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education Web site, www.bjetoronto.org, call 416.633.7770 or e-mail to bje@ujafed.org

THE JEWISH EDUCATION REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY UJA FEDERATION'S BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION.

Parents sought answers at USDS meeting

Board to meet with Richmond Hill parents

Continued from page 3

And although most parents seemed to understand the need for the restructuring, emotions were running high.

One Richmond Hill parent asked whether the board would work with Richmond Hill and Bayview parents to find a way "to allow people to transition in a humane manner – not in an impossible manner by commuting an hour-and-a-half at rush hour down Bayview – to the new campus?"

Goldberg didn't have an answer, but he said the board will meet with Richmond Hill parents on ideas to make the transition as smooth as possible.

This response didn't seem to appease one Bayview parent, who felt that having one USDS campus in Richmond Hill and one south of Eglinton would cause a rift in the Jewish community.

He said that because Jews who live further south are usually more affluent than those up north, the restructuring will "accelerate the negative process of ghettoization" in the community.

But Gales said neither Bayview nor Richmond Hill are attracting new students to junior and senior kindergarten and Grade 1, while the Bathurst branch's population has remained stable. As well, he said, the Bathurst and Bayview campuses are relatively close to each other, meaning they compete for students.

Amid threats to pull children out of the school and complaints about the board's failure to communicate the changes well, commuting was the major concern for many parents, who said they didn't have time to sit in rush hour traffic.

At some points, all Gales could do was listen to complaints and apologize for the inconvenience parents would experience.

"On behalf of the board, we sincerely understand and deeply regret the pain, disruption and frustration the parents are feeling. The board has not taken this plan lightly," Gales said.

Eitz Chaim to merge with Thornhill Talmud Torah

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

USDS is not the only Jewish day school undergoing big changes in the coming years.

Earlier this spring, Eitz Chaim Day School announced that its boys division would be merging with the three-year-old Thornhill Talmud Torah.

As of next September, Talmud Torah students will call Eitz Chaim's Patricia campus home, to combat a decrease in enrolment "and other financial constraints" being experienced at Eitz Chaim, said Rabbi Isser Pliner, the Judaic studies principal of Eitz Chaim on Patricia Avenue.

"The student population [at Eitz Chaim] has been decreasing, and it seems the enrolment has gone down. This has caused a tightening of the belts," Rabbi Pliner said.

In 1992, Eitz Chaim, an 85-year-old Orthodox day school, boasted 1,100 students. Today, the school has less than 700 children, and the boys division has dropped to 300.

Rabbi Pliner said Talmud Torah, which has 64 boys, also had to think about the future.

Although the two schools had different educational philosophies on the surface, parents with children in both schools have the same goals, he said.

Talmud Torah had a more intensive Jewish studies program than Eitz Chaim, but with the merger, Rabbi Pliner said, there is going to be a "major effort" to work out any philosophical differences the two schools had in the past.

He said the new Eitz Chaim boys division will adopt the Maharal educational approach used by Talmud Torah. The method holds that Torah, Mishnah and Gemarah should be taught one after the other, not simultaneously, as has been the case up to now at Eitz Chaim.

Rabbi Pliner said the Maharal approach, which is gaining in popularity among Orthodox schools, makes more sense and some parents had already asked that Eitz Chaim adopt the approach.

He said he doesn't know whether the merger will attract new students, but added that location has very little to do with why families choose Eitz Chaim. At the Patricia campus, very few kids come from the area, he said. Students come from both north and south of the campus.

Rabbi Pliner said he is very excited about the merger, but he knows it may be tough to swallow for some parents.

"Parents of both schools are trying to adjust to the idea. We've seen normal reactions to change. They feel they're losing what they were, but what they may become could be very good," Rabbi Pliner said.

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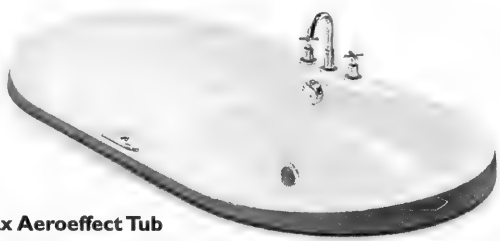

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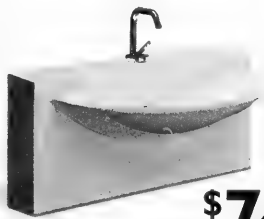

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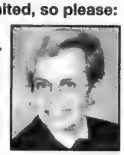

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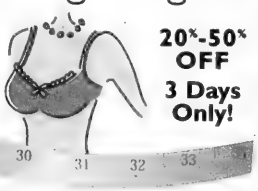

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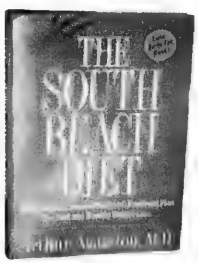

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Gan Yeladim Day Care to hold 25-year reunion

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Strange as it seems now, founders of a non-profit kosher day-care centre in the 1970s faced attempts to discourage their efforts because some members of the established Jewish community felt that Jewish women don't – or shouldn't – work.

But the small grassroots group persisted, opening Gan Yeladim – a government-licensed, kosher day care – at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in 1980 with money raised from private donations.

On June 12, the centre will mark its 25th anniversary with a celebration including a barbecue, carnival, silent auction and games. Alumni, parents, founders and staff will take part in the event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the adjacent Irving Chapley Park, or at the synagogue in the case of bad weather.

There will be no admission charge, but funds raised from activities – most notably the creation of a tile wall for permanent display – will be used to "enhance the day care and to keep the fees as affordable as possible," said supervisor Shelley Wise, who noted that she is only one of several long-term staff.

Founding board member coming from Montreal

The 23-year Gan Yeladim veteran said the centre was small when she started. "Now there are 15 toddlers, age 18 months to 2½ years, and 46 preschoolers."

Founding board member Dorothy Lipovenko is "so proud," she said. She will travel from Montreal specifically for the event. "It's wonderful to know that little kids get a great start because of Gan Yeladim."

As a reporter at the *Globe and Mail* in the '70s, Lipovenko witnessed societal changes, including an increase in the number of two-parent-working families and the number of single parents who needed day care.

At the same time, she said, Toronto's Jewish community was "exploding" in numbers and had similar needs. "It just seemed like a glaring omission that the Jewish community in Toronto didn't have a kosher day care."

Penny Appelton, an original member of Lipovenko's committee, "just loved the idea" when she found out about it as a new mother on maternity leave.

Appelton, a social worker with Jewish Family & Child Service who used to direct the Early Learning Centre at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (now Ryerson University), was involved in curriculum development for the fledgling centre. "It was important that we had a lot of Hebrew words, and songs in both Hebrew and English. Shabbat was important. All the rituals were there. It became part of the children's daily routine."

Alumna Marissa Barnartt, an 18-year-old human resources student at Seneca College and a member of the reunion committee, has a long involvement with the centre, including helping out when she was a Grade 9 student doing her required volunteer hours.

"I'm very excited [about the reunion]," she said.

For more information, visit www.gan25.com/ or call 416- 638-1796.

Now you see it, now you don't. Jacob Rosen shed his locks on Lag b'Omer.

Students shed their locks for tzedakah

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

It took Jacob Rosen about 2½ years to grow his golden locks nearly an entire foot. Jonah Babins spent six months getting his dark brown curls to stretch six squiggly inches.

But on Lag b'Omer, Jacob and Jonah, both students at Associated Hebrew Schools, brushed their long strands a final time, before it was snipped away for tzedakah.

Jacob, 10, donated his hair to Locks for Love, an organization that provides hair to children who have suffered hair loss due to illness. Jonah, 10, shed his curls to raise money for cancer research.

"I learned in school about Terry Fox and I thought that how he raised money for cancer research was a great thing," said Jonah, who asked for $2 donations for his haircut. At the time of his interview with *The CJN*, Jonah raised more than $600.

"I felt that if [Fox] did something that the whole world knows about... then I can get as many people as I can to help out."

Jacob said he didn't initially put much thought into letting his hair cascade indefinitely, but when friends introduced him to the idea of Locks for Love, he jumped at the opportunity.

"I'm really happy that I'm doing it," he said. "I think it's a good cause."

Not surprisingly, the boys' parents are elated about their sons' endeavours.

"We're just so extremely proud of him... This is all his doing," says Jonah's mother Sylvia.

"The Terry Fox story really got into his system and he just felt that if Terry Fox did his part, he will do his."

Jacob's father, Harold, said his son is learning a valuable lesson from the endeavour.

"I'm happy he's learning to help other people," he said. "It's a very nice thing."

As for the end of a hair era, Jacob had mixed feelings.

"I'm pretty scared and excited at the same time," he said before his haircut. "It will feel weird."

Jacob's school chums looked on as his hair was cut at Associated's Neptune Campus.

Jonah's curls were buzzed away at Associated's Thornhill Campus before a gathering of students.

He noted that everyone who donated to the cause signed a piece of paper.

"I'm giving the piece of paper with everybody's name so the people at the cancer society can see all of the people who gave money," Jonah explained.

He said he has also donated the proceeds from jewelry he designed and sold, as well as magic shows he performed at his school, to Terry Fox Cancer Research.

Jonah Babins spent six months getting his curly hair to the right length before having it sheared off on Lag b'Omer.

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On Campus

Student honoured for Darfur work

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Students from STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) presented a petition in Ottawa last month. On Parliament Hill, from left, are Josh Fisher of Concordia University, Alexandra Zalucky of the University of Toronto, Jonathan Laski and Ben Fine, both students at the University of Western Ontario.

Ben Fine, who has just completed his final year of chemical engineering at the University of Western Ontario and is headed for graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), recently became the first student to receive London Jewish Campus Services' Righteous Hand Award and Scholarship.

The award, which was created to recognize social action initiatives by an individual student each year, was the brainchild of UWO student Elias Parker, a recipient of Birthright Israel's prestigious Charlie award and a Hillel intern this past year. Parker, who has also been involved in advocacy and social action, used his Charlie award grant money to start the Righteous Hand award.

Partners in creating the Righteous Hand award include the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Birthright Israel, Western Hillel, the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students (CFJS), AEPi – Western chapter, London Jewish Campus Services, Ve'ahavta – The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, and Chabad of Western.

Fine, 22, co-founded STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) earlier this year with McGill University student Meredith Herman, and headed up a campaign and fundraiser to help people in Darfur.

His award of $600 will be put toward the national organization. At least half the money is to be directed toward the cause the student is supporting, according to the terms of the award.

STAND (www.standcanada.org) has representatives on 18 campuses across the country, said Fine. It was a student-initiated outgrowth of CFJS's One Weekend Jewish student conference held in January in Montreal.

"One of the speakers happened to be Darfur-related," said Fine. Having been involved in Darfur-related activism with students from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds through Hillel's political action committee and Western United: Step Up for Sudan since September, he had a particular interest in the subject. About 30 students in all – among them Fine and Herman – spent an evening at the conference brainstorming about Darfur instead of going out partying, he said.

From the end of February until Apr. 7, STAND ran a campaign called "10,000 Canadian Voices: A Difference for Darfur."

A rally in London attended by about 200 people commemorated the 11th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. In Montreal, the group organized a benefit concert, while at Dalhousie University, students raised more than $4,000 at a gala to build schools for children in southern Sudan.

"It was all part of this 10,000 Canadian Voices. We gathered 10,000 signatures demanding Canadian leadership in bringing an end to the ongoing atrocities in Darfur," said Fine. "The campaign culminated in a press conference last month on Parliament Hill, when we presented the petition to five members of Parliament."

The students had an unexpected opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Paul Martin, who sat down and talked with them for half an hour, said Fine.

What motivates them? In Fine's case, he said it was the March of the Living, in which he participated as a high school student at Forest Hill Collegiate Institute. "I felt a sense of responsibility to speak out and take action against ethnically motivated conflict, wherever it may be and whomever it may affect.

"The lesson of never again is something we as Jews have the responsibility to speak out for, when something like that is happening to anyone else."

Anyone interested in becoming involved with STAND should e-mail STANDwithus@gmail.com.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

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שבֿועות, דער גיסטיקער יום־טובֿ

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

זאָל מען זיך אַריינטראַכטן אין דעם יום־טובֿ שבֿועות, קען מען אים ווירקלעך אַנרופן דער גע־בוירנטאָג יום־טובֿ פֿון יידישן פֿאָלק. יציאת מצרים, ווען די בני־יעקבֿ האָבן באַקומען זייער פרייהייט פֿון שקלאַפֿערײַ, האָט נאָך נישט געגעבן די יידן דיי רעכט זיך אַנצוהויבן אַ פֿאָלק. ערשט ווען זיי האָבן מקבל געווען די תּורה ביים בארג סיני איז זיי געוואָרן: „זיי שטיל אין הער ישׂראל, היינטיקן טאָג ביסטו געוואָרן פֿאַר אַ פֿאָלק צו דיין גאָט". ערשט דאָן ווען די וואַנ־דערנדיקע שבֿטים אין דער מדבר האָבן אַנגענומען געזעצן און מאָראַלישע פּאַרפּליכטונגען האָבן זיי גע־קענט ווייַטער פֿאָר דער וועלט, אַז זיי זיינען געוואָרן אַ פֿאָלק. פרייהייט אַליין, אַן צוימען, אַן באַרעגעזעצונגען, אָן מאָראַלישע וערטן, איז אַ פּוסטע פרייהייט. נאָר ווען זי, די דאָזיקע פרייהייט, שטיצט זיך אויף געזעצן, אויף דעמאָקראַטישע פרינציפּן, קען זי האָבן אַ קיום.

אין דער וועלט, אַלנפֿאַלס אין דער מאָדערנער וועלט, איז אַנגענומען אַ כלל, אַז אַ פֿאָלק איז קלאַ־סיפיצירט ווי אַזעלכעס נאָר דעמאָלט וען עס האָט זיין זעלבשטענדיקייט, וען עס לעבט אויף אַן אייגענער נאַציאָנאַלער טעריטאָריע. דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק איז גראָד אין דער הינזיכט געווען אָן אויסנאַם, ממש אַ יוצא מן הכלל. די יידישע אומה איז נייסטיק אויספֿאָרמירט געוואָרן נישט אויף איר אייגענעם נאַציאָנאַלן שטח, נאָר אין דער מדבר, און נאָר אויפֿן יסוד פון נייסטיקע געאָגן. ביים באַקומען די עשׂרת הדברות איז פעטסטענשטעלט געוואָרן דער אויסזען און תּוכן פון די יידן ווי אַ פֿאָלק. פון דעם טאָג, ווען די יוצאי מצרים האָבן באַקומען די צען געבאָט, איז קיינער מער נישט געווען בכוח אַוועקצונעמען ביי זיי דעם באַקומענעם טיטל: עם ישׂראל.

אַבער נישט בלויז פֿאַר זיך האָט דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק געטראָגן די עשׂרת הדברות. עס האָט אויך געמוסט אויף זיך אַ מיסיע צו פֿאַרשפֿרייטן די דאָזיקע געזעצן צווישן אַלע וועלט־פֿעלקער — אַ שוועריקע מיסיע אָן נישט שטענדיק איז זי געווען דערפֿאָלגריך. דער יידישער אַבער האָט זיך נאָך קיין מאָל נישט אָפּגעזאָגט פון די דאָזיקע גרונט־פּרינציפּן און וועט עס קיין מאָל נישט טאָן.

שוין טויזנטער יאָרן וועדט דער יום־טובֿ שבֿועות אָפּגעהיטן פון יידישן פֿאָלק. במשך פון הונדערטער דורות איז דער יום־טובֿ מיטגענאַנגען מיטן יידישן אַ־לידיק דאָס יידישע האַרץ מיט פרייד און בטחון. פון דער צייט ווען די בני ישׂראל זיינען געשטאַנען ביים בארג סיני און געענטפֿערט: „נעשׂה ונשמע", ביזן היינ־טיקן טאָג, האָט דער יידישער מיטגעטראָגן מיט זיך די תּורה, וואָס עס האָט באַקומען אויף דעם בארג. אין אַלע וויי־קלעך פון דער וועלט, וווּ נאָר דער יידישער איז פֿאַרטרייבן געוואָרן, האָט ער מיטגעברענגט די צען געבאָט, דער מקור פון דער יידישער רעליגיע, מאָראַל און עטיק.

היינט געפינט זיך ווידער דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק אין זיין אייגן לאַנד, אין דער סבֿיבֿה, ווּו עס האָט באַקומען די עשׂרת הדברות. אַרומגערינגלט פון פינצטערע שונאים, שטייענדיק אין דער פֿאַרטיידיקונג פון זייער פרייהייט, פייערט עם ישׂראל דעם שבֿועות יום־טובֿ אויף זיין אייגענער טעריטאָריע. מקוים איז געוואָרן דער „כי מציון תצא תורה", און ווידער טראָגט זיך דער אוניווערסאַלער פרינציפּ פון די צען געבאָטן פונעם ישׂראל־פֿאָלק צו דער גאַנצער וועלט. די מיסיע, וואָס דאָס מדבר־פֿאָלק האָט אויף זיך געמוסען ביים הַר סיני, ווערט ווידער פֿאַרגעוועצט פון דעם זעלבן אָרט, ווו עס האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן.

עס איז אונדזער גלויבן און אונדזער האָפענונג, אַז נאָך פֿאַר אַ סך יאָרן וועט דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק טראָגן צו דער וועלט דעם גייסטיקן באַטייט פון דעם יום־טובֿ שבֿועות.

Lachan
Jewish Chamber Choir
Artistic Director/Conductor
Cantor Benjamin Maissner
presents
from SHTETL to Broadway
Featuring the music of
Berlin, Gershwin, Rogers & Hammerstein,
Goldfaden, Adler, Elistein, Perlmutter and more
Wednesday, June 22, 2005 - 8 p.m.
Leah Posluns Theatre
4588 Bathurst Street
Tickets $25.00
Information
416-782-3214
Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir
Music of the Jewish Spirit

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School
Registration Night: Wednesday, June 15th, 7-9pm
at Bakersfield Public School
At Yorkhill Public School
350 Hilda Avenue at Clark
NEW! 2nd location:
Bakersfield Public School
in Thornhill Woods, 121 Misty Sugar Drive
KIDS LEARN & HAVE FUN TOO!
Trusted Name for 20 Yrs
In Hebrew Education
- Jr. Kindergarten to grade 7
- Sundays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
- 1 or 2 Day program (Sun & Wed)
- Bar & Bat Mitzvah program
- Qualified experienced teachers
- Remedial & Enriched programs
- Israeli Folk Dancing, Music, arts & crafts & more!
- Curriculum based on Conservative model
- Affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education
- **Low tuition fees starting at $295**

Joseph Klinger, former Principal of Bialik Hebrew Day School
Sadie Domb, Administrator
905-886-1457 www.ateret.ca

Greater Toronto Area

Torontonians came out to celebrate Israel Day on Sunday at Mel Lastman Square. The program, organized by the Canadian Zionist Federation, featured entertainment, great kosher food, activities for kids, a live auction and cultural and educational exhibits.
[Janice Atkinson photos]

The Canadian Jewish news

CONGRATULATIONS

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

Please fill in the requested information and fax to 416-391-0949 or mail to 1500 Don Mills Rd, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone number _____

Date of wedding _____

Location of wedding _____

Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Rashel Feldman, Cleo Ceron and Juris Jente are proud to announce the engagement of their children Guy Yefet & Gail Ceron. Mazel tov.

Happy first birthday McKenna, daughter of Denise & Paul Vokey, granddaughter of Hinda & Sid Frommer, great-granddaughter of Jean & Harry Frymerman.

Mazel tov Nicole Ritchie & Andrew Schachter on their marriage. Parents, Roberta & Joseph Schachter, Ruth Ritchie-Cukier & Jeff Cukier, David Ritchie. Grandmother Ethel Ritchie.

Congratulations to Simone Lange, daughter of Corinne & Gavin Lange, and Avi Glina, son of Debbie Tessler & Ed Glina on their upcoming marriage.

Alexandra: Mazel tov on your confirmation. May your love of Judaism give you strength. Love, Bubbie, Zaidy, Mom & Dad, Jordanna, Bubby, aunts and uncles.

Mazel tov to Rikki Ciminsky who recently celebrated her bat mitzvah.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

JNF
Say it with Trees
"Mazel Tov on Your New Arrival"
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
416-638-7200

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

INSCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONES ON THE YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
EARL BALES PARK - TORONTO
416-785-1333

What's New deadlines: Monday, June 20, is deadline for the June 30 issue, Monday, June 27, is deadline for the July 7 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday June 9

PLOT AGAINST AMERICA

Elaine Newton reviews *The Plot Against America* by **Philip Roth** for the Critics' Choice Book Club, at the Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Rd. 2 p.m. For information call **Greta Gray** at 705-445-1912.

EATING DISORDERS GROUP

Eating Disorders of York Region offers support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by anorexia, bulimia and disordered eating, in a non-threatening environment. Join them every Thursday evening, 7:30-9 p.m. in Richmond Hill. For information and location contact **Robyn** at 416-576-0457 or www.edoyr.com.

SOURCES AND THE LAW

Beth David Synagogue presents "Sources and the Law in the Conservative Movement," a series of lectures on the Conservative movement's approach to Jewish Law with **Rabbi Philip Scheim**. 7:30 p.m. tonight and Thursday, June 23. 416-633-5500.

Friday, June 10

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Generation Hutzpah offers a creative Conservative Kabbalat Shabbat service. 6 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Saturday, June 11

SHABBAT LUNCH & STUDY

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein will be the guest speaker at Beth Emeth Sisterhood Shabbat and Luncheon. Rabbi Goldstein's Shabbat sermon will be "Three Blessings: Funds, Friends and Faith." At lunch she will discuss "Can We Protect Our Children From Their Fate?" Purchase tickets for luncheon by Thursday, June 9. 416-633-3838.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Join Kol Yisroel Congregation for weekly Shabbat services at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 9:30 a.m. 416-630-9444.

Sunday, June 12

CHORALAIRS CONCERT

The Choralairs of North York invite the community to its 42nd closing concert at 2 p.m at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre Social Hall. This free concert will feature a varied program of Broadway, pop and folk songs. 416-665-9288.

TEA & FASHION SHOW

Clubs Aviva, Tamar and Simcha Kadima of Na'amat Canada are hosting a Strawberry Tea and Vintage Fashion Show from 2-4:30 p.m. There will be door prizes, raffles, refreshments and boutiques. $18 in advance and $25 at the door. Call 416-636-5425 to register.

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Congregation Habonim presents "A Night of Sacred Stories," Torah study through the retelling of stories from the Jewish oral tradition followed by discussions featuring **Yitzchak Buxbaum**, author of *The Light and Fire of the Baal Shem Tov*, **Avrum Rosensweig**, director Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, and **Eli Rubenstein**, Congregation Habonim. Two sessions, 8:30-10 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. to midnight. 5 Glen Park Ave.

Join **Kolel**'s Community Wide-Speed Torah: All Night Learning, 9:30 p.m.-5:30 a.m. Teen Tikkun 9:30 p.m.- 2 a.m. featuring **rabbis Elyse Goldstein, Tina Grimberg, Yossi Sapirman** and **Ed Elkin; professors Benzion Shapiro** and **Sara Horowitz; Jonathan Richler** and **Dr. Seymour Epstein**. Coffee, noshes and midnight dessert buffet served. 151 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-485-7007.

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation presents all night learning with **rabbis Moshe Stern, Abraham Bartfeld** and **Nachum Berlatt**, midnight-5 a.m. Followed by Shacharit services and breakfast. 416-787-1631.

Continued on page 29

A Night of Sacred Stories

On the first night of Shavuot, study Torah through the retelling of sacred stories from the Jewish oral tradition. Stories to be followed by discussion.

WITH SPECIAL GUEST:

YITZHAK BUXBAUM

an inspiring storyteller and maggid and the author of nine books on Jewish spirituality. His latest book is "The Light and Fire of the Baal Shem Tov" – a biography of the founder of Hasidism

&

• AVRUM ROSENSWEIG, Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

• ELI RUBENSTEIN, Congregation Habonim

• JIM GELCER

Sunday, June 12 • Congregation Habonim

Session I: 8:30-10:00 p.m. • Session II: 10:15 p.m.-midnight

(5 Glen Park Avenue, one block North of Glencairn)

Program is suitable for adults and children

Yitzhak Buxbaum also will speak at Habonim's Shavuot Yizkor Service at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 14

In memory of Alec Gelcer z"l, beloved storyteller

www.congregationhabonim.org

We cordially invite you to attend the

Annual Meeting

of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care*

and The Baycrest Centre Foundation.

June 15, 2005, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter Garden, Apotex Centre,
Jewish Home for the Aged
3560 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Please help Baycrest...

Acknowledge this year's recipients of the:

Chair's Proud Partners Award

The President's Award for Innovation

The President's Award for Leadership Excellence and

The Donald T. Stuss Award for Research Excellence

The Annual Meeting will be immediately followed by the Baycrest BOARD*walk*

www.baycrest.org/baycrestboardwalk

By-law No. 3 of the Medical Staff By-laws will be presented for the approval of the members of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Baycrest Hospital and The Jewish Home for the Aged.

By-law No. 3 modifies the method of determining a quorum at meetings of the Medical Staff Association.

* including the Jewish Home for the Aged, Baycrest Hospital, The Baycrest Day Care Centre and Ridgecrest Senior Residential Services Corporation

RSVP
416.785.2500 ext 6218

Annual General Meeting

What's New

Continued from page 28

POMEGRANATE GUILD

"Show, Share and Qvell," the closing meeting for the year will focus on the work created by members. Members will display and describe their creative endeavours of the past year. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

DIN TORAH TODAY

Rabbi Yosef Carmel, dean of Eretez Hemdah in Jerusalem, will speak on "Din Torah in the 21st Century," at B'nai Torah Congregation. 8 p.m.

CLEANSCAPES

Join Adath Israel Sisterhood for a general meeting and talk with professional organizer **Elissa Wells** as she shares valuable information on how to unclutter our lives. 8 p.m. $5. For information call **Geitie Kramer** at 416-493-1325.

HONEST REPORTING

This workshop will teach you how to read between the lines of your local newspaper, write effective letters and take action to promote fair and accurate media coverage of Israel in Canada. Free. 8:15 p.m. at Chabad Flamingo, 8001 Bathurst St. For information contact 416-915-9157, www.HonestReporting.ca or mike@honestreporting.ca.

Other news

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Jewish Children's Theatre will be holding auditions on June 15, 16, 22 and 23 for its Fall 2005 production of the Holocaust play, *The Book of Ruth* by **Deborah Lynn Frockt**. Cast includes children and adults. Backstage volunteers also welcome. For more information or to book an audition, email ecsoban@hotmail.com or call **Gloria** 905-764-5565 during the day or **Esther** 416-781-8031 evenings till 9 p.m. No Friday night or Saturday calls.

FATHER'S DAY CONCERT

Temple Sinai Congregation presents a special Father's Day concert with **Jacques Israelievitch**, concert master with Toronto Symphony Orchestra; his son **Michael Israelievitch**, percussionist; and guest artists **Teng Li**, principal violist and **Winona Zelenka**, principal cellist with Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Sunday, June 19, 4 p.m. Tickets $15, available at 416-487-4161.

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

Join Adath Shalom Sisterhood for their trip to Atlantic City, June 27-30. $439 per person. 416-633-9691.

CLUB SIMCHA

Chai Tikvah Foundation is beginning a new program for people with mental health problems. Club Simcha will meet every Tuesday afternoon, June 28 through August 30 from 1-3:30 p.m. at National Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. for movies, board games and discussions. For information call 416-665-0482.

CHILDREN OF SURVIVORS

Second generation children of survivors of Bergen Belsen are looking to connect with other individuals whose parents survived Bergen Belsen, specifically those born in the Displaced Persons Camp between 1946 and 1950. To find out more contact **Paulette Volgyesi** at pvolgyesi@rogers.com.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants are held every Tuesday morning 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to join a JIAS Conversation Café. Practice your English in a casual and friendly environment with other newcomers and JIAS volunteers over a hot cup of coffee. For a location call **Jodi** at ext. 30.

Join JIAS on Thursday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation for guest speaker **David Bornstein**, author of *How to Change the World*. For details, call Jodi at ext. 28.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 215.

Adolescents and Divorce. A workshop for parents who are going through a separation or divorce. The focus is on understanding your adolescent during this transitional time and helping them to cope. Wednesday, June 15, 7-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite #313.

Grandparents Are Forever. A workshop for grandparents with divorced children. Topics include grieving the loss of your child's marriage, remaining neutral during conflicts, and maintaining a climate of love and security for your grandchildren. Wednesday, June 15, 7-9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

High Conflict Divorce. A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies and techniques to deal with a high conflict situation and help to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. This workshop requires active participation and is not for individuals in an abusive situation. Thursday, June 16, 6:30-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite #313.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan. A workshop for parents wanting to develop a business like relationship with their 'ex' partners by negotiating the day-to-day details of their children's lives based on their needs. Monday, June 20 at The Promenade Mall- suite #313 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour. A 5-session group for parents with children who frequently demonstrate difficult behaviours such as temper tantrums, aggression, talking back, not following rules and trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays, beginning July 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call ext. 246.

FOR SENIORS

Lunch & Learn in Retirement at Holy Blossom Temple will go to see *Anne of Green Gables* at the Stage West Theatre, Wednesday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m. Members $38, non-members $43. Pre-register at 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 29. Cruise and Casino, Wednesday, July 6. Bridge players wanted Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1-3 p.m. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

Beth Emeth Chai Shalom presents its "Annual Anniversary Dance," Thursday, June 30, 7:30 p.m. with the music of Boris Naiman. Members $7, non-members $10. Tickets available in the synagogue office or contact **Helen Schwartz** 416-633-4111 or **Mildred Persofsky** 416-633-2436.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Closed June 14 for Shavuot.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Jerusalem's Magic, an exhibition dedicated to the celebration of Jerusalem Day including the works of Jerusalem artist **Peter Gur** through June 14 in the Loggia, Koffler Centre.

The Koffler Concert Band, Resa's Pieces year end concert, Tuesday, June 21, 8 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre $5. Call 905-731-4845.

The Koffler School of Music offers music classes for children and adults. Boogie Babies, Jammin Tots, Movers and Shakers Prep Music, Little Maestros Kidz Band, Suzuki violin, Hebrew Children's Choir and private lessons in piano, guitar, flute and violin. Register at ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

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EMUNAH SCHOLARSHIPS: Each year Emunah Women of Toronto awards scholarships to two young women who are planning to spend a year studying in Israel. This year Lory Tobianah, a CHAT graduate who will spend next year at Midreshet HaRova, received the Louis Manpel Scholarship Award, and Sara Yeres, an Ulpanat Orot graduate who will study at Michlalah Yerushalyim, received the Dorothy Zeifman Scholarship Award. From left: Marlene Segal, Tobianah and Yeres. [Photo: Platinum Studios]

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Darling Lisa - It's hard to believe that a year has passed since we were able to hold your hand and kiss your sweet face. It has been a tough year, filled with many tears and much sorrow. Although the pain seems endless, it is mixed with more and more moments of bittersweet joy and enormous pride as we share our Lisa stories and learn of how special you were to all the people whose lives you touched. We often find ourselves wondering how you are filling your time now – lunch with Cleopatra or Henry V111, perhaps writing poetry with Mattie Stepanek. You are with us every moment of every day and we do our best to make you smile down on us with pride. Your little niece Maddie is told constant stories about her Auntie Lisa and has your special blanket to keep her safe. You have inspired us all to be better people and in return we have kept your dreams alive like "The Braveheart Foundation" and your schools and students have honored you with English Awards and special plaques. We wish we could change the outcome of your illness and have you with us – but, we all believe you are in a wonderful paradise and that someday we will all be re-united. With love from your family and many friends.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Hartley Jerome Lichtblau ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 12th at 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Stashover Section #48

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

May his memory live forever. He will be sadly missed.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

JOSEPH KICHLER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 12th at 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Beth Emeth Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LILLIE GORMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 19th, 10:00 a.m.

Beth Tzedec Memorial Park

Section 8

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

BERTHA NESLEN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 12th, 11:30 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Workmen's Circle Section #06N

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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Sunday, June 12th, 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

B - Hungarian Section

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Norton, Melanie, Jeremy, Rochelle, Michael and your adoring grandchildren Faithe, Seth, Aaron & Shaina

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wish to extend their deepest condolences to their President

Ephraim Fiksel

on the passing of his mother

Esther Fiksel ז"ל

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Joe Salomon	May 25/05	4005 Bayview Av
Stewart Franklin	May 25/05	56 Vinci Cr
Jennie Zackheim	May 25/05	98 Ava Rd
Esther Fiksel	May 25/05	343 Clark Av W
Sandra Shinder-Panzures	May 25/05	55 Divadale Dr
Harry Potashin	May 26/05	645 Castlefield Av
Anne Colman	May 26/05	3560 Bathurst St
Tamara Wolman	May 27/05	Apotex Center
Lillian Pomer	May 27/05	18 Lower Village
Helen Starkman	May 28/05	40 Chiswell Cr
David Zuckerbrot	May 27/05	288 Brighton Av
Ernest Berger	May 28/05	78 Rockford Rd
Harvey Langer	May 28/05	55 Ameer Av
Joe Mann	May 29/05	11 William Carson
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Dubinsky, Sally Ruth	May 19/05	2 Buchan Crt
Weltman, Joseph	May 22/05	77 Prue Av
Morris, Joel	May 20/05	7250 Yonge St
Lebovic, Minnie	May 21/05	3000 Bathurst St
Berube, Thomas Albert	May 20/05	136 Cranberry Ln
Muskovitch, Blanche	May 21/05	3705 Bathurst St
Zeleny, Bessie	May 21/05	Private
Nepomniachtchaia, Emma	May 22/05	Private
Tofach, Yuri	May 22/05	Private
Kalmar, George	May 22/05	35 Wynford Hghts
Rubinstein, Louis	May 23/05	100 Canyon Av
Vayntraub, Etella	May 23/05	Private
Gabay, Abraham	May 24/05	96 Garnier Crt
Steuermann, Dr.Arthur	May 26/05	3303 Don Mills Rd
Halas, Eva	May 25/05	Private
Rosenbloom, Paul	May 26/05	77 Dell Park Ave
Levitt, Freda	May 27/05	355 St. Clair Av W
Boldovitch, Joseph	May 27/05	Private
Biglo, Linda	May 28/05	650 Eglinton AvW
Stern, Leon	May 28/05	550 Cranbrooke Av
Reytblat, Leonid	May 28/05	Private
Solomonov, Georgy	May 29/05	745 New Westminster
Jerusalim, Harry	May 30/05	33 Huntington Prk
Perlman, Anna	May 29/05	Private
Schonblum, Menhard	May 31/05	Private
Reyn, Rubin	May 31/05	1121 Steeles Av W
Penek, Klara	May 30/05	Private
Orel, Vadim	May 31/05	3 Goldfinch Crt
Abramovitz, Joseph	May 31/05	Montreal
Danik, Maria	June 1/05	Private

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Coast to Coast

Israeli ambassador visits Nova Scotia

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — After a weekend visit to Halifax and Sydney, N.S., last month, Israel's ambassador to Canada Alan Baker said he left the Atlantic region more enlightened and avidly enthusiastic about small Jewish communities in Canada.

"I was so impressed with the way the Jewish communities have integrated with, and contributed to, the general communities," Baker said.

The British-born ambassador, nine months into his term, spoke at Halifax's two synagogue congregations on Friday evening and Saturday morning, respectively. He also met with Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly and Sue Moxley, the Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia, and the editorial board of the *Halifax Chronicle Herald.*

In addition, Baker visited a Zim Line container ship in Halifax Harbour, toured Pier 21 – the immigration point for more than one million Canadians between 1921 and 1973 – and had Shabbat dinner at the home of Nova Scotia's Jewish lieutenant governor Myra Freeman.

In Sydney, Baker appeared at a community gathering of Jews and non-Jews before returning to Ottawa.

"Wherever I've gone, I've been impressed with the warmth of the Jewish community," he said. "There is a keenness to play a role, not just introspectively. This is a wonderful example of how a Jewish community outside Israel is appreciated by others and happy with itself."

He continued. "It's just sad that the younger generation moves away, something that is even more marked in Sydney than in Halifax. That creates a general concern about the future of small Jewish communities."

Baker was very impressed that he could have Shabbat dinner at Government House. "To light Shabbat candles there was meaningful," he said. "Dalia [Baker's wife] was crying with joy when she lit the candles with the lieutenant governor."

He said that after making kiddush, eating a kosher meal and benching, the offering of toasts was moving.

"The lieutenant Governor toasted Israel and asked me to toast the Queen of Canada, whom she represents. It's the first time I ever did that. I was born in England and this was very special to me. It was an evening neither Dalia nor I will ever forget."

His meetings with Kelly and Bishop Moxley were productive, he said.

He and the mayor discussed the need for outreach between the growing Islamic population and the Jewish community to create better understanding and alleviate future problems.

"I also indicated twin city arrangements might be available between Halifax and Haifa or other Israeli ports," Baker said. "I promised to set up a visit by Israeli port city mayors to Halifax and try to arrange a similar visit for Mr. Kelly to Israel."

Baker's visit to the Zim Line ship showed him the predominance of Zim containers in the Halifax rail yards. "The link between Halifax and Israel, through Zim Lines, is considerable."

At Pier 21, Baker heard taped interviews with immigrants speaking about their arrival in Canada, "a land of milk and honey."

With a laugh, he said, "I thought Israel was the land of milk and honey."

But he added that he would look into having the Israeli Embassy add a plaque to the other embassy plaques now on display at Pier 21.

"This museum, and [Halifax resident] Ruth Goldbloom's role in it [as founder of the Pier 21 Society and as its first board chair] is just another example of the Jewish community being active in the general community."

He said the enthusiasm in, and cohesiveness of, the Halifax Jewish community is remarkable compared to larger centres such as Toronto and Montreal, where so much is available to people.

"In the large communities, you can take it or leave it," Baker said, referring to Jewish living. "Here, everyone is part of it. Everyone is involved and committed."

It was thrilling to meet people who are so supportive of Israel, Baker said.

"I think it is important for them to have access to the Israeli ambassador, too."

Squaring the Hamas circle

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

Elements of the media continue to be preoccupied with the implications of Hamas' increasing involvement in the Palestinian political process.

According to some analysts, Hamas could gain between 30 to 40 per cent of the seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council and effectively stop Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas from reaching a negotiated settlement with Israel, assuming it is even achievable.

On May 31, Reuters reported from Gaza about ongoing friction between Abbas' Fatah party and Hamas. Abbas has decided to re-run a number of municipal elections that Hamas won but are being contested because of alleged voting irregularities that benefited Hamas.

While Abbas wants Hamas "to enter mainstream politics in hopes of solidifying a tenuous ceasefire with Israel and broadening support for Middle East peace talks," Reuters reported that a "conflict with Hamas could undermine Abbas' quest for peace with Israel. Hamas, sworn to destroying the Jewish state, is observing a ceasefire engineered by Abbas. But the deal hinged partly on his promise of more power-sharing via elections."

Reuters unwittingly conveys the contradictions in Abbas' attempt to co-opt an organization sworn to defeating what he has declared he is working toward: peace with Israel.

The contradictions are apparent in the essay "The Lost Palestinians," by Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, published in the June 9 issue of the *New York Review of Books.*

On the one hand, they acknowledge that Hamas is dedicated to establishing an Islamic state "from the Jordan River to the [Mediterranean] sea." On the other, Agha and Malley argue, Hamas is prepared to accept Israel within the 1967 borders "in return for a decades-long truce or hudna, which would regulate… coexistence while their historic conflict endures."

As well, they write, by joining the political process, Hamas "can give [Abbas] a chance without giving the Oslo accords [i.e. a negotiated two-state solution] approval."

This may sound appealing, but just how this tension can be sustained over an extended period is not explained.

To be sure, Agha and Malley recognize that "Israelis and Americans [fear] the impact of a strong Islamist presence and [are] convinced that [Abbas] cannot succeed without eventually clashing with Hamas." They even note that there are people within Fatah who fear an Islamist takeover of the PA. Yet, they argue, Abbas is hoping that Hamas' involvement in the political process will change the organization and make it less militant and more pragmatic, accountable and politically responsible.

Agha and Malley even concede that "Hamas will likely be an active ally [to Abbas] when it comes to the politics of institutional reform and transparency [but] it will also be a constant irritant when it comes to the politics of peace."

After all, one of Hamas' objectives is to split Fatah, which is already weakened by divisions between unreconstructed, "Arafatists" and locals opposed to the Tunisian leadership that former PA president Yasser Arafat represented. (Even though Abbas was part of this leadership, he departed from it – with the possible exception of final status issues – and has led the forces opposed to Arafat's corrupt style of rule.)

Agha and Malley correctly note that Hamas is fundamentally an opposition party. "Hamas is attuned to opposition politics, not to political accountability," they write. Yet the core inconsistency in the Agha-Malley analysis is their conclusion that, from Abbas' perspective, "if Hamas is going to remain the opposition, it will be better to bring it inside Palestinian institutions than to leave it out" in the hope the group will reform.

What they fail to explain is the basis for their belief. Also unexplained is how Hamas can run as a national party on a municipal agenda (providing local social services) while shirking responsibilities on an international level for any diplomatic fallout as it opposes peace.

These bewildering attempts to try to reconcile contradictions, and even to leave some raw on the page, are what characterize so much of the reporting about Hamas' possible involvement in the political process.

The media's task is to recognize those contradictions and not allow them to pass uncritically.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

'It's just as important that we provide hope [to Israel]…'

Continued from page 1

Martin would not be pinned down on whether he regards the area surrounding Jerusalem now populated by Jews as illegal as well or whether Israel must in a permanent solution withdraw to the pre-1967 war borders or the 1948-49 armistice line, the so-called Green Line.

He said these are issues that should be left to negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and that the role of Canada – and the United States – is to support those negotiations. "I'm not going to anticipate the way in which those negotiations unfold."

Martin reaffirmed Canada's support of the 2003 internationally backed "road map" peace plan, which foresees a phased-in process toward a permanent and comprehensive settlement. He stressed the necessity of both sides adhering to what they agreed upon. "It's important to allow [Abbas and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and their respective governments] to work along the lines of the 'road map,' which sets out a series of confidence-building steps. We should not go faster than they want to go." Reaching each of those steps is an important objective in itself, he added.

Martin said Canada plans to play a greater role in the Middle East. He said he will visit the region at an "appropriate time."

"Canada can play a greater role in the Middle East. There's a call that we do so and I intend to respond."

What form that takes is up to what the Palestinians and Israelis ask of Canada. Having heard specific requests from Abbas, he indicated the ball is now in Sharon's court.

"I am looking for Prime Minister Sharon to say to me what he wants Canada to do," he said.

Martin said he often speaks to Sharon by phone and has invited him to Canada "but he has a lot on his plate, and we are looking for a convenient time."

Martin said he understands that Israel's economy has suffered in recent years and Canada might be able to help in some way.

"It's just as important that we provide hope [to Israel]… Whatever we do, there is no doubt that Israel has the moral support of Canada."

In fact, Martin reiterated several times during the half-hour interview Canada's "unequivocal support for the Jewish State of Israel. This is not lip service. It is absolutely real" and consistent with its support for a "viable" Palestinian state.

"This is the principle that we have established, that we operate under and pursue."

As for criticism from the Jewish community that Canada abstains too often on resolutions denouncing Israel at the United Nations and its agencies, Martin said: "What's happening is that there is almost a serial of resolutions. All these resolutions have to be taken on a case-by-case basis. Canada does deal with each individually. We have got to be fair."

On the issue of the claims by Jewish refugees from Arab lands, Martin appeared to be informed and sensitive.

He is aware that between 750,000 and 850,000 Jews fled Arab or Muslim countries, and noted that one of his ministers, Tunisian-born Jacques Saada, is one of them. He said he has spoken to others over the years, and has heard of their loss of property and "historic connections."

"A refugee is a refugee. I think we've got to be prepared [to take Jewish claims] into consideration," he said. However, he hinted that the circumstances of today's refugees still living in camps may have to take priority.

Without any questioning, Martin raised the issue of anti-Semitism in the world, which he described as becoming "virulent," and in Canada where it is a "phobia."

"Government has to combat anti-Semitism in whatever form it takes… The role of the Canadian government is to make very clear that it cannot be allowed to take root. It's just that simple."

NEW SEFER TORAH:

Rabbi Shmuel Zirkind, a Torah scribe, puts the finishing touches on the first Torah scroll written by congregants of Westmount Community Shul in Thornhill. Following the ceremony, congregants marched to Westmount Collegiate Institute, home of the synagogue. The shul's rabbi is Yossi Michalowicz.

[Carolyn Blackman photo]

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OSCE continues effort to deal with anti-Semitism

By RON KAMPEAS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — Standardizing the way anti-Semitism is monitored in Europe, improving Holocaust education and combating anti-Jewish bigotry in media coverage of Israel are the priorities of a top official of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In a quick visit to the United States last week, Gert Weisskirchen met with Jewish leaders to reassure them that he is serious in his efforts to fulfil the goals set by the 55-member OSCE at its anti-Semitism conferences in the past two years.

Weisskirchen, who also is the foreign policy spokesperson for the ruling Social Democrats in the German Bundestag, told JTA his immediate priority is to standardize drastically uneven monitoring of anti-Semitism across Europe.

"We should have a better system of collecting data – what is really happening, what kind of violence is going on on the ground," he said.

He hopes a system under development at the OSCE's human rights arm, based in Warsaw, will be adopted across the continent.

"Some countries are better than others," Weisskirchen said. "Governments are collecting different kinds of data. We are working on criteria, what kind of data should be collected."

Weisskirchen's leadership post, which he assumed in January, was mandated at last year's OSCE conference on anti-Semitism in Berlin. The organization also established positions to combat Islamophobia and racism in Europe.

Jewish leaders scheduled to attend this year's OSCE anti-Semitism conference in Cordoba, Spain, June 8 and 9, are frustrated with the slowness of reforms discussed at the first such conference, held in Vienna in 2003.

Weisskirchen helped reassure them that changes are under way.

"He's very dedicated; he's an excellent choice for the post," said Betty Ehrenberg, director of international affairs for the Orthodox Union. "I hope he gets support."

Weisskirchen is well known to Jewish leaders who have sought greater sensitivity in Europe to the resurgence in anti-Semitism there. In his nearly 30 years representing a southern German district in the Bundestag, Weisskirchen has stood out as a legislator who is particularly sensitive to the issue, Jewish officials say.

At a German Embassy event last month marking the new Holocaust memorial in Berlin, Weisskirchen, who was born in 1944, spoke sensitively of his legacy as a child of parents of the Nazi generation.

"The cold-blooded perpetrators, their telling silence was to be broken by the resolve of the next generation," he said.

When one Germanophile at the event asked Weisskirchen whether Germany now was ready to commemorate in a similar fashion the postwar, mass deportation of ethnic Germans from Czechoslovakia, Weisskirchen rejected the comparison.

His wife was deported as an infant from Sudetenland, he said, but a tragedy Germans brought upon themselves could never be equal to the greater tragedy they brought upon the Jews.

Weisskirchen has met twice since January with his counterparts dealing with racism and Islamophobia, and has consulted with leading European academics.

Appalled by the lack of knowledge of the Holocaust in Europe, he is examining education programs that he hopes can be introduced in schools across the continent through teacher-training programs. One such program is being developed in Moscow, he said.

"You see an unbelievable lack of information," he said. "We need to give new forms of curriculum to the teachers, not only to be better informed but to be better prepared to give the students an image of what happened in the 1940s in Europe, a better understanding of what happened."

Another focus, he said, is the way the media reports the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. No government or pan-governmental body should impose standards, he said, but journalists should be encouraged to introduce such standards in their own reporting.

Differences discussed at meeting of European Jews

By JACQUES WEILL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BASEL, Switzerland — European Jewish organizations have to improve their lobbying abilities in order to be more successful in the European political environment and the wider Jewish world, where Israel and the United States are the dominant forces.

This was the conclusion of many of the 207 delegates to a gathering last weekend of top officials of the European Council of Jewish Communities.

Participants from more than 37 countries, representing 72 cities and 86 organizations, came to Basel, which hosted the First Zionist Congress in 1897.

During the three-day conference, it was clear that there are many divisions among Europe's estimated three million Jews. Religiously, there are Orthodox, Conservative and liberal denominations.

Communally, western European groups tend to have more experience – and greater financial resources – than the communities of eastern Europe, which are supported largely by overseas organizations such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Politically, there are differences among old members of the European Union, the 10 new members who joined last year and non-members.

The divisions became evident in sessions at the conference, where even the title of one spoke volumes: "A Single European Jewish Voice Is a Fantasy That Can Never Be Achieved."

At another session, "Governmental Relations and Lobbying," Emil Kalo, president of the Bulgarian Jewish communities, took issue with a remark by a Spanish participant in the audience, who wanted to teach Kalo about lobbying in eastern Europe.

Kalo himself caused a controversy by claiming that Jews were the best lobbyists. "If we were so successful, why do we always have to talk about rising anti-Semitism?" someone responded.

The panel concluded that European Jews have a lot to learn from American organizations such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Roman Rosenstein from Zurich, a representative of the Anti-Defamation League, said that while many Jewish organizational representatives were impressed by nice hotels and their political counterparts, the important thing before meeting ministers and other high-ranking politicians is to be prepared and know what to press for in a meeting.

Problems also can arise when different Jewish groups are lobbying for different positions.

For instance, Irith Raub-Michelsohn, executive director of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, is negotiating with the German government about permitting more Russian Jews to immigrate to Germany. While the Union of Progressive Jews is in favour of letting all people with one Jewish parent into the country, the larger Central Council of Jews in Germany prefers to let in only those with a Jewish mother, in accordance with the traditional Jewish position of matrilineal descent.

"This kind of division we definitely should avoid," Raub-Michelsohn told JTA.

Daniel Rothschild, treasurer of the Swiss Federations of Jewish Communities, said his community will "need good lobbying" when it faces an upcoming political fight over the import of kosher meat.

Since ritual slaughtering is not allowed in Switzerland, kosher meat is imported. Now animal rights activists have started an effort to ban the import of kosher meat.

Rothschild said that the meeting, which brought together Jews from across the continent, was uplifting for Switzerland's 17,000 Jews.

Other participants also said the most interesting part of the meeting was the opportunity to discuss with colleagues from other communities issues such as Jewish education.

Jonathan Joseph, the president of European Council, said that despite the differences among European Jews, a meeting such as this shows the ability to discuss openly "issues that are of great concern for the Jewish communities."

Joseph, who is from London, stressed that the Jewish communities have to live in harmony with their environment.

He said that the European Council, which was founded almost 40 years ago, should be a forum for all different Jewish movements.

The next meeting of council officials is slated to take place in 2006 in Berlin.

As We Celebrate

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recently held in Israel:

Sarah Shainhouse - Fifth Place

Joshua Gutenberg - Eighth Place
and Second Place in the
Diaspora Division

יישר כוחכם

Second summit seen

Ariel Sharon and Mahmoud Abbas will meet June 21. Aides to the Israeli prime minister and Palestinian Authority president announced the planned summit, the first since they met in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheik and agreed to a ceasefire in February. There was no word on the venue for the new meeting.

Double bombing foiled

Israeli security forces said they foiled a double suicide bombing planned for Jerusalem. The Shin Bet, police and army special forces arrested five Islamic Jihad terrorists who had packed two suitcases with explosives and detonators. The bombs were for a double suicide attack in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ramot. Israeli officials believe Islamic Jihad seeks to disrupt the de facto truce observed by most terror groups in the West Bank and Gaza since March at the behest of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Dollars for withdrawal

Israel will pay evacuated settlers an average of $450,000 per family in compensation, the government said last week. Some 8,500 settlers are to be relocated when Israel withdraws from Gaza and northern West Bank starting in mid-August. Their compensation packages will be based on criteria such as family size and how long they've lived in their homes. Some settlers have petitioned against the withdrawal at Israel's High Court of Justice, calling the relocation terms inadequate.

Israel frees prisoners

Israel released 398 Palestinian prisoners. The prisoners, most of them convicted of attacks that did not cause major casualties, were bussed out of Ketziot jail in southern Israel to various checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza last Thursday. The move marked the completion of the goodwill release of 900 prisoners that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon undertook as part of his ceasefire declaration with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in February. The original roster for last week's release included 400 prisoners, but two declined to be freed. One said he wanted to stay with his jailed brother, and another wanted to complete Israeli-sponsored matriculation studies behind bars.

Abbas has angioplasty

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to wish him well after Abbas underwent an angioplasty late last week. Abbas is known to suffer from eye, heart and other medical problems. The PA president said he plans to appoint a deputy and will bring the matter to the National Assembly.

With files from JTA

Germany battles Muslim extremism

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BERLIN — The chilling possibility that Muslim terrorists and neo-Nazis may combine forces was raised as a distinct possibility by Israel's president last week.

On a visit to commemorate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, Moshe Katsav declared, "Let us not be surprised if one day terror organizations use neo-Nazis to carry out terrorist attacks."

The majority of Muslims in Europe are law-abiding citizens, he added. But Muslim extremists may form alliances with neo-Nazis, he suggested.

Katsav's fears are not misplaced.

The mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, Mohammed Atta, lived and studied in Hamburg, a major port in northern Germany.

Twenty-five thousand to 30,000 Muslims in Germany are members of radical Islamic organizations, according to ministry of interior spokesperson Georgios Tsapanos.

Micha Brumlik, the director of the Fritz Bauer Institut in Frankfurt, a body that studies the impact of the Holocaust on German society, said there are 3,000 to 4,000 hard-core Muslim militants in Germany, much fewer than in France.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the German government has banned five extremist Muslim organizations and newspapers, introduced tighter controls over Islamic groups, placed certain individuals under surveillance, raided mosques in search of inflammatory videos and leaflets, banned an Islamic conference there set to discuss "Zionist terrorism," begun monitoring Islamic schools and set up a central database on suspected Islamic radicals.

Of late, Muslim extremists in Germany have targeted Jews.

Three years ago, an Arab man attacked a synagogue in Dusseldorf with a Molotov cocktail.

Since 2004, Djamel Mustafa, a 31-year-old Algerian, has been on trial in Dusseldorf for his role in an alleged plot to attack Jewish targets, including the renowned Jewish Museum. Arrested in April 2002; he was accused of belonging to Al Tawhid, a radical Palaestinian network.

Last May, Ishan Garnaoui, a 33-year-old Tunisian, went on trial in Berlin, charged with organizing and training a team of Muslims to carry out bombings against Jewish and American facilities in Germany.

Three years ago, the ministry of interior, headed by Otto Schily, uncovered evidence suggesting that an explosion that killed 17 people, including 12 German tourists, at a Tunisian synagogue was partly planned by Muslims in Germany linked to Al Qaeda.

Al Qaeda suspects have figured prominently in several trials in Germany.

In April 2004, Mounir el-Motassadeq – the only person convicted in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. – was released after a lengthy trial.

A former Moroccan engineering student, he was accused of 3,066 counts of accessory to murder, maintaining an association with the Sept. 11 hijackers and knowingly helping them stage the attacks. He was released after it was determined he had been denied a fair trial.

In February 2004, Abdelghani Mzoudi, Atta's former roommate and another Moroccan accused of providing support to the Sept. 11 hijackers, was acquitted after the United States refused to allow testimony from a suspected Al Qaeda operative in its custody.

Last January, German police arrested two suspected Al Qaeda members allegedly planning a suicide attack in Iraq.

Several months before, police arrested Mamoun Darkazanli, a German businessman of Syrian origin suspected of being a key Al Qaeda financier.

Spanish police believe he provided Al Qaeda with logistical help in last year's train bombings in Madrid in which scores of commuters were killed.

Carl Heinrich von Bauer, deputy head of the North Rhine-Westphalia state police, recently claimed that most Al Qaeda cells in Germany have been smashed. But Germany, having dispatched peacekeeping troops to Afgahnistan, remains on Al Qaeda's hit list.

Long before Katsav warned that Muslim extremists and neo-Nazis may link up in a marriage of convenience, Schily banned Hizb ut-Tahir, or Party of Liberation, which had ties with the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party.

Hizb ut-Tahir, an organization with acolytes in many European countries, wants to unite the Muslim world in a single theocratic state under a caliph, or supreme Muslim leader.

Schily banned the group in 2002 after accusing it of "spreading violent propaganda and anti-Jewish agitation" and after receiving reports its representatives had met with members of the National Democratic Party in 2001.

In his latest strike on Muslim radicalism, taken this past April, Schily closed a Turkish newspaper, *Anadoluda Vakit*, which had published anti-Semitic and anti-Western material. Prior to this, he banned Yeni Akit GmbH, a publishing house that had printed *Anadoluda Vakit*'s European edition.

The newspaper, with a circulation of 10,000 in Germany and 60,000 in Turkey, was closed after a German parliamentarian told the Bundestag that it had denied the Holocaust, a criminal offence in Germany.

"The truth is there was no Holocaust," a column in the newspaper claimed. "The so-called gas chambers are a lie as well. All this is nothing but Zionist music."

Schily is now considering a ban on activities by Hezbollah members in Germany.

Last year, the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig upheld a government ban on Al-Aqsa, which collected money for Hamas. Last month, Germany announced it may expel a Jordanian accused of raising funds for Al-Aqsa.

Three million or more Muslims live in Germany, comprising about four per cent of its population.

The majority are Turks, said Tsapanos, the son of a Greek guest worker who stayed on in Germany. In addition to Turks, Germany is home to Bosnian, Indian, North African and Palestinian Muslims.

There is also a community of 100,000 ethnic German converts to Islam. One of them, Steven Smyrek, was arrested and imprisoned in Israel some years ago on charges of being a Hezbollah agent. He was released in 2004 in an Israel-Hezbollah prisoner swap, and now lives in Germany as a free man.

In an attempt to contain Muslim extremism, Tsapanos said, the government is closely monitoring Muslim schools where radical Islam has been taught.

And in the battle for the minds of young Muslim students attending regular state schools, the ministry of education has introduced Islamic lessons into the curriculum, he disclosed.

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Israel faces terror war after pullout, Ya'alon warns

By ARI SHAVIT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.'

TEL AVIV — Moshe Ya'alon, leaving the post of army chief last week after three years, warned in an interview with *Ha'aretz* that unless Israel commits to further withdrawals after this summer's disengagement from Gaza, the pullout will be followed by an outbreak of renewed violence.

Prior to handing his position to successor Dan Halutz, Ya'alon also said in the interview that the establishment of a Palestinian state would lead to war at some stage.

In a ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office marking the transition, Ya'alon said Israel's military efforts brought the Palestinians to cease their campaign of terrorism, at least for the present.

In a widely criticized move earlier this year, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz departed from past practice and refused to extend Ya'alon's three-year term by another year.

Mofaz was conspicuously absent from the long list of people that Ya'alon thanked during the ceremony.

The tension between the two also led Mofaz to say in a later speech, "The fact that we did not always see eye to eye took nothing away from the high esteem in which I hold you in your loyal service and your contribution to the state."

"I was given the trust and the privilege to command the [Israel Defence Forces] during three years of some of the most difficult, complex, and fateful combat since the War of Independence. In this fighting, the IDF and the security forces scored many unprecedented achievements," Ya'alon told the ceremony.

"There is no doubt in my heart that the military achievements were what brought our enemy to the awareness, for the moment, that terrorism doesn't pay."

In the interview, published before the ceremony, Ya'alon said, "If there is an Israeli commitment to another move, we will gain another period of quiet."

"If not, there will be an eruption… Terrorist attacks of all types: shooting, bombs, suicide bombers, mortars, Qassam rockets." Without an additional withdrawal, "there is a high probability of a second war of terror," which will begin in the West Bank, he said.

Incoming Chief of Staff Dan Halutz, right, raises a glass to Ya'alon.

Asked whether Ya'alon intended to say that following the disengagement, Kfar Sava's location near the West Bank will leave it in the same situation as the Negev town of Sderot, which is regularly targeted by Qassam rockets fired from nearby Gaza, Ya'alon responded: "And Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, too. There will be suicide bombings wherever they can perpetrate them."

Following Ya'alon's speech at the Prime Minister's Office, Halutz declared, "We must not drag the IDF into the public debate that accompanies the disengagement plan."

"Division and refusal will not be accepted, whatever their reasons."

But Halutz later indicated that the statement was not intended to be a swipe at statements by Ya'alon that have been interpreted as political in content.

In the interview, Ya'alon said recent statements by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas show that Abbas "has not given up the right of return. And this is not a symbolic right of return, but the right of return as a claim to be realized. To return to the houses, to return to the villages. The implication of this is that there will not be a Jewish state here."

Therefore, he said, the establishment of a Palestinian state will lead to war "at some stage," and such a war could be dangerous for Israel. The idea that a Palestinian state can be established by 2008 and will then produce stability, is "divorced from reality" and "dangerous," as any such state "will be a state that will try to undermine Israel," Ya'alon said.

Asked about the current situation in the PA, Ya'alon responded: "For the Palestinians, it is still convenient to maintain a gang-based reality rather than a state foundation.

"When [the PA] permits Hamas to take part in the elections without abandoning its firearms, is that democracy? It's gangs. Armed gangs playing at pretend democracy," he said.

"If Fatah continues to behave as it does now, Hamas will eventually take over the Gaza Strip."

Regarding the IDF's plans for implementing the disengagement from Gaza, Ya'alon said that the army is preparing for the possibility of entering Khan Yunis "if there is shooting from there" during the withdrawal.

The disengagement, he continued, will not create a "situation of stability." Therefore, "I do not rule out" the possibility that the army will return to Gaza at some point.

Ya'alon said it's impossible to know how long the disengagement will take.

"The question is whether we evacuate 8,000 residents or 20,000 Israeli citizens or maybe 50,000. If you evacuate 8,000, it could last three weeks. If you have to evacuate more, it could take longer."

In other words, he said, it's too soon to talk about the withdrawal as a fait accompli. "If and when we complete the move, we will talk about a fait accompli."

Asked for his views on the general concept of two states for two peoples, he said: "In the present reality, I see difficulty in producing a stable situation of end-of-conflict within that paradigm."

A two-state solution, he continued, is simply "not relevant. It is a story that the Western world tells with Western eyes. And that story does not comprehend the scale of the gap and the scale of the problem. We, too, are sweeping it under the carpet."

Asked whether he fears for Israel's existence, Ya'alon responded: "A combination of terrorism and demography, with question marks among us about the rightness of our way, are a recipe for a situation in which there will not be a Jewish state here in the end."

Outgoing Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon says his farewells to his IDF colleagues last week. [Israel Sun photos]

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Reluctant U.S. showing signs of shift on Hamas

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The U.S. government is showing signs of easing its hard-line approach toward Hamas, in response to the militant group's increasing political clout in the Palestinian territories and appeals for flexibility from European allies, U.S. officials and diplomats say.

The White House agreed to have Hamas run candidates in Palestinian elections, even though the group has refused to disarm and Washington lists it as a major terrorist organization.

In contrast to past calls for the total dismantling of Hamas, U.S. officials say they may be open to contacts with some Hamas political affiliates and have left open the possibility of dealing with the group if it gives up weapons and ends violence.

U.S. representatives cast any shift as pragmatic: Hamas-funded social services are popular with many Palestinians. It is winning local races and was expected to make a strong showing in newly postponed parliamentary elections, and some Hamas-backed politicians and affiliates are seen as moderates.

The shift also follows a behind-the-scenes push by European allies, including Britain and France, to have Washington drop its call to dismantle Hamas completely. European officials warned Washington that doing so would be a "disaster" for Palestinians who benefit from Hamas aid, sources say.

"There is now a realization that they [Hamas] do have a role to play… that if you can bring them into the political fold, then you'll be marginalizing the military elements of those groups," a European diplomat said.

Still, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said President George W. Bush has not changed his view of Hamas as a terrorist group that must be disarmed.

"We have great confidence in democracy and elections," McClellan said. "When people are given the chance to express themselves, they tend to choose those who seek peace and those who seek to improve their quality of life, not terrorists."

A senior administration official said, "We're not acquiescing. We do not deal with… terrorists." But he added, "How do you pursue this without limiting democratic choices?"

Another senior official called it a shift in emphasis, not policy, and it could be reversed if Hamas-sponsored violence escalates.

Trans-Atlantic discussions are expected to continue this week with visits by British and German officials. British Prime Minister Tony Blair will meet with Bush on Tuesday.

European diplomats said a strong election showing by Hamas and a cease-fire deal could prompt the European Union to reconsider its decision to put Hamas on its terrorist blacklist, as it did in 2003 after heavy lobbying by the United States and Israel.

American officials acknowledge that Hamas' electoral rise poses a dilemma in defining "terrorists," and deciding what to do about millions of dollars in U.S. aid for projects in towns run by elected officials from Hamas or affiliates.

"It's a very complicated problem. What do you do about these groups when they are both terrorist groups and entering into politics?" the senior administration official said.

Increased flexibility might put the Bush administration at odds with Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Though officials insist there is no change in the U.S. policy not to make a distinction – as Europe does – between Hamas' political and military operations, the administration may be moving in that direction, diplomats and experts say.

While asserting that the United States will not deal directly with Hamas "terrorists," a senior Bush administration official said it may be willing to have contact with politicians "affiliated with the group."

There is "a big difference" between people who "may be members of organizations but are not terrorists, versus terrorists, people who have blood on their hands," McClellan said in March.

After meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Bush did not publicly repeat demands for the PA to dismantle militant groups, although aides said his position was unchanged.

Supporters of engagement said it fits with Bush's call for spreading democracy. But critics said Hamas' political role should be curbed until it disarms and renounces terrorism.

Abbas' announcement that he is postponing July 17 legislative elections could buy time for Washington to clarify its Hamas policy. No new date has been set for the vote.

Israel ties Ireland in World Cup match

CJN news services

Israel maintained its unbeaten streak in World Cup qualification play, earning a 2-2 draw against Ireland in Dublin last weekend.

With two wins and five draws in seven games, Israel had 11 points and was in second place in European Group 4, one point behind the leader, Switzerland.

The draw shocked the Irish, who lamented lost scoring opportunities and Israel's "play-acting, time-wasting and cheating," according to the *Daily Telegraph*.

Search for 'lost' Jews leads to Spain, Brazil and India

By ELI STUTZ
CJN Israel Bureau

TEL AVIV – How many Jews are there in the world? Demographers estimate the number to be just above the 13-million mark.

But Michael Freund thinks there may be a lot more. Freund, once an adviser to former Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, has now taken on a different role, that of a globetrotting Jew hunter.

Two Bnei Menashe children

Who is Freund looking for, exactly? Jewish history is replete with stories of exile and dispersion. From the 10 tribes banished by Sennacherib to the Spanish Inquisition, Jews have been chased and harried to the four corners of the earth. While many Jews retained their Judaism throughout the long course of their exile, some Jewish communities were lost along the way to persecution, forced conversion and voluntary assimilation. Or were they?

The last 50 years have seen the discovery of groups around the world whose customs resemble Jewish customs or who have a tradition that indicates they were once part of the Jewish people. It is these people that Freund seeks. He believes that many of them really are Jews and that they should be given the opportunity to rejoin their Jewish brethren. The organization that he heads, Shavei Israel (meaning Returnees to Israel) is dedicated to this effort.

Freund's recent travels have taken him to some far-flung locales. He's just returned to Israel from running a seminar for Marranos in the northern Portuguese city of Porto. The Marranos, also called "Bnei Anusim," are those whose ancestors were forcibly converted to Catholicism during the Spanish Inquisition but continued to practise their Judaism in secret.

"Even though they've been raised as Catholics," says Freund, "many of these people have retained Jewish practices, such as lighting candles on Friday evening. What's remarkable is that this is still done in a covert fashion." Freund believes this covertness could either be a mimicking of their forefather's necessary secrecy or it could be that even today, these people fear being identified as Jews to their sometimes anti-Semitic neighbours.

Last September, Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar visited two Bnei Anusim communities in Portugal. Freund says this visit was a landmark. "We accompanied him and arranged for him to meet these people. He was very moved by the experience. He now wants to establish a committee within the rabbinate to examine the halachic issues surrounding the B'nei Anusim, with the hope of finding a solution that will enable them to return to the Jewish people."

After visiting the Marranos in Europe, Freund went to the northeastern Brazilian town of Recife. A town on the water, Recife was the place that many of the Bnei Anusim ended up as they fled Spain and Portugal, looking for a freer life. "Many serious historians believe there are several million of them living there today," says Freund, who met with dozens. "These people want to rejoin the Jewish people."

Next on Freund's itinerary – a visit to the "Bnei Menashe" in northeastern India. Bnei Menashe, meaning sons of Menashe (one of the 10 lost tribes), live in the northeastern Indian states of Mizoram and Manipur, on the borders with Burma and Bangladesh. "There are about 6,000 to 7,000 Bnei Menashe there now, living religious Jewish lives," says Freund. "Eight hundred made aliyah over the past decade."

At the end of March, Rabbi Amar decided to formally recognize the Bnei Menashe as being "Zera Yisrael" (the Seed of Israel) – meaning descendants of the Jewish people. "This decision is a historic development that will open the door to aliyah for the remaining members of the community," says Freund.

Freund is soon off to lay the groundwork of the rabbinical court that will carry out the conversion of the Bnei Menashe. "We have two educational centres in northeastern India where we prepare them for conversion. So we need to build mikvaot and we need to send additional teachers and rabbis to facilitate the process."

"If you look at the awakening that's taking place across the globe, it's hard to explain it in rational terms," says Freund. "Why are these people coming out of the woodwork and demanding to join the Jewish people after centuries of silence?

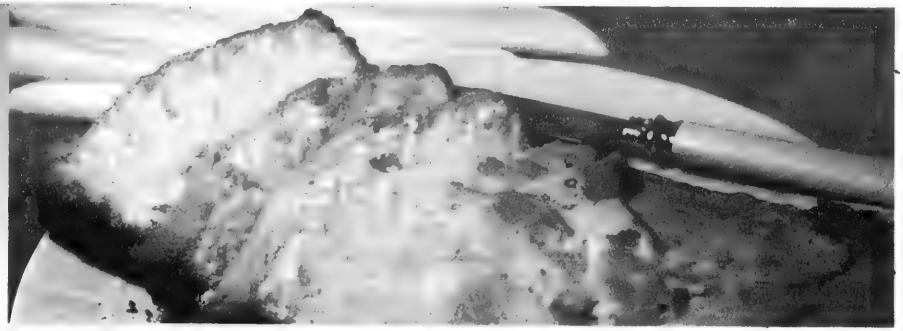
Michael Freund dances with Bnei Menashe.

"I suggest there's something mystical that's going on here, something of some tremendous historical and theological significance. We're beginning to see the fruition of what the prophets foretold, that those who were lost to Judaism will find their way back."

For more information on the search for lost Jews, visit www.shavei.org.

Food, Scrumptious Food

Divine cream cheese pound cake



By LISA SOLOMON
Special to The CJN

My sister Wendy gives parties. Small ones for her family of five, large ones for her international mix of friends, in her kitchen buffet style, around her swimming pool with fajitas and margaritas, or grilling marinated chicken and hot dogs at her neighbourhood clubhouse. So when I fly in from Texas to visit her and the rest of my large family in Atlanta, I often walk in on a feast of leftovers crowding her counter space from parties past, and filling her refrigerator for parties future.

A few years ago, amidst rugelach from her mother-in-law, a cornucopia of unusual chips, huge brownies and other interesting treats, I saw a simple loaf cake wrapped nice and tight on the kitchen counter. My sister gladly parted with a thick portion, as she said she couldn't afford to keep eating it. With one taste, I understood. Whole, the cake had the nice browned crust of an old-fashioned pound cake. Sliced, the moist insides had the light, creamy colour of a rich butter cake. But the taste was fuller, rounder, more delectable (and yes, fattening) since it was made with a healthy portion of cream cheese. To me, the satisfying depth of the centre had no end.

When I asked my sister what party the cake was from, she said it wasn't. "My neighbour, Pat, makes a bunch of these and gives them to people, just because."

And just because of Pat, and the cheese in the ingredients, and the overwhelmingly giving taste, I think her Cream Cheese Pound Cake is the perfect Shavuot treat. Because one of the customs for celebrating Shavuot is the eating of dairy on the first day. The other is reading Torah, which according to *The Jewish Holidays, A Guide and Commentary* by Michael Strassfeld, not only celebrates God's gift of the Torah to the Jewish people, but reminds us that in the receiving, we were "experiencing the divine."

PAT'S CREAM CHEESE POUND CAKE

3 sticks butter (1½ cups), room temperature
1 8-oz. package cream cheese
3 cups sugar
1½ tsp. vanilla
dash of salt
6 large eggs
3 cups cake flour, sifted

Preheat oven to 325. Butter, or spray with vegetable spray, two 9 x 5x 3-inch loaf pans. Line with wax paper and butter paper as well.

In bowl of electric mixer with paddle attachment, cream butter, cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix very well. Add salt and vanilla and mix. Add eggs, one a time, beating after each addition. Turning mixer to low speed, gradually add cake flour, mixing thoroughly and scraping sides as needed.

Transfer batter to prepared loaf pans and smooth with spatula. Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour and 30 minutes. Cakes are done when toothpick inserted into centre comes out clean and cakes begin to pull away from sides of pan.

Cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Then remove from pans and cool completely. Makes 2 loaves, each serving 12.

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Synagogues support Zareinu's Moveathon

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Synagogues across the Greater Toronto Area are participating in the 2 km Clergy on the Move, part of Zareinu Educational Centre's eighth annual Moveathon, set for June 19 at Earl Bales Park.

The Moveathon, presented by RBC Capital Markets, is a full-day fundraiser that draws about 4,000 people each year. Activities include athletic events, a community picnic and a carnival.

Money raised will support Zareinu, a day school and treatment centre for children with physical and developmental disabilities.

David Brown, chair of Clergy on the Move, and a member of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, said that about 20 synagogues are participating in this year's event.

Led by their rabbis and/or cantors, synagogue members will assemble at about 1 p.m. and walk the 2 km route under their shul banner.

The synagogue that raises the most money will be treated to a kiddush by the school.

"We keep the walk at 2 km because we want everyone to participate, from small children to grandparents," said Brown.

"Toronto is lucky to have an institution like Zareinu, but it is very expensive to run a school with such intensive programming.

"We got involved in the Moveathon because Zareinu is a school that deserves our support," said Brown.

Isaac Osiel, Clergy on the Move's representative at Petah Tikva Congregation, said that when he was asked to get involved, he "jumped at the chance because it was an opportunity to shed light on an organization that exists for the benefit of the community."

For the past two years, he said, his synagogue finished on top in both money raised and attendance. "We started a buzz in the congregation because we wanted to create awareness for a cause that touches all of us."

Rabbi Yoseph Oziel, spiritual leader of Petah Tikva, said he is happy to see his congregation getting involved in something outside of its borders.

"I am supporting the event because community involvement is essential, and what more powerful organization [is there to support] than Zareinu?

"There is also great value in working toward one cause with other community organizations. To see the park filled with a variety of organizations is heartwarming. It is important for children to see that the community is unified," he said.

Other Moveathon events include 100 km and 5 km rides sponsored by Adenat; a 20 km family ride sponsored by Eli Monson Simpson; a 10 km run sponsored by O & Y properties; a meet and greet with SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer; and entertainment by Mandell Entertainment.

For information call 416-661-1800 or visit www. moveathon.com.

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month

The month of June has been proclaimed Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Toronto, along with some 50 other municipalities, including Markham and Vaughan.

The month was kicked off by a march last week from Hendon Avenue down Yonge Street to Mel Lastman Square.

The event sponsor was Toronto Residents in Partnership (TRIP), a not-for-profit group that promotes racial, ethnic, religious and communal understanding.

The first Elder Abuse Awareness Month was proclaimed three years ago by then-Toronto mayor Mel Lastman after TRIP decided to raise awareness about the lack of awareness by the general public of the financial, physical and emotional abuse suffered by some elderly, particularly since abuse tends to come from caregivers and many victims don't complain because they have nowhere else to go.

TRIP says it has a two-pronged approach to the issue.

"On one hand, we are trying to raise awareness and sensitivity, while at the same time making the government and bureaucrats aware that something must be done to protect our elderly from physical, mental, sexual and financial abuse, and neglect."

It's asking the government to create support groups and shelter homes.

For more information, call 416-395-6475.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. Can soy and soy foods prevent breast cancer?

A. This is a hot topic, a question that many people believe is true. But, after reviewing the current available research, I do not believe it is possible to make such a statement. The evidence is weak and I would not recommend adding soy to your diet in the hope that it will have a preventive effect.

Q. I am seeing the ingredient Sucralose on a lot of packages. What is this?

A. Sucralose is a sugar substitute made from sugar. It is a low-calorie alternative, commonly used now, that can be used in baking and cooking. It is also called Splenda. To date, Sucralose is considered a safe sugar substitute.

Q. I am trying to improve the quality of the foods I eat, and I was wondering which foods are particularly high in antioxidants?

A. When it comes to antioxidants, some of the most nutrient-dense foods to try to incorporate into your diet are blueberries (particularly wild), kidney beans, cranberries, artichokes, blackberries, raspberries, prunes, strawberries, pecans, walnuts and cherries.

Q. Why does ground beef need to be cooked more well done than steak?

A. The most harmful bacteria on beef tend to be the outside. When a steak is cooked, the outside usually gets hot enough to kill the bacteria, but when you make ground beef, the meat from the outside gets mixed in with the meat inside where the temperature often does not get as hot. Make sure all ground beef reaches an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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Preschool Education
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Like all children, preschoolers learn best in an enriched environment that contains a lot of sensory stimulation, and the skills children learn in their preschool years form the building blocks for future educational success and lifelong learning.

At The Toronto Heschel School, education begins with joyful learning and satisfaction of achievement, mastery and growth. This learning is a response to stimulating experiences and challenges.

"Our teachers make sure preschool children are ready for challenges that await them later on," says Gail Baker, the principal and head of The Toronto Heschel School. "For optimum learning to take place, children must be in a state of "relaxed alertness." This means that careful attention must be paid to the look and feel of the classroom.

"At The Toronto Heschel School, our preschool is structured, yet flexible. There is an ebb and flow to our day that ensures the developmental needs of this age group are met, and while there is a set curriculum in both general and Judaic studies, it allows for the curiosities and eagerness of each child in an integrated environment," Baker says.

"At Heschel, we achieve many of our goals through the Spectrum Approach", adds Tobie Franklin, head of the child studies team at The Toronto Heschel School. "This long-term collaborative research-based project was initiated by psychologist Howard Gardner and his researchers at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, together with psychologist David Henry Feldman at Tufts University."

In his theory of multiple intelligences, Gardner proposes that most people are capable of at least eight relatively autonomous forms of intellectual accomplishments. In other words, we learn in eight different ways; they are: linguistic, logical/mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, naturalist, interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences.

Through Spectrum, children engage in activities that are meaningful and contextualized. For example, while playing the "Bus Game," children figure out the correct number of people boarding and leaving a bus.

In the Spectrum classroom, children are surrounded by rich and engaging materials in a wide variety of disciplines, thus evoking the use of a range of intelligences. In the discovery centre, for instance, a variety of biological specimens are brought in for students to examine and compare with other materials. This draws on the children's sensory and logical analytic abilities.

In the early years at The Toronto Heschel School, children are given ample opportunity to explore the various learning centres with their respective materials and "unique sets of elicited skills and intelligences" (Gardner and Krechevsky) and the students can become actively involved in helping to collect and document their work.

During all Spectrum activities, teachers engage in close observation of the children. Teachers also use activities or games devised by Project Spectrum researchers that permit a more precise determination of a child's strengths in different areas. This integrated programme also includes a rich tapestry of Judaic and Hebrew studies.

A new afternoon programme for four-year-olds includes classes in Hebrew through the arts, environmental science and the Spectrum Approach.

The preschool years are crucial to laying a firm foundation for future growth and academic success. You can give your child an excellent start at The Toronto Heschel School.

Dynamic Afternoon Programme for Junior Kindergarten
New for 2005-2006

The Toronto Heschel School is introducing a fantastic new learning opportunity for young children based on research at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Programmes run from 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm beginning September, 2005.

You may enroll your child in two or more of the following programmes:
Learning Hebrew through the arts: Monday
Learning through environmental science: Tuesday
Learning through multiple intelligences: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

This programme is open to all JK students including children not enrolled at The Toronto Heschel School for JK next year.

Don't let your child miss out on this exciting new afternoon option for junior kindergarten!

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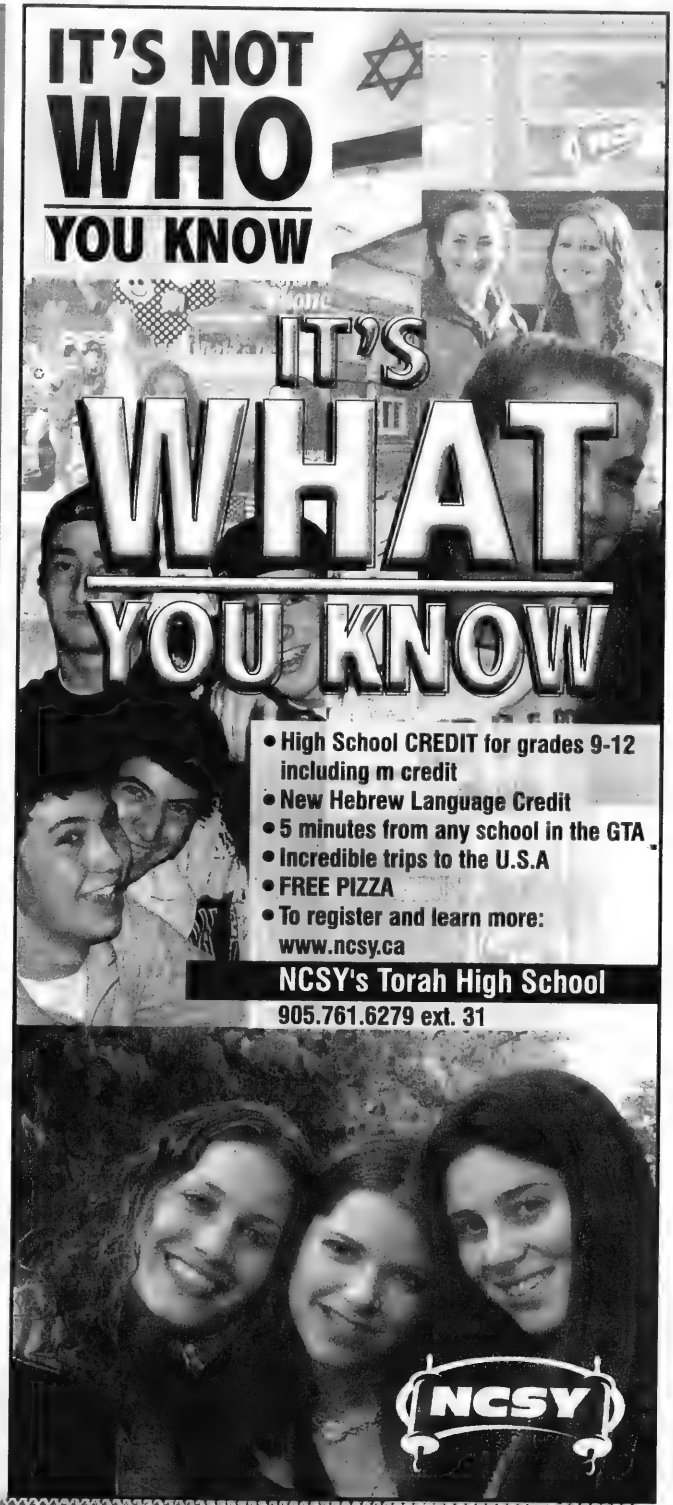

Berlin's Jewish Museum is both depressing and enlightening

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BERLIN — An average of 2,000 visitors file into the Jewish Museum every day to plumb the depths of 2,000 years of continuous Jewish history in Germany.

Opened almost four years ago, the zinc-panelled building, designed by the innovative architect Daniel Libeskind, is regarded as a major tourist draw and the biggest facility of its kind in Europe.

Charting the Jewish presence in Germany through thick and thin through 13 historical eras from Roman times to the contemporary period, the museum never loses sight of the Nazi interregnum that nearly wiped out one of the world's most venerable Jewish communities.

You'll need two to three hours for the tour, and the unusual architecture is bound to rivet your attention.

The Holocaust Tower, with its eerie vertical void, imparts isolation and hopelessness. The Garden of Exile, with its dizzying slanting floor, gives off a sense of uneasiness and disorientation.

The permanent displays are panoramic in scope.

You'll gaze upon a nearly pristine 13th-century Hebrew bible, a nasty 15th-century caricature of Jews, a 16th-century ordinance admitting Jewish merchants to the city of Augsburg and an 18th-century portrait of pre-eminent philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, one of the fathers of the Haskalah, the Jewish Enlightenment.

Strangely enough, there is a glaring omission. No permanent exhibit about the legendary Rothschilds, who launched their financial empire in Frankfurt, exists. Last year, however, the Rothschilds were featured in an important exhibition.

The exhibits about the 19th century – which ushered in the age of emancipation for German Jewry – range far and wide.

There is a map of rural Jewish communities and a portrait gallery of well-scrubbed middle-class families. There are also exhibits about Jewish converts to Christianity and Jewish-born revolutionaries such as Karl Marx and Ferdinand Lassalle.

The early 20th century, riven by the outbreak of World War I and the formation of the ill-fated Weimar Republic, is portrayed as a golden epoch for German Jews, as a series of panels show.

Rudolf Mosse was an important publisher. Max Reinhardt was a legendary theatre director. Kurt Weil was a celebrated composer. Martin Buber was a leading theologian. Walter Rathenau, gunned down by an anti-Semitic nationalist, was Germany's first and only Jewish foreign minister.

The patriotism of German Jews comes shining through in an exhibit on World War I. You may not know that some 12,000 Jewish soldiers were killed in action, a figure proportionately higher than the rest of the population.

The zinc facade of the Jewish Museum in Berlin.
[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Photographs, medals, letters, illustrations and German military prayer books, as well as a retrospective of a Jewish submariner, Max Haller, underscore the attachment of Jews to Germany.

But intimations of anti-Semitism in the ranks, as recorded by aggrieved soldier Hermann Abraham in his diary, suggest that Jewish love of country wasn't necessarily repaid.

The rise of virulent anti-Semitism, which coincided with Hitler's accession to power in 1933, is depicted through a collage of chilling photographs and flickering home movies.

We see Nazi stormtroopers humiliating Jews and indifferent or smiling German bystanders watching synagogues in Bielefeld and Buhl burn on Kristallnacht on Nov. 9, 1938.

Charts document the flight of Jews from 1933 onward. Jewish emigration levels topped the 20,000 mark annually until the flow was officially cut off on Oct. 23, 1941, in a prelude to the Holocaust.

Upward of 300,000 Jews managed to leave before the deluge, but 200,000 were deported and murdered. Twenty-five thousand Jews survived in concentration camps and mixed marriages and in hiding as fugitives.

The names of death camps and ghettos where German Jews were shipped, from Treblinka to Minsk, are inscribed on a white-washed wall on the lower level.

Several poignant photographic exhibits relate the stories of assimilated and converted Jews haplessly caught up in the Nazi net.

"The Naftalies" revolves around a Jewish family from the Berlin neighbourhood of Wedding who were deported to Lodz and then to Auschwitz.

"Charlotte Ochs' Life in Pictures" is about a woman who visited her sons in London and Cape Town in 1937 and returned to Berlin, only to be deported to Theresienstadt.

"The Cantor Family from Mainz" tells the story of a baptized Jewish couple who were married in a Protestant church in 1904, whose business was aryanized after Kristallnacht and who were deported to their deaths in the early 1940s.

"A Talented Musician" turns on Steffi Messerschmidt, a Berliner who fled to Belgium in 1937, who was arrested by the Nazis in 1942 and who was murdered in Auschwitz.

Documents from the Riga ghetto, to which some 16,000 German Jews were deported from 1941 to 1942, are a relentless chronicle of unalloyed despair.

A solitary menorah, given to a Berlin parish priest in 1968 by an elderly couple who got it from Jewish friends murdered in a concentration camp, encapsulates the enormity of the Holocaust in a single powerful object.

Amid the darkness, there are rays of light, signifying new beginnings for surviving Jews.

There is a certificate of naturalization, issued by the British authorities in Palestine on April 17, 1940, for Lothar Moritz Lion and his wife, Else.

There is the suitcase of Hedwig Roeder, who immigrated to France in 1939 and then on to Palestine.

There is a marriage certificate, in Mandarin, of a couple who found refuge in Shanghai, China, in the late 1930s, along with thousands of other European Jews.

There is a sombre portrait of Leo Baeck – the president of the Nazi-appointed National Union of Jews in Germany – who survived the rigours of Theresienstadt and settled in Britain after the war.

The end of World War II unfolds through stark photographs of death marches and the liberation of ragged survivors from concentration camps such as Bergen-Belsen.

The rebuilding of Jewish life in Germany during the post-war period is examined in several panels.

A panel on the sensational 1963 "Auschwitz trial" in Frankfurt, the subject of a documentary by the National Film Board of Canada, is representative of Germany's efforts to come to terms with its Nazi past.

All in all, a walk through the Jewish Museum is both an enlightening and depressing experience.

It is worth visiting if you care to understand the dynamics of Jewish German history.

For further information, click on www.jmberlin.de.

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Capacity crowd watches Bezmozgis win Jewish Book Award

Guest lecturer Robert Adams (left), committee chair Miriam Webb, fiction prize winner David Bezmozgis and master of ceremonies Adam Fuerstenberg all helped enliven the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards at the Koffler Centre of the Arts, North York. Ten prizes were distributed at the 17th annual awards ceremony, which drew a record crowd. [Al Gladman photo]

Continued from page 1

The popular Montreal-based literary critic Robert Adams treated attendees to a rousing 20-minute guided tour of 20th-century North American Jewish literature. Adams received a standing ovation for his talk, one of the last he is slated to give before retiring this month from the lecture circuit.

"I think we've really come of age," said awards committee chairperson Miriam Webb. "We're now somewhat free of financial constraints and we had a star of the book world voluntarily be involved. It was like a dream come true, to get this donation and to be sanctioned by the likes of Robert Adams."

As they were summoned each in turn to the stage, recipients of the evening's 10 awards seemed equally exuberant about being there.

"You've made this historian's mother incandescent with happiness," quipped Warren Bass, who won the history prize for *Support Any Friend*, which traces the White House's attitude towards Israel and its positive shift during the Kennedy administration. The nachus generated by the award might even counterbalance the fact that he became "the wrong type of doctor," Bass joked.

Goldie Morgentaler won the translation prize for translating seven of her mother Chava Rosenfarb's Yiddish stories, published as the collection *Survivors*. Morgentaler praised the excellence of the stories and thanked the committee for recognizing that translation is an art as much as it is a craft. "Translation from Yiddish is really in this case a question of rescue," she said. Both Morgentaler and Rosenfarb traveled from Lethbridge to attend the event.

Isa Milman gave perhaps the most poetic expression of thanks to the committee for its recognition of *Between the Doorposts*, which won the *Canadian Jewish News* prize in poetry. "I heard a friend say, 'Writing and publishing a book of poetry is like throwing flower petals into the Grand Canyon and waiting for the echo to arise,'" she said.

York University Prof.Martin Lockshin took the prize for biblical-rabbinic scholarship for the fourth and final volume of his translation and commentary on Rashbam's *Commentary on Deuteronomy*. Lockshin paid homage to the medieval Jewish sage Rashbam "for writing a book that has fascinated me for 20 years.

"Amazingly, I haven't grown tired of him," Lockshin said. "One of the things he taught me is that the last word of interpretation of a text has not been written."

Other winners are Anne Dublin (children's literature) for *Bobbie Rosenfeld, the Olympian Who Could Do Everything*; Jill Culiner (Canadian Jewish history) for *Finding Home*; Elaine K. Naves (Holocaust memoir) for *Shoshanna's Story*; James Laxer (biography-memoir) for *Red Diaper Baby*; and Lisa Appignanesi (Holocaust literature) for *The Memory Man*.

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A layered and poetical portrait of an artist

By MARTIN ZEILIG
Special to The CJN

She and her friends would paint nude portraits of themselves in a cabin in the Gatineau Hills.

She was an irrepressible bohemian who preferred New Brunswick to New York City.

Her paintings of Canadian service women during the Second World War symbolized "the power of paint" to express emotions.

We learn all that and more in the new National Film Board of Canada production, *Pegi Nicol – Something Dancing About Her* by Ottawa filmmaker Michael Ostroff.

"I made the film because I encountered Pegi Nicol when I did the documentary on war artists, *Canvas of War*," says Ostroff, 55, a native of Montreal.

During the filming of that earlier work, he interviewed Fredericton, N.B. resident, Molly Bobak – a respected artist and contemporary of Nicol.

"She insisted that I do a film on Pegi Nicol and through her contacts, she was able to raise money for me," says Ostroff, who studied film making at York University.

"I told the donors that I wouldn't spend the money until we had a fair chance of the film happening."

He was turned down by all the broadcasters at first. Their attitude was, observes Ostroff: "Who would want to watch a film on a dead and unknown Canadian artist?"

There were even some individuals at the NFB in Toronto who expressed the same attitude when he pitched the idea to them initially.

"But, they were open to talking about it. Then, they considered it and got involved in developing it," says Ostroff.

The film received a standing ovation from a sold out crowd of 500 people at its premiere on Feb. 13 at the National Art Gallery in Ottawa.

As a result of the NFB involvement, the film went into production with a budget of $400,000.

"It (the money) all went onto the screen," says Ostroff.

The film took five years to make – from the time of his conversation with Bobak to its completion in January of this year. Set against the stormy first half of the 20th century, the film adeptly traces the Ottawa born and raised Nicol's – who was christened Margaret Kathleen Nichol – singular but brief life with narration, interviews, still photographs and, most significantly, her glorious paintings.

Michael Ostroff

Ostroff brings all his skill as a filmmaker to bear in this layered and poetical portrait of an artist who died at age 44 in a tenement in Manhattan. Her exceptional last paintings were swarming scenes of city life "inspired by the view from her apartment window."

Ostroff had some artistic differences with the NFB during production. The main problem was over the film's length and direction.

"I was not directing a documentary in the typical way that the NFB sees such films. It's 70 minutes long. The NFB was demanding cuts. If they had made the cuts, the film's pacing would have been ruined," said Ostroff, who – along with Fiona McHugh and Ed Riche – also co-wrote the script.

"They liked what I did and told me to finish this film."

Ostroff studied film making at York University in Toronto and has been making films for the past 30 years.

His other films include *Budge: The One True Happiness of F.R. 'Budge' Crawley* – a critically praised look at the life of pioneer filmmaker Budge Crawley; *Bridging the River of Silence* – an investigation of a community's reaction to wife abuse; and *Memory & Muscle* – an in depth look at the personalities and issues behind the first major public sector union strike in Canada.

"It's a personal film in many ways. There's nothing common or similar in our lives, but I can relate to Pegi Nicol's struggle for recognition of her art. She didn't have much support at all," says Ostroff.

Pegi Nicol – Something Dancing About Her will be screened on June 12 in Winnipeg at the Winnipeg Art Gallery; and, on July 18 on Bravo TV. (Check local listings)

Israeli Cinema Month to showcase award winning internationally acclaimed films

The Canadian Film Institute, in association with the Embassy of Israel and the Israeli Cultural Forum is presenting a month of internationally acclaimed Israeli films as part of the Israeli Film Festival 2005.

The six-film series represents the best of contemporary Israeli cinema.

The festival opened on June 5, 7 p.m. with the hugely successful and critically acclaimed film *Turn left at the end of the World.*

The second film, *Nina's Tragedies* will be screened on June 15 at 7:00 p.m. On June 19, a double presentation will showcase: *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* at 7:00 pm and *Distortion* at 9:00 p.m.

The festival will close on June 26 with a reception offered as a special collaboration by the Embassies of Israel and Austria. It will be held after the screening at 6:30 p.m of the feature documentary *Watermarks* that was produced in association with the Austrian government.

The comedy *Columbian Love* will be shown at 9:20 p.m.

Turn Left at the End of the World features an international cast in a movie brimming over with issues of identity, immigration, sexuality, and family; *Nina's Tragedies* is a serio-comic look at an Israeli teenager's coming-of-age and his attraction to his beautiful but emotionally fragile Aunt Nina; *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* is a heartening family comedy, a surprising love story, which focuses on the captivating character of one boy blessed with extraordinary cooking talents; *Distortion* is a story within a story that is being written as the movie unfolds, to its climatic end. *Watermarks* is a moving documentary that approaches the Holocaust from a fresh intimate perspective; *Columbian Love* is a compelling and clever look at love and relationships.

All films are screened at the National Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa.

The six films presented at the Israeli Film Festival represent the best of contemporary Israeli cinema.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ISRAELI STUDENT FILMS ON VIEW AT INNIS TOWN HALL

Recent short films made by students of Israel's Sam Spiegel Film and Television School will be screened this week at the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival in Toronto. A retrospective of films from the renowned 15-year-old school is featured in the festival's annual film school showcase.

Sam Spiegel films have won more than 180 international awards over the past decade. Recent graduate **Nir Bergman's** feature film debut, *Broken Wings*, was a box office hit in Israel, garnering nine Israeli Oscars.

The school "has produced a generation of exceptionally talented filmmakers who are unafraid to take a clear-eyed and sometimes controversial look at their country and its culture," said **Shane Smith**, artistic director of the Toronto festival.

Innis Town Hall, U of T campus. Free to students and seniors. Friday, June 17, 2 p.m. The festival runs June 14 to 19. www.worldwideshortfilmfest.com

* * *

What's Doing at Israel's: *Waiting for Peace, How Israelis Live With Terrorism*, by **Liza M. Wiemar** and **Benay Katz** is "an eye-opening view of the realities of Israeli life through touching true stories of hope, courage, determination and strength." **Naomi Ragen** called it "a powerful, riveting, heartfelt and eye-opening anthology."

Co-author Katz reads from the book. Israel's Judaica, 870 Eglinton Ave. W. Free admission; kosher refreshments. 416-256-1010. Thursday, June 9, 7:30 p.m. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the book is donated to victims of terror charities. www. waitingforpeace. com

* * *

Poetry Book Launch: Jonathan Garfinkel reads from *Glass Psalms*, a new book of poetry described as "a meditation on the holy and the unholy and on the increasingly blurred bounds in between." Cameron Public House, 408 Queen St. W. Wednesday, June 8, 7 to 9 p.m. www.turnstonepress.com

* * *

Names in the News: David Bezmozgis, recipient of the prestigious fiction prize at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards on May 30, won another major Canadian literary prize last week. The celebrated author of *Natasha and Other Stories* also picked up the $10,000 Danuta Gleed Literary Award from the Writers Union of Canada. "Bezmozgis has the makings of a major literary artist," noted the jury. Among other honours, the book has also won the Commonwealth Writers prize and was nominated for a Governor General's Award…

Named in honour of the late Harold Kandel, the annual Harold Awards celebrate people who make outstanding contributions to the arts, on or off stage. Last week at the Gladstone Hotel, a dozen awards were handed out at the 11th annual Harolds ceremony – including one to Toronto publicist **Dianne Weinrib**, who was chosen by previous winner **Cheryl Landry**.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The 17th annual Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival presents "some of the most impassioned, entertaining and unpredictable performances in Toronto." This year's program includes a record 134 companies with 108 indoor shows, to which admission is usually $10 or less. July 6 to 17. Fringe Hotline 416-966-1062, website www.fringetoronto.com

• Like many other large institutions, the Art Gallery of Ontario has taken to polling the public for their opinions, this time about art instead of beer, shopping habits or politics. Having gathered votes all year, the AGO's new exhibition, "Favourites, Your Choices From Our Collection," opened last week. The show features celebrated works by the **Group of Seven**, **Claude Monet**, **Emily Carr**, **Paul Cezanne**, **Henry Moore**, **Lawren Harris**, **Pierre Auguste Renoir**, **Alex Colville** and many others. Until January 2006.

• A 17th-century book seized by the Nazis was returned recently to Rome's Jewish community. Published in Amsterdam in 1680, the pocket-sized book contains the first five books of the Bible as well as the books of the prophets. A representative of the Italian Commission for the Recovery of Jewish Bibliographic Heritage returned the sacred treasure to the chief rabbi of Rome.

THE SACRED FEMININE: This painting by Toronto artist Barry Oretsky is one of several on view at Gallery One, 121 Scollard St., Toronto until June 29. Oretsky is a photorealist who brings to mind other photorealists of the 20th century such as Philip Pearlstein, Richard Estes, Chuck Close, Edward Hopper and David Hockney. Knowing instinctively that it was his calling, Oretsky started painting at a very young age. His gift of transferrring what he sees to canvas is unique. He selects the moments and places that he finds most interesting to freeze. Subjects are chosen for their depth and drama: the juxtaposition of time, light and experience. For more information visit www.galleryone.ca. 416-929-3103.

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Books & Authors

Movie mogul Lew Wasserman dominated Hollywood

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Lew Wasserman died about three years ago, but his legacy looms large.

Wasserman, the president of the Music Corporation of America, was the most powerful individual in the Hollywood film and television industry in his day.

He bought Universal Studios, parlayed a pedestrian studio tour into a $1 billion-a-year theme park business, launched the careers of George Lucas (*American Graffiti*) and Amy Heckerling (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*) and greenlighted blockbuster films such as *Animal House* and *Jurassic Park*.

He made the first 90-minute TV show, *The Virginian*, and the first min-series, *Rich Man, Poor Man*.

And he was the first person to turn a studio into an entertainment conglomerate, replete with book, magazine and music label divisions. His admirers facetiously called it "Wasserland."

But long before he built and assumed control of this empire, he was a talent agent who represented movie stars ranging from Kirk Douglas and Joan Crawford to Gregory Peck and Bette Davis.

Wasserman and his wife Edie, who was his indispensable right hand, are the subjects of Kathleen Sharp's competent biography, *Mr. & Mrs. Hollywood*. It is published in a new paperback edition by Carroll & Graf and distributed in Canada by the Publishers Group.

The pair, both from Cleveland, met in 1935, drawn together by a mutual love of music and, as Sharp puts it, by "a passion for the ritz."

He, the ambitious son of Russian-Jewish immigrants, was a booking agent for bands. She was the brainy, headstrong daughter of a German-Jewish businessman named Henry Beckerman.

Although Sharp – a reporter who covers Hollywood for the *Boston Globe* – tries hard to give them equal billing, the more interesting subject by far is Lew.

His wife was a fount of useful information, a great hostess, a philanthropist who raised $50 million dollars for a hospital, and the person who introduced her husband to Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

Her story may be worth telling, but in comparison to the inimitable Wasserman, she appears to have been a relatively minor figure in Hollywood, Sharp's inflated take of her notwithstanding.

Wasserman, whose career in Hollywood began in 1939, was dictatorial and paternalistic, hewed to an extremely hands-on management style and raised his voice loudly when the performance of an employee fell short of his exacting standards.

"Work hard," he told his agents. "There are no shortcuts."

Throughout his life, Wasserman cultivated good relations with journalists, knowing they could burnish his image. "Never fight with the press," he said. "They always have the last word."

Sartorially immaculate, and sporting trademark oversized eye glasses, Wasserman was quite a boulevardier. His motto was "Dress British, think Yiddish." It kept him in good stead when he negotiated what Sharp describes as "cruel, lopsided" deals.

Lew Wasserman and his wife, Edie.

Wasserman had an unfair advantage over his competitors because MCA was able to buy and sell talent, the only agency able to do so. This was due to a deal he had signed with the Screen Actors Guild back in 1952.

He and his longtime boss, Jules Stein, acquired Universal by circuitous means, first buying its real estate holdings and then purchasing the studio itself.

Although his acumen was legendary, Wasserman was capable of making gargantuan mistakes.

He passed on Lucas' script for *Raiders of the Lost Ark* – which Steven Spielberg would direct – for purely financial reasons. Wasserman thought that Lucas was demanding "unheard-of-percentages" in terms of ownership. The film, which cost $20 million to shoot, earned $400 million worldwide.

Once in a while, Wasserman's business decisions were dictated by his Jewish roots. On the advice of his wife, who opposed films that were "too Jewish," he refrained from turning Budd Schulberg's iconic novel, *What Makes Sammy Run*, into a movie. To Wasserman, the tale of a coarse, backstabbing Hollywood hustler like Sammy Glick was simply "too negative."

A man as rich and influential as Wasserman was naturally courted by politicians. After winning the U.S. presidential election in 1964, Lyndon Baines Johnson asked him to be his secretary of commerce. Wasserman turned him down, not eager to exchange Hollywood for Washington, D.C.

When it came to politics, Wasserman preferred to work behind the scenes. Sensing that a fairly obscure governor from Arkansas had potential, he and his wife supported Bill Clinton's run for the presidency.

"Edie and Lew could smell power," the screenwriter and novelist Dominick Dunne said.

By the 1990s, Wasserman was in decline, at least as far as his real power was concerned. He had unloaded MCA for $6 billion some years earlier on condition he would have a guaranteed lifetime position there. According to Sharp, the sale was the biggest buyout ever of an American company by a Japanese firm.

Without Wasserman's knowledge, Edgar Bronfman, Jr., the son of Canadian tycoon Edgar Bronfman, purchased 80 per cent of MCA in 1995 for $5.7 billion from the Japanese investors who had bought MCA in the first place.

Bronfman Sr. called Wasserman, his old friend, to inform him of the transaction. But Wasserman was outraged he had been shut out of the loop. He was angrier still when Bronfman manoeuvered him off MCA board.

Still, he continued working at his 14th floor office inside the Lew Wasserman building, taking calls, greeting visitors and surfing the Internet.

Wasserman died on June 3, 2002 after having suffered a heart attack and being placed on life support, and was buried in a quiet ceremony.

At the memorial service, he was eulogized by, among others, Clinton, two former first ladies – Lady Bird Johnson and Nancy Reagan – and a galaxy of actors and directors running the gamut from Sharon Stone to Ron Howard.

A Hollywood patriarch in the mould of Louis B. Mayer had passed from the scene, and everyone knew it.

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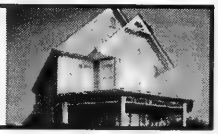

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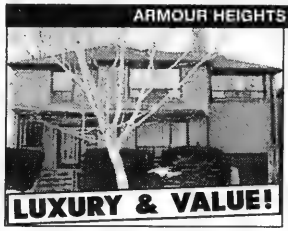

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Greater Toronto Area

Plea bargain accepted in vandalism case

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Lawyers for the Crown and a young man charged with defacing Jewish institutions have agreed to a plea bargain on a charge of simple mischief instead of a more serious offence involving the defacement of religious institutions.

Steven Vandermey, 19, last week pleaded guilty to five counts of mischief in connection with an anti-Semitic spree along Bathurst Street that shocked the Jewish community. In March 2004, Vandermey and two young offenders destroyed and defaced UJA Federation signs, smeared graffiti on a Jewish school, vandalized a B'nai Brith donation box, threw rocks through the windows of the Pride of Israel Synagogue and overturned numerous headstones in Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Two months ago, the two young offenders pleaded guilty to simple mischief. In that case, the trial judge rejected the more serious Criminal Code offence of causing mischief to religious property (section 430), which requires proof of motivation by hate, bias or prejudice. Judge Walter Gonet said the two young people, who were 15 at the time, committed the mischief in order to get themselves on television.

Canadian Jewish Congress said the Crown's acceptance of Vandermey's guilty plea was "a disgrace."

"While the evidentiary requirements may have led the Crown to determine that it could not secure a conviction on the more serious charges, we are frustrated that the conclusion to this case does not seem to take into account the traumatic effect of these incidents on both the Jewish and wider communities," said Joel Richler, chair of Congress' Ontario region.

Len Rudner, Congress' director of community relations for the Ontario region, said the Crown's decision to accept the plea bargain fails "to send a strong message out to other people watching this."

He noted that Vandermey and his two accomplices worked their way up Bathurst Street between Finch and Steeles avenues, vandalizing Jewish institutions.

"There are a lot of buildings they could have targeted. The fact of the matter is they went specifically for property that belonged to the Jewish community," he said. "If this isn't what section 430 is meant to deal with, what's it here for?

"The Crown laid the charges and the Crown should have persevered and let the court decide whether there's sufficient evidence," Rudner suggested.

B'nai Brith Canada also condemned the plea bargain.

"We cannot accept that this outcome reflects the intent of the law," said Frank Dimant, the organization's executive vice-president. "The case must be viewed against the backdrop of the disturbing upward swing of anti-Semitism in Canada, as documented in our own *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*. The entire Jewish community has been hung out to dry in a decision that could have adverse effects on other minority groups that might be targeted by this type of vandalism. The failure to recognize the hate-motivated aspects of this crime, which shook our community to the core, leaves a message of trivialization that will only encourage others to act out their prejudices."

The young offenders, who cannot be named, will be sentenced later this month while Vandermey will appear in court again on July 4.

97-year-old Baycrest volunteer honoured

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Longtime Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care volunteer Pauline Nelson, 97, was recently honoured for her work in the office of Baycrest's audiology department.

Nelson has been a volunteer at Baycrest for the past 27 years. She goes to the centre by Wheel-Trans.

Sonia Reichman, director of the department of communications disorders at Baycrest, said, "She is a remarkable women. She is dedicated, very able and doesn't miss a day or a minute of her volunteer time.

"Everyone who comes in contact with her is inspired by her. She is a role model in healthy and active aging."

Nelson (née Frishoff) was born in 1907 in Moinseti, in the district of Bacau in Romania.

In 1945, she married Michael Nelson in Romania and the following year they moved to France. Her husband was a military uniform designer in Romania. The Nelsons and their son, Fred, moved to Hamilton in 1951 and to Toronto the following year.

In an interview with Pauline at her residence, Forest Hill Place, she says that when she arrived in Canada she couldn't speak a word of English.

"I had the guts to apply for an office job and they hired me at Macmillan Publishing because I spoke French," she says.

She worked at the publishing company for 26 years and retired in 1976. The following year, she became a volunteer for ORT and for the Baycrest Foundation, before beginning her work in Baycrest's audiology department.

"For many years, I worked four days a week. I found that four days was too much for me and I work two days a week now," she says.

She adds, "I would do any kind of office work except computer. At my age, I think it is too hard to learn new tricks."

Reichman says that Nelson keeps others at Baycrest on their toes. "She is so conscientious. She makes us all energized."

Nelson was honoured by her co-workers at Baycrest with a party at which she was presented with a scrapbook documenting her volunteer activities over the years.

Pauline Nelson, 97, was recently honoured for her work in the office of Baycrest's audiology department.

"Pauline has a second career in volunteering," Reichman says. "It is as long as her career in publishing."

Shirley Nelson, Pauline's daughter-in-law, says, "My mother-in-law is too modest to speak of all her other volunteer and charitable activities."

Nelson formed a knitting club at her retirement residence and she loves teaching knitting and crocheting. She makes hats, mitts and sweaters for children, which she gives to the Jewish Family &Child Services for distribution. She also knits and crochets gifts for her three great-grandchildren and for friends.

"She does the Jumble puzzle [in the *Toronto Star*] every day," says Shirley. "She is a great Scrabble player and often beats me."

Looking back, Nelson says she has one regret in life: "While I was living in France, I should have taken courses at the Sorbonne. My father died after I graduated with my matriculation in Romania and I had to go to work."

Her busy days include exercise several times a week. She speaks of the joy she gets from her family.

"And I've made wonderful friends at Baycrest, and I'm especially very proud of my special friendships in the communications disorder department. They are like sisters to me," she says.

"I've received so much from my volunteer work – I suggest that others do the same."

At the end of our interview, Nelson jests, "You may be able to reach me by e-mail in the near future."

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Israel to host IIHF junior tournament in March

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Olympic rink in Metulla's Canada Centre has seen plenty of ice events, everything from kids hockey to recreational skating to ice dance to short track speed skating.

Soon the old barn can expect something new.

From March 13 to 20, Canada Centre will host the 2006 IIHF World Under-18 Division III Championship.

The tournament will mark the first time the Jewish state has hosted an international hockey event of such magnitude, said Alan Maislin, chair of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel.

"It's good for Metulla, it's good for the Canada Centre and hopefully it will help us promote hockey in Israel," Maislin said.

The event will pit Israel, this year's Division III bronze medal winner, against teams from Romania, South Africa, New Zealand, Bulgaria and Turkey.

The decision to award Israel the tournament was made by the IIHF at its recent congress in Vienna, Austria. Romania was also in the running to host the tournament, but the IIHF congress voted 64-25 in favour of Israel.

The event could prove a financial boon to Israel's minor hockey program, Maislin said. Fan support at the 1,000-seat arena, along with sponsorships, IIHF funding and perhaps contributions from the Israeli government, will permit the Israeli hockey federation to make some money from the event.

Sergei Matin, president of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel, said Israel is making advances on a number of hockey fronts.

The federation hopes to ice a woman's team at the IIHF World Women's Championships in 2007. Although efforts to bring together a female team are "only at the starting stage," he said there are a couple of women in Metulla who practise and play with the junior boys. There are also a few Israeli women in the Diaspora who could help round out the team.

The federation is also examining the possibility of recruiting disabled players who might participate in Paralympic competitions as members of other countries' teams. Eventually, he said, Israel might ice a team of its own.

Introducing Israel into the hockey world gives the country a profile it might not otherwise possess. "We want people to think about sports and not the other stuff that happens in Israel," Maislin said.

Maislin and other supporters of Israeli hockey have put together an ambitious agenda to grow the sport in the Jewish state.

First up is a Canadian tryout for spots on the junior and senior national teams.

Peter Friedmann, general manager of the junior team, said the tryout camp will be held on June 17 at the Canadian Ice Academy at Dundas Street and Highway 427, west of Toronto.

Players must either have an Israeli passport or be capable of getting one because at least one of their parents has one, and they should also be able to play at an AA level or at least be a very good A-level player, Friedmann said.

The evaluation camp will be supervised by Jean Perron, the junior and senior teams' bench boss, along with Philadelphia Flyers head coach Ken Hitchcock, Maislin said.

Alan Maislin (left), Sergei Matin (centre) and Jean Perron are key figures in the Israeli hockey program.

Beginning on July 31, Canada Centre will host a hockey school and training camp for the junior and senior teams under Perron's supervision, with Hitchcock's participation, if his NHL schedule permits.

On Oct. 14, the junior team will kick off a North American tour with stops in Florida, Philadelphia, New York, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg.

From Jan. 24 to 26, 2006, Metulla will host the "A.K. tournament," short for *alte kackers*, or old timers, said Maislin. "It's sort of a hockey mission to Israel," and will be a fun way for casual skaters to support the development of hockey in Israel, he added.

Things turn more serious in March when Metulla hosts the Under-18 event, and then a month later in Amiens, France, members of the senior team will lace up their skates in IIHF World Championship Division I play, only one level below the elite grouping that includes Canada, the United States, the Czech Republic and Russia.

Israel's opponents in Division I include France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland, Britain, Hungary and Japan. Many of the teams consist of professional players, Maislin noted.

Israeli advanced to Division I after winning the Division II, Group B gold medal in April.

In other developments, a group of investors is scheduled to be in Israel this week to pursue plans for development of a rink in the Tel Aviv area. The group is looking at it as a purely commercial venture.

The Israeli hockey federation would be keen to play out of a rink in the central part of the country.

Matin said such a rink would radically improve the country's hockey prospects by making the sport accessible to large numbers of young people. It would also help attract the attention of the Israeli sports media.

The country's hockey teams receive only modest coverage in the domestic media. "It looks like we're better known outside [Israel] than inside," Matin said.

Maccabi auction extended

Maccabi Canada has extended its online auction to June 12.

The fundraising auction, which is being managed by Auctionwire, an online auction management company, features prizes that include a 60-inch Sony high definition TV, a hang-gliding adventure, use of a Toronto Blue Jays SkyBox, PlayStation games and a Whistler getaway, said Auctionwire president Josh Gold.

The online auction can be accessed at http://charityauction.auctionwire.ca/ or by clicking the link at www.maccabicanada.com.

'Junkyard Dog' to meet teens at Chabad@Flamingo

Jerome "Junkyard Dog" Williams, the former Toronto Raptor turned New York Knick, may have moved south of the border to play basketball, but he's returning to Toronto this week to demonstrate his coaching skills.

Williams was scheduled to meet with hundreds of teens at Thornhill's Chabad@Flamingo in a "Tricks and Hoops" program that will promote the importance of community involvement and positive life choices.

The event, sponsored by Irwin Michael, president of ABC Funds, will include a basketball demonstration by Williams, an autograph-signing session, a raffle for autographed apparel, and free CD giveaways. A special performance by rapper QTMC is also on tap.

The program takes place at Chabad@Flamingo, 8001 Bathurst Street, on Wednesday, June 8, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Chabad@Flamingo is organizing the event to reward the 100 teenagers who participated in the centre's after-school program, Torah for Teens, over the last year.

The teens, in grades 9 through 12, have been meeting at the centre once a week to participate in sports and social activities, while learning life skills and Jewish values. The program, which was introduced two years ago with 10 registered students, is expected to draw about 250 teens for the coming school year.

"This event is a fitting reward for the teens, as there's a strong synergy between the messages Jerome Williams promotes and our own teachings at Chabad@Flamingo," said Rabbi Mendel Kaplan, spiritual leader at Chabad@Flamingo.

Williams runs a non-profit foundation that encourages youth to "believe in themselves, do their best, set goals, dream, give back, stay in school and say no to drugs," among other messages.

As part of the event, Chabad@Flamingo was to unveil a community tutoring program, to be launched in September, that will pair volunteer high school students with elementary pupils for once-a-week tutoring, sports and social activities at the centre.

Registration for the event is $10 per person. For more information or to register, call 905-763-4040, or visit www.chabadflamingo.com.

What colour is your bracelet?

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

A few months ago I was exercising at the gym and noticed virtually everyone around me wearing colourful rubber bracelets. The guy on the treadmill wore a yellow one; the woman next to him a pink one; and the girl on the elliptical machine beside me had four bracelets in different colours halfway up her arm.

I looked down at my own bare arms and had a brief flashback to Hebrew school when everyone but me wore the "right" clothes and I felt I didn't belong. However, I have since learned these stylish bracelets are much more meaningful than the Polo shirt or Lacoste jacket I longed for as a child but could not afford.

The first rubber (silicone) bracelet was launched last year, on May 17. The yellow wristband called LIVESTRONG is the product of a partnership between the Lance Armstrong Foundation, (LAF – founded in 1997 by world-renowned cyclist Lance Armstrong) and Nike. It was established in an effort to raise funds for programs that help people with cancer live strong – like Armstrong himself. It sells for $1 (US). More than 47.5 million LIVESTRONG wristbands have now been purchased. The Lance Armstrong Foundation believes that "in your battle with cancer, knowledge is power and attitude is everything."

"Nike set a goal to raise at least $5 million for the LAF, mostly through the sale of LIVESTRONG wristbands, and donated an additional $1 million. LIVESTRONG wristbands represent unity in the battle against cancer and hope for all those who are living with cancer. Wristbands have been sold to citizens of all 50 states, more than 60 countries and on every continent. Since the launch of the campaign, wristbands have been spotted on a number of athletes, Olympians, musicians, actors and political leaders."

The yellow bracelet and the LAF's programs became famous in part because they were highly publicized on television's *Oprah Winfrey Show*.

After the unbelievable success and popularity of the LIVESTRONG campaign, it didn't take long for other charities to enter the silicone bracelet market to help bring awareness to their own causes.

Some examples include red bracelets for AIDS research with the words, "Make A Difference" and green bracelets for the environment with the slogan, "Save Our Earth."

The Pink Bracelet Fund promotes breast cancer awareness. Singer Melissa Etheridge, who was diagnosed with breast cancer, supports the fund. This bracelet is inscribed, "Be Strong – MLE."

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation also designed pink bracelets emblazoned with its motto, "Sharing the Promise."

There are bracelets to raise awareness for Tsunami relief efforts, the troops in Iraq, child abuse, leukemia, impaired driving, Alzheimer's disease, hunger, racial intolerance and more.

At a Shabbat dinner recently, I received my first rubber bracelet. The blue bracelet in support of Israel was inscribed with the words "Yad Chazaka"(Strong Hand). Proceeds from this bracelet help small Israeli groups that sometimes go unnoticed, such as non-profit organizations in the fields of health, science, sports, education, religion and culture. Many of these organizations have been established to help improve Israeli society. The proceeds from the sales of this bracelet ($1 US) go directly to participating organizations to support their continuing work on behalf of Israel.

Yad Chazaka believes its program will not only help teach children the importance of giving tzedakah but also teach them the importance of participating in acts of chesed (kindness).

I believe it's crucial these colourful bracelets act as a form of communication; a way to raise funds and be a reminder of the importance of charity in our world – not just become the latest fashion statement or fad.

When I wear my blue bracelet, I make sure to explain the meaning behind it and talk about Israel. It is the message behind the bracelets we must remember.

"Before cancer I just lived. Now I live strong." (Lance Armstrong)

E-mail: Miriam@jtvproductions.net

SPICY ASIAN STYLE PASTA

1 lb. linguine, broken in half
4 tblsps. oriental sesame oil
3 tblsp. honey
3 tblsp. soy sauce
3 tblsp. balsamic vinegar
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
3 red bell peppers, seeded, thinly sliced
3 cups snow peas
1 large red onion, thinly sliced
3/4 cup honey-roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil

Cook pasta in large pot of boiling salted water until tender but still firm to bite, stirring occasionally. Drain very well. Transfer to large bowl. Whisk honey, soy sauce, vinegar, 3 tblsp. sesame oil and cayenne pepper in small bowl to blend. Season with salt. Mix half of dressing into pasta. Heat remaining 1 tblsp. oil in heavy large pot over medium-high heat. Add peppers, peas and onion and sauté until just beginning to wilt, about 2 minutes. Add vegetables to pasta. Mix in peanuts, basil and enough dressing to coat. Serve, passing any remaining dressing separately. Serves 6.

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Informal education can't stand alone

Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

In April (*CJN*, April 14), I wrote about the importance of blending formal study that promotes Jewish literacy with informal modes of education that foster identity. I noted that it is not only important to work simultaneously in both spheres, but to break down old borders and cross traditional lines by introducing informal techniques into schooling and actual study into camps, youth groups and Israel experiences.

The central message of Shavuot, *Zman Matan Toratenu*, reminds me that I could easily have been misunderstood regarding informal education. We are taught that this holiday calls itself the time of giving the Torah, not the time of receiving the Torah, so that we can clearly understand our role as responsible Jews. God gave the Torah at Sinai (at one time and at one place in history), but our never-ending task is to keep receiving the Torah – that is to study and re-study it, always interpreting the sacred text into our ever-changing lives.

The only danger in informal education is if someone were to think of it as a replacement or substitute for ongoing, deep study of Jewish language, texts, history, culture, and values. It is a complement and sometimes a life-critical portal to the richness of the Jewish past, the engagement of the Jewish present and the creative potential of our future. But it's never a substitute.

A young innocent who gets "turned on" to Jewish life, engaged in his or her identity or enthused by the Zionist revolution is just at the very beginning of a wondrous trip. If he or she stops there and does not find the way to study our sources, we will have raised yet another generation of ignorant Jews, not quite sure what it is they identify with, albeit enthusiastically. It could just as easily be Tibetan Buddhism, another engaging tale.

While the spectacle of Sinai was wilder than any summer camp program, it was meant to inspire us to a life of study, not a life of Jewish identity. The informal sphere has powerful potential, but there must always be something profound behind the door that it opens.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Raphael Yelin, creation of God

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Rich men and prestigious women often live lives surrounded by droves of people. When their days are through, important leaders eulogize them. They are led to their gravesite by police escort and the hearse that carries them is followed by those who knew them and others who benefited from their wealth or expertise.

Then there are others who share the same world but never seemed to have life figured out. We see them walking briskly, carrying plastic bags filled with paper bags, tattered socks, plastic forks, bits of tin foil and a torn novel. Although their strides seem to be taking them somewhere, they always end up going nowhere. Although they crave to be someone, you know they feel invisible, like no one.

Raphael Yelin – Raffy – was one such community member. He was a strong, frequently obstreperous figure, but, unbeknownst to many, soft when faithfully loved. But Raffy was mostly sad and lost. He died recently – a young man in his forties.

We all know people like Raffy. They are family, or strangers who stand next to us in shul or at kiosks. They tug at our heartstrings. They do because we know they were once little too and played silly games just like we did. They do because we know there is little we can offer them, and that, tragically, luck looks askance when they need it the most, whereas providence visits us more regularly, even when we don't call for it.

People like Raffy make us think. We watch them as they fidget, sometimes cursing loudly into the breeze, and we consider our *mazel* (luck) at having been held safely against our mother's breasts as a child; at having sat proudly on our father's shoulders as we trekked merrily through our invented jungle; at being blessed to have discovered our passion and a place in our community.

Few people attended Raffy's funeral. Not many cars lined the roadway circling the cemetery. Yet those who did were people who loved Raffy and valued him because they knew him.

This column is in memory of Raphael Yelin, a creation of God, and those who ceaselessly search for what most of us have – purpose and shalom (peace). God bless your soul Raffy. We hope that you have in heaven what unfairly passed you by here on earth.

The following poem was written by Raffy's uncle, Sheldon Richmond, who read it at his interment.

For Raffy

He asked us for shoes, and we gave him shoes. He asked us for money, and we gave him money. But did we give him what he really needed? He asked us for burgers, and we gave him burgers. He asked us for smokes, and we gave him smokes. But did we give him what he really needed? We told him what to do, and we say he didn't listen. We gave him words of wisdom, and we say he didn't hear. But did we give him the comfort and love that he really needed? We say he was his own worst enemy, but who isn't?

We told him to look after himself, but who does? We reminded him that if you are not for yourself, who will be? We reminded him that if you are only for yourself, what are you?

We told him if not now, when? But who doesn't need reminding and telling? Like us did he have helpmates? Like us did he have soulmates? Like us did he have luck? If we had no luck if we had no soulmates, if we had no helpmates, where would we be?

Let us now pray that the schchinah (God) cradles his neshamah (soul) in the warmth of her arms and gives him the love that he needs. Amen.

Avrum@veahavta.org.Sudan

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The Canadian Jewish news

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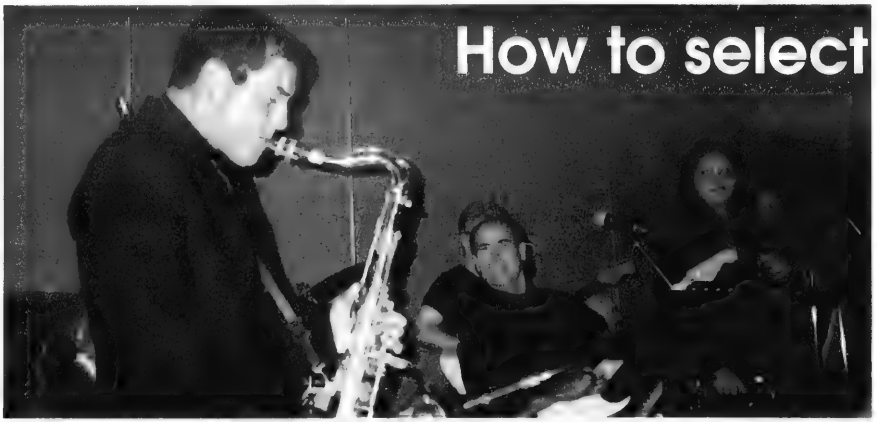
How to select the best band for your party



Joe Star's nine-piece band performs throughout the reception.

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When selecting the best band for your affair, look for a group of professional musicians with a versatile musical repertoire, strong chemistry between band members and most importantly, an ensemble that has a solid reputation, says Joe Star of the Joe Star Band.

"When you come and see the band, there is so much involved – the songs, the band together and, of course, word of mouth is important," says Star, whose band has been together for 15 years.

"You want a band with a good reputation."

Star (905-881-1378) says reputation is based on years of satisfying clients and a band's reputation develops by catering to the wishes of the people putting on the affair and the crowd that's dancing to the music.

"I work for the client. I don't work for me," says the band leader, who has toiled in the business for more than 30 years.

"I do what my client wants me to do… and if the crowd likes certain music, like Israeli music, then I'll do more Israeli music."

The more versatile the band, the better able they are to satisfy, says Danny Pollak of the True Sound band (905-731-7585, 416-455-9055).

"To be a musician in a wedding, you have to know millions of tunes," says the band leader and drummer, who previously led the Select Band.

"You never know who will come and ask you to play a certain song."

Pollak relates the story of a guest at a wedding who asked him if he could play some rather obscure Hungarian music.

Tapping into his vast musical knowledge, he came up with the tune.

"I got the crowd to melt in my hands," he recalls.

Star notes his nine-piece band is versatile, playing everything from chassidic tunes to Moroccan beats.

Likewise, Pollak says his band spans the spectrum of cultures, busting out harmonies and grooves from famous tangos to rhythm and blues.

Typically, Star says he'll play between 50 and 60 songs a night.

"I usually give the clients a song list and ask them to highlight the stuff they like and to highlight songs they don't want," he notes.

As for playing time, Star says the flutist, piano player and saxophonist generally play at various points during the ceremony and cocktails, while the entire nine-piece band performs throughout the reception, which usually lasts five hours.

He notes it's important for the band to either tone down or up, depending on what stage the affair is at.

"During dinner… the band has to be soft so people can talk and enjoy the music at the same time," he says.

Beyond the music, Pollak says bands should add a scintillating entertainment factor.

"You want a band that moves on stage," he says.

"You want to see a show, where the band is dancing, playing and making the people happy."

Pollak says bands are a collective effort and he advises clients to seek out a group in which there is good chemistry between the players on stage.

"Don't just look for a good singer, look at the whole band," advises Pollak, whose band boasts 10 members.

"Look at the whole picture, the atmosphere they give."

Star agrees.

"You need a good singer, but who makes the singer look good? It's the whole connection together," he says.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: The 42nd Street Band; Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo; Aqualuna Music; Bais Groove; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment; Good Vibrations Band; Klapman's Klezmer Band; Lorraine Ingle, pianist; Nice 'n' Easy; Rena Gaile Band; The Sky's Band.

The Joe Star Band says reputation based on years of satisfying clients and catering to the wishes of the guests.

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Dress like a princess on your big day

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Cinderella didn't go to the prince's ball dressed like a servant. After her fairy godmother conjured up a beautiful crystal-studded gown, matching shoes and satchel, she agreed to attend and had the time of her life.

Even if you don't have a fairy godmother, you too can dress like Cinderella at Edith's Fashions (416-633-4222). The Downsview store boasts 8,000 square feet of frocks for brides, their mothers and guests.

"We are the biggest and most equipped store in the world for mothers of the bride," says owner Joe Nourani.

Edith's gets dress shipments twice a year, but the shipments are staggered and it can take up to 10 weeks for the full season's merchandise to arrive, often from Italy.

Edith's salespeople keep lists to make sure that the mothers of the bride and groom don't buy similar dresses. They also know that not every dress will fit every body type, so they are careful to make sure that every woman only sees the dresses that are best suited for her. This eliminates cringe-worthy moments that come from trying on the wrong style.

"You can't put the same dress on a woman who's size eight and a woman who's size 20," Nourani says.

The store's six seamstresses can also do custom work, adding or removing sleeves as needed, hemming dresses and otherwise altering clothing so it fits customers perfectly. Edith's also has an in-house milliner who makes custom hats, and sells all the accessories a bride needs to complete her outfit. Although they don't sell shoes, if brides buy white sneakers, the milliner will decorate them with beading.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the time we can dress you," says Nourani. "But we don't have cheap merchandise. Everything we have is the best quality."

Prices for wedding dresses start at $850, while dresses in the diamond room – those with designer labels – start at $1,000.

Nourani advises ordering wedding dresses or any other gown that requires major alterations well in advance of your function. Doing so will ensure that seamstresses aren't rushed to alter the dress when it arrives.

Joy Cherry, a 4,000-square-foot upscale boutique, caters exclusively to mothers of the bride and groom (416-489-7973).

It's a chic store with personalized service, Cherry says, and it carries many couture gowns. Lace and printed chiffon gowns are big this year, she adds. The store also sells accessories and shoes.

Customers should know their colour schemes before they walk in the door, Cherry suggests. Women should also come in with an open mind and be willing to discard any previously conceived notions of which styles look good on them. She says customers should rely on the salespeople to find styles that suit their body types best.

"Trust them to figure out what's best," she says.

Other advertisers in this supplement are; Crawford Boys; Deja Vu; Fashion Pulse; Floriane Children's Fashions; K. Barketti; Le Club Menswear; Nancy Klein; Pinstripe Menswear; Underwraps Lingerie; Walter Steiger Shoe Co.; Zero 20.

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Eventworks party novelties are permanent mementoes

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

No one would gainsay the importance of food and entertainment, in making party guests happy. Once the party's over, though, these things are gone.

However, something like a photo, for example, can be kept forever, to help preserve something of the special feeling that makes a party memorable.

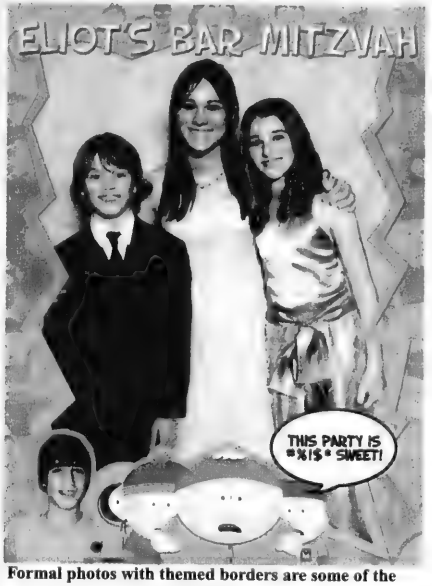
Over the past 3½ years, partners Ariel Platt and Daniel Malen have built a business on photo novelties and other special items for parties called Eventworks (416-482-3984, www.eventworks.ca).

Of the two partners, Platt does the promotion, while Malen, a graduate of Sheridan College, does the photo and design work. They're always looking for new ideas, some of which they generate themselves and some of which come from clients.

Eventworks has become known for creating digital photo novelties and other customized party keepsakes. These include magnets, mouse pads, key chains, T-shirts and socks. They also have ways to make the invitations more interesting.

There's a lot you can do with a camera: formal photos for events such as graduations; framed photos with captions, and/or themed borders; photos of guests, with a picture of the bar or bat mitzvah boy or girl as an inset.

Some ideas are more elaborate. For example, Eventworks can set up a photo booth; do a "Speakers' Corner" booth with a live interviewer, with a clip to go online; or it can design a magazine or newspaper mockup for an event.



Formal photos with themed borders are some of the concepts designed by Eventworks.

Eventworks can also design a logo for a bar or bat mitzvah kid. Or, to let the kids design their own, Eventworks staff can bring pop culture logos with them to your event.

Kids like to put logos on socks because they take their shoes off to dance. Eventworks can offer each guest a pair of socks, one with a guest's design and one with the bar or bat mitzvah kid's logo. Or, since kids take their jackets off and dance in T-shirts, guests might like to put logos on them.

"We work constantly with our clients to come up with fun ideas," Platt says. "And while kids like our work, so do adults. Grandparents, for example, love to be photographed with their grandchildren."

No matter how many new ideas she and her team can come up with, Platt says, certain items have enduring popularity. The most popular idea is the 5x7 framed photo, for bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and corporate events.

Eventworks is versatile, ready to adapt to your needs as a host. Platt and Malen can offer something for every budget, from modest to large, and for every size of event up to hundreds of guests. And they and their team can work in any environment, from an intimate house party to a black-tie gala.

While Eventworks has done a lot of work at bar and bat mitzvahs, the partners' experience is quite diverse. It ranges from proms and graduations through golf tournaments to corporate gatherings and fundraisers.

They operate during cocktails and dancing. "You don't have to line up for us," Platt says. "And we don't steal attention from the main party."

Eventworks photos and other items are made from durable materials and stand the test of time. And if a wealth of fun ideas is one reason for the company's success, a high standard of customer service is another.

Eventworks has a separate passport-protected area of its website that's only accessible to guests. A guest's picture is posted on the site within 48 hours of an event and stays up for three months.

Platt advises you to book Eventworks early – at least six months ahead of your party. She says the Eventworks team can do up to seven events a night, but dates can fill up fast.

Another advertiser in this supplement is Create A Tag.

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Satisfy your sweet tooth with chocolate treats

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

What better way to satisfy the cravings of your family and friends, than with a decadent, flowing fountain of rich, warm, Belgian chocolate?

At Chocolate Moose (416-784 9092), Bev Kruger and her staff can adorn your simchah with just that.

Perhaps the fastest growing trend when it comes to delicious party desserts, chocolate fountains allow your guests to dip fruit, marshmallows and just about anything else you can think of in warmed chocolate.

"We provide chocolate fountains, the equipment and the chocolate. They have become pretty popular. Over the past two years, the more people see it at parties, the more popular it becomes," Kruger said.

But if cascading cocoa isn't your thing, the more traditional forms of chocolate provided by Chocolate Moose, as well as Chocolate Charm (416-787-4256), are sure to satisfy a sweet tooth.

"The three main things we do are smash cakes, three-tier cakes for weddings and bar mitzvahs, and lollypops and bonbonnieres [dishes of chocolate]," said Bob Levine, who runs Chocolate Charm.

"The bonbonniere boxes come in all shapes and sizes – cutouts of hearts and pillow boxes.

"We bring chocolate from Belgium and Switzerland and use real liqueur," he added.

At Chocolate Moose, Kruger also specializes in chocolate, all of which comes from Belgium, but she also makes other kinds of candy, such as nougat.

Both Levine and Kruger boast that everything they sell is made on the premises, and both agree that special orders should be placed in advance.

"We have walk-in customers that come in and buy what they need," said Kruger. "Others call and order for weddings and bar mitzvahs."

Kruger asked that customers give her at least a couple weeks to complete a large order.

Of course, she warned, the bigger or more unusual the order, the more time needed to complete it.

"It depends on how intricate and different the request is," she said.

"We do make novelty pieces. I have hundreds of moulds. If there's a bar mitzvah with a hockey theme, they may want chocolate in the form of hockey sticks."

Levine agrees that it's wise to give your chocolatier plenty of advanced notice to ensure an order is ready on time.

"For fancier orders, you should put the order in early. If someone wants a particular shape, we would have to find the mould for the shape first. We once had an order for a lacrosse stick," he said.

For special events, Levine suggests getting an order in as early as three or four months in advance, while regular boxes of chocolate can be prepared within a few weeks.

Only seven years ago, Kruger was operating out of a shul basement. She said she owes her store's success to her wonderful staff and their flexible work ethic.

"We stand behind our product and we always try to accommodate our customers as best as we can," she said.

Levine also takes his line of work very seriously, and he prides himself on his product.

"People often compliment us for our quality. We specialize in chocolate and we stick with chocolate," he said.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: ZelcoviaCookies.com

ON THE COVER

The cover for this supplement was designed by Anahit Nahapetyan. The photo was taken by Paula Feig [www.paulafphotography.com] (416-636-9466). The girl in the picture is Jilian Bernstein.

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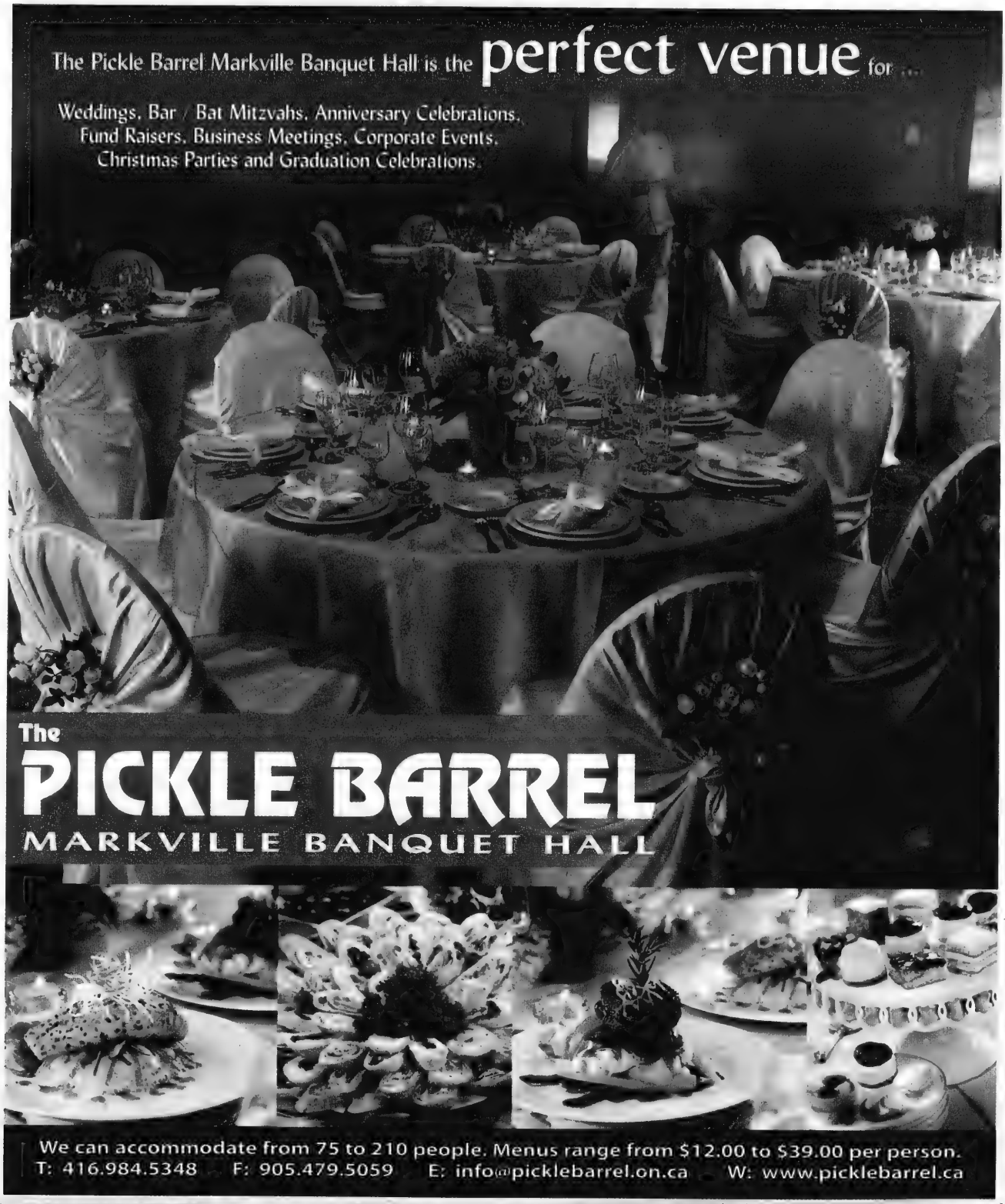
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Kosher excellence and elegant ambience on offer at Baycrest and King Solomon's Table

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

"Everybody's got a hungry heart" as the Bruce Springsteen song goes, but you don't want guests at your function getting off to a famished start.

For many, it's the food that makes a party. Where else can you sample crêpes and exotic salads and enjoy a decadent chocolate fountain dessert, all in the same meal?

Two venues offering kosher culinary excellence in equally superb settings are Baycrest Hospitality Services and King Solomon's Table.

The staff at Baycrest Hospitality Services (416-785-2500, ext. 2477) are very flexible when planning a function. If they can accommodate a request, they will. They are only inflexible in their quest for excellence.

Many happy couples have been married at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, taking advantage of the beautifully landscaped gardens both for pre-wedding photos and the ceremony itself.

Sharon Bizouati, Baycrest's manager of hospitality services, says Baycrest can accommodate from 10 to 500 guests. Event specialists are available to aid in planning, and the air-conditioned facilities are fully wired with modern sound, lighting and audio-visual systems.

"We usually sit down with the client and create a menu for them," Bizouati says.

The added bonus of holding a function at Baycrest is that all proceeds go to the centre.

"It generates revenue for the facility, the profits all go back to Baycrest," Bizouati says. "That's why [Baycrest Hospitality Services] was created."

Mark Bernick held his daughter's bat mitzvah party there and speaks with enthusiasm about Baycrest.

"It's like the best kept secret. I would recommend it to anyone. Every single person who worked at our simchah was incredible. They were so kind and pleasant and they're very flexible in meeting your needs."

King Solomon's Table (416-630-1666) is known for its Chinese buffet. That and other delicious creations are available for your next simchah.

The restaurant actually has two kitchens – one continental and the other a Chinese facility that is totally nut-free.

"The Chinese is an attraction. We do a lot of simchahs that are Chinese buffet," explains maitre d' Albert Massaro.

For those seeking something else, he adds, "we offer a complete continental meal with full service." The comprehensive menu offers a mouth-watering selection that includes Cajun chicken linguine, filet mignon and Moroccan cigars.

Baycrest can accommodate from 10 to 500 guests.

A specialty that is often requested at functions is "Chicken Supreme" – chicken breast stuffed with young spinach, walnuts and anjou pears, glazed with a honey ginger orange sauce.

Dishes typically prepared with nuts can also be ordered nut-free, if desired.

The choices don't end there. "We have an extensive selection of kosher wine, from the traditional to Australian, Chilean, Californian or Italian," notes Massaro.

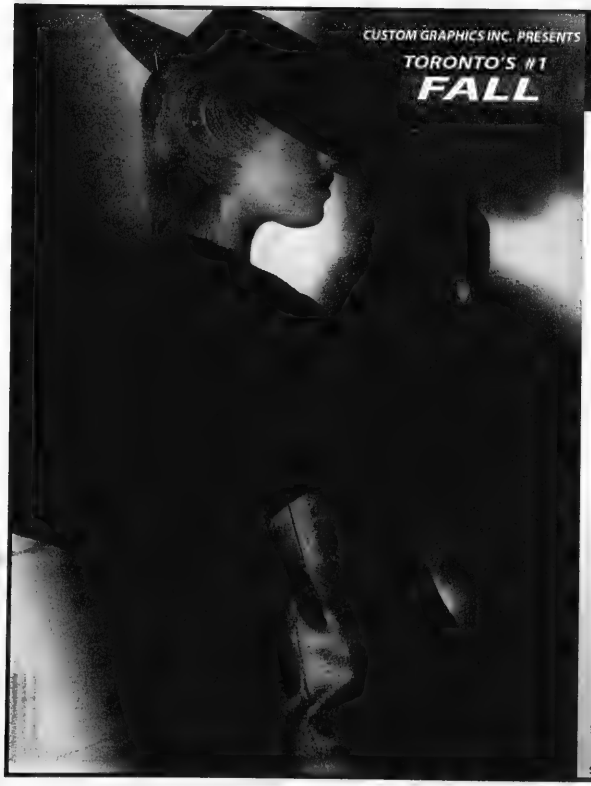
The venue seats 310, and with ample free parking and an ambiance to be enjoyed on its own or enhanced to match a chosen colour scheme, the site is perfect for private functions.

For those requiring more seating, King Solomon's Table is the exclusive caterer at the Madison Convention Centre, which can accommodate up to 800 guests. The staff have also catered a house party for 250 people.

King Solomon's Table also gets many repeat customers celebrating various life-cycle events.

"For some people, we've done the engagement, the wedding and the baby naming. There's a lot of repeat business," Massaro says.

Other kosher advertisers in this supplement are: Beth Tikvah Synagogue; Copper Creek Golf Club; Four Seasons Hotel; Le Jardin Special Event Centre; Paradise Banquet & Convention Centre; Park Hyatt Toronto; Royalton Banquet & Convention Centre; Sephardic Kehilla Centre; Tri Elm Catering; Windsor Arms Hotel.



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Liven up the party with great give-aways

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

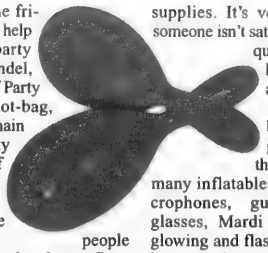
If you want your child's bar or bat mitzvah party to be a hit with the kids there are some basic ingredients you can't do without.

A dynamic disc jockey can certainly get the kids dancing, although the girls really don't need much encouragement.

If you want to get the boys on the dance floor and keep them moving all night, the trick is to hand out prizes. They love the little toys and trinkets, the wigs, the gangster hats, the derbies, the flashing magnetic jewelry, the glowing neon necklaces and the inflatable instruments. Boys will be boys and how they love their toys.

Party packages keep the kids entertained.

Of course, everyone appreciates the give-aways, including the adults. The sparkles and the lights add to the frivolity of the simchah and help people get into the party spirit, says Howard Mandel, merchandise manager of Party Packagers, the toy, loot-bag, novelty and stationary chain that specializes in party supplies for all kinds of events.



"The purpose of the give-aways is to get the people on the dance floor and get them interactive," Mandel says. "It keeps the kids entertained and the distraction keeps them out of trouble."

Party Packagers, with nine store in the GTA, are all well-stocked, he adds.

"We have the largest selection of any party retailer in Canada. We have over 5,000 different items – loot bag items, party novelties and supplies. It's very rare that someone isn't satisfied with the quantity that we have," he adds.

For bar and bat mitzvah give-aways, the store carries many inflatables such as microphones, guitars, disco glasses, Mardi Gras beads, glowing and flashing jewelry, hats, sunglasses, glittery wigs and more.

Party Packagers sells party favours like clocks, diaries and other "tween" items for young girls and sports gear such as basketballs and soccer balls for boys, Mandel says.

The give-aways start at 25 cents a piece with flashing products ranging from 50 cents to $2, he adds.

"The most popular items are the glow necklaces and they sell for four for a dollar or you can buy a package of 50 for $29.99.

"Everything we sell is competitively priced. We're known for value pricing. People love our selection – our balloon selection is amazing – and they know they're buying at the best price possible."

Mandel says other prizes include packaged candy and noise makers.

"We have air horns that blow out confetti that people go wild with at the parties. We also have a giant candy department for candy tables or give-aways."

He also suggests that parents buy extra sweat socks to give out to the girls because it's the latest trend.

"They wear sweat socks to enhance their dancing," he says.

Two of the nine Party Packagers stores are located at 1225 Finch Ave. W. (416-631-7688) and 770 Lawrence Ave. W. (416-785-4035).

Other advertisers in this supplement are: The Kosher & Natural Candyman; Incredible Novelties Inc.; Tyme to Party.

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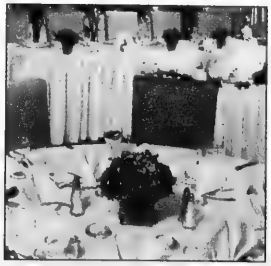

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Face your fears by hugging a Fraidy Cat

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

As her mother grew weaker and weaker with breast cancer ravaging her body, Tammy Heisel thought of different ways to keep busy while remaining by her bedside.

That's when the Fraidy Cat was born.

Heisel made her mother a hand-sewn, custom-made stuffed cat, roughly the size of a puppy, which seemed to comfort her.

"It's the perfect size because when you hug it, it kind of hugs you back," said the Toronto native, who now lives in Rochester, N.Y.

Nearly six years later, Heisel wanted to do something for children who suffer from terminal illnesses, and it dawned on her that the cat she made for her mother would make the perfect toy.

By December 2004, she had donated 12 Fraidy Cats to the CURE Childhood Cancer Association.

The idea behind the stuffed felines is that it's natural for anyone with a terminal illness to fear what lies ahead. With each cat, a person receives a poem that encourages them to face their fears and be in touch with their emotions.

"At the very least, they would have a new 'friend' that they could hug and hold when they were feeling afraid," Heisel wrote on her website.

"The kids loved them, so I decided to do some for Gilda's Club, where I volunteered," Heisel said, referring to the network of support groups for cancer survivors or fighters named after *Saturday Night Live* comedian Gilda Radner, who died of cancer in 1989.

While Heisel said the Fraidy Cats were inspired by her late mother and were meant to be a comfort to people coping with terminal illnesses, she hopes to expand her business by selling the cats as centrepieces for bar and bat mitzvahs.

The cats can be made to match the décor of a party, and afterward they can be donated to the bar or bat mizvah celebrant's cause of choice.

With the money Heisel makes on these kinds of orders, she will buy more fabric to make more toys and give them to those who need them.

To date, she has made about 70 cats – each one taking her about 1½ hours to complete.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to sell more and donate more."

What inspires her to keep going is the reactions she gets from those who take comfort in the cat.

"Someone gave a Fraidy Cat to a girl as a gift. She had some pain in her arm and she was able to relieve some of the pain by tucking the cat under her arm," she said.

Heisel told another story about a woman who was going through chemotherapy and would get headaches. The woman would put the cat behind her head to relieve her pain.

"I've had such good reactions. Everyone is very thankful. I've even gotten thank-you notes."

Others are so encouraging of her goals that they're willing to do anything to help.

One patient was inspired to come volunteer at Gilda's Club after her treatment.

"Other people have donated their old sewing machines, but I wouldn't know how to use it anyway," she said with a laugh.

For more information about Fraidy Cats, visit www.tammyswebsite.ca or call 585-461-4692.

Tammy Heisel and her Fraidy Cats.

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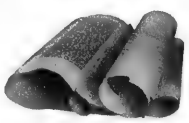

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Variety of flowers and ferns is mind-boggling

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

There are many components to a memorable wedding, but few compete with the image of lush foliage gracing the room or with its soothing fragrance entrancing guests as they enter the room.

The variety of flowers and ferns – both in terms of types, colours and arrangements – is mind-boggling, and the possibilities are endless. So are the vases you can put them in. Whether they're tall, squat or square comes down to personal taste. The only limit is imagination. (Okay, we'll be honest, budget has its own limitations too, but that's another story.)

"Flowers are so individual," says florist Monika Sumra of Desert Rose (905-709-0408). "It's not like you're buying bread."

Thanks to our global village, the notion that brides and grooms are only restricted to flowers in season here is quickly disappearing, says Renee Birnbaum of An Affair To Remember (905-881-6686). Florists can now get flowers from all over the planet. Desert Rose imports its wares from Israel, Ecuador, Thailand and Italy, to name a few.

But thanks to the fluctuating temperatures, flowers that are usually plentiful in one season can be scarce if Mother Nature doesn't co-operate. "If it's cold in Ecuador, it's hard to get roses," says Birnbaum. This year, a local cold spell means that the peony harvest is late, and the May shipment will be pushed back to June. Specialty flowers, such as calla lilies and lily of the valley, are particularly susceptible to changes in weather.

Because of weather fluctuations, Birnbaum won't confirm what species of flowers she'll be using until a few weeks beforehand. However, she can almost always guarantee colours.

Both florists have noticed that bright colours such as oranges and pinks are popular combinations for weddings this year. "They look stunning together," says Sumra, reinforcing the view that there are no rules when it comes to assembling a jaw-dropping floral arrangement.

For maximum floral impact, consider vases and linens, both of which are rented for the evening. There are different advantages to having tall or squat vases.

Tall vases allow for an unobstructed view. They also work well if the room has a high ceiling. "They have a big impact, a wow factor," says Birnbaum. Tall vases can be filled with gels, flowers or twigs for visual excitement.

Short vases, on the other hand, won't fill the room the same way and don't have the same visual impact – often guests won't see the arrangements until they're sitting down – but they can make a room feel less crowded. Short vases also cost less to rent.

Continued on page B19

These floral designs in both pictures are by An Affair to Remember.

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FotoArt Books offers you the ability to preserve your memories for ever.

Turn your special memories into a work of art

By JEN THOMPSON
Special to The CJN

Looking for the perfect way to preserve the memories of your special day? A FotoArtBook may be just what you need.

Caryn Silverstein, photographer and creator of the books, provides her clients with albums reminiscent of yearbooks, which are creative alternatives to traditional photo albums.

Having been a photographer for over 25 years, Silverstein realized there was a need for a product that exploited the technology of the digital marketplace. With the knowledge of how to artistically manipulate photographs using the latest in technology, FotoArtBooks soon evolved as the perfect match for this market.

While a photo album cannot capture the whole story behind your event, a FotoArtBook gives you the opportunity to combine photography and memorabilia such as copies of speeches, memorable quotes, invitations, sentiments and anything else that is special to you.

To ensure that each project is custom-made for each client, Silverstein doesn't use templates when creating a personalized book.

Working with her co-designer, Monica Draper, she creates a one-of-a-kind work of art for you to display in your home. Covers are woven and bound for a personalized touch and finished with a linen or leather-embossed spine.

Creating a FotoArtBook is easy. Clients begin with a consultation with Silverstein. Concepts and themes are discussed and pictures and memorabilia are collected. Once your digital art book is created, she posts your FotoArtBook online for you and your family to view and approve. Any changes are done online, and the customer is provided with a personal website to view the album free of charge.

Once the online book is created, your FotoArtBook is bound, printed and delivered to you within 6 to 8 weeks.

Professional photographers can also benefit greatly from this product. Silverstein sells each book at a wholesale price to photographers who may then resell the books to their clients after filling the pages with photos from their event.

There are many uses for FotoArtBooks. Not limited to designing albums for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, Silverstein can create a book that captures memories from important events such as travels, engagements, family reunions and any other milestone you wish to remember.

Silverstein also sells signing books for bar and bat mitzvahs that can replace the traditional signing board or guest book. Customers can choose from an online template and supply photos of their children from birth to age 13. The pictures will then be placed on each page of the hardcover, linen-stitched and bound signing book.

FotoArtBooks are truly unique and offer ways to both express your creativity and to combine old memories with new ones.

Your special event may only last a day, but FotoArtBooks now offers you the ability to preserve your memories for a lifetime.

For more information call 905-989-1461 or visit www.fotoartbooks.com.

Meet at the Fun Station for outdoor parties

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Outdoor activity combines with family fun at the Fun Station, a park and arcade that offers activities for all ages and members of the family.

Proprietors Doug and Michele Upton have been running the park for five years. Located at 5 York Gate Blvd. near Jane Street and Finch Avenue, it sits on a well-kept, mature site with beautiful trees and is easily accessible from anywhere in the city.

Two delightfully landscaped 18-hole championship miniature golf courses add to the effect and the fun.

"It's family-oriented and warm," Michele says. "It's not overly big so you don't know where everyone is and you get lost. And miniature golf is fun for all ages."

For thrill seekers, there's go-carting on a Grand Prix-style track that offers speed and tight turns for older children and adults, and there's a 1/4-mile track for people between 38 and 54 inches in height.

"We cater to people from ages three years and up," Michele adds, noting that go-carts even come in two sizes to accommodate little and not-so-little bodies.

The Fun Station has hosted corporate events, summer camps and day-care centres and the park can accommodate up to 250 people at a time. It offers a great opportunity to play at your own pace, pause for a break and some refreshments at picnic tables, and return to one of its many varied activities.

The outdoor venue is an ideal party location in the summer months.

Michele says that when booking a party, clients also book a rain date. If a party must be cancelled due to inclement weather, she adds, "you wouldn't lose any money with us because we don't take a deposit."

The Fun Station also has three batting cages – one slow-pitch, and two hardball – and it's 3,000-square-foot arcade offers air hockey, foosball, boxing and pinball, among other games.

"Whatever you want to do, it's pay as you go. You can do as much or as little as you like," Michele said.

For more information, call 416-736-4804, or visit www.funstationfunpark.com.

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Sensational outfits for special occasions

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

A bar or bat mitzvah and graduation are two of the most important days in a child's life. On these special days, or any other day like it, you want to make sure that your children look as great as they feel.

Attaining the perfect look is actually a lot easier than you think – provided you know where to shop.

Zero 20 Children's Boutique, at 7700 Pine Valley Dr. in Woodbridge (905-851-6041), carries dressy children's wear for people between the ages "zero to 20," as the name suggests. The store sells European clothing lines such as Diesel, Jean Bourget and Clayeux at affordable prices.

"We provide fashionable and different clothing appropriate for different occasions... even if it's just for visiting grandma," says Santina Mariani who founded the store with her sister more than 20 years ago.

Le Club offers clothing for bar mitzvah boys.

With a variety of sizes, colours, and styles for all children, Zero 20 is a one-stop-shopping experience.

"Everyone who visits the store remarks on the incredible selection available in one location," according to the website.

But Mariani says it's not easy upholding that reputation.

"It's getting harder and harder to find a good selection of fancy clothes," she says.

This season, boy's polo shirts in any colour are the hottest trend.

"The stylish GQ look is really great for kids," Mariani says with a laugh. For girls, breezy, flowing skirts for summer are the hottest items.

"I think people really want to stand out again," she says.

At Zero 20, they really understand the importance of looking your best.

"A compliment for children is a compliment for their mothers," says Mariani. "You put your children first and you always want them to look good."

As well as their wide variety of name brands and styles, Zero 20 is known for their incredible service. They always make sure the customers get what they want and even have a seamstress available for alterations to ensure the clothes fit perfectly.

Whatever the occasion, you can be sure that Zero 20 will have just what you are looking for.

To offer their clothing at even more affordable prices, Zero 20 has recently opened an outlet at Bathurst and Lawrence (416-532-4459).

When it comes time for your son's bar mitzvah or graduation, you need to look no further than Le Club (416-488-7848) at 424 Eglinton Ave. W.

Le Club, which specializes in school uniforms, started carrying mens-wear, but now caters to a younger clientele and offers clothing for bar mitzvah-aged boys as well.

Le Club offers a more selective variety of clothing that serves as a place where father and son can both find what they're looking for, and people are very receptive to this kind of convenience.

"The response is extremely appreciative," says Nadia Serraf, the store's owner. "Everyone knows each other, and we have everything on record so that it is easier for the customer. Our service is different than other typical stores. We really have a soul at our core."

Le Club also offers wardrobe consultations for their clients.

"I can help with anything from dressy to casual, from elegant to funky," says Serraf.

Her staff is trained to do so as well. "We all know how to make clothes more versatile," she says.

Serraf and her staff listen to the needs of the customer to help them get the most wear out of the clothes. They can suggest ways to match new clothes with items you already own.

Whatever the occasion, your children should always look smashing. And with stores like Zero 20 and Le Club available, there is no reason why they shouldn't.

To insure that your children look their best on their most special days, shop where you can receive the best quality and service – these two stores have got it all.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Crawford Boys; Deja Vu; Fashion Pulse; Floriane Children's Fashion; K. Barketti; Nancy Klein; Pinstripe Menswear; Underwraps Lingerie; Walter Steiger Shoe Co.

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Flowers are nature's gift to us

Flower designs by An Affair to Remember.

Continued from page B15

Birnbaum says that standard linens provided by the hall or caterer usually don't reach the ground. Many clients opt for coloured or patterned tablecloths because they add more life to the room. When you're considering flower colours, it's important to keep in mind the colour of the linens. If you've chosen a brightly coloured tablecloth, it might look better to go for white or cream-coloured flowers, and vice versa.

Both florists agree that the most important thing to keep in mind when ordering flowers for a simchah is budget. "You'll be wasting your time if you're just going to get an idea of prices," says Sumra. Prices vary wildly. Before you go, plan how much you can afford to spend on flowers. Consider the whole event, and cut corners where nobody will notice, she suggests.

Flowers must be ordered six weeks in advance and delivered two to three days before the simchah. After receiving the shipment, the florist will put the flowers in several solutions to preserve longevity and store them in a cooler. If your flowers don't last more than a week after your big party, you're buying from the wrong place, says Sumra.

However, the bottom line is that it's important to remember that flowers, like all other parts of nature, are not guaranteed.

"Flowers are nature's gift to us," Sumra says.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Designs by Karen Baker; Fran Sackler Floral Designs; Giselle Garden; Greenleaves & Petals Ltd.

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Turn off your cellphone and unwind at a spa

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Imagine a place free of cellphones, free of nagging messages and spam e-mail – doesn't seem too possible does it? With the help of two of the city's best spas, you can get to that place – even if it's just for a little while. Whether you are stressed from planning an upcoming event or just need some serious R&R, a spa is the perfect place to spend your day off.

Stillwater Spa, which is located at Toronto's Park Hyatt Hotel (416-925-1234), is the perfect embodiment of serenity and calm. From the moment you step inside this luxurious space, the sights and sounds of waterfalls greet you. The walls are free of clocks and cellphones disappear. "The spa is a sanctuary where you can come in and leave everything behind," says Paul Semkuley, the spa's director.

Stillwater Spa is just one of 35 Hyatt spas worldwide. With new branches opening in Scottsdale and South Beach, Hyatt is arguably a leading force in spa operations.

Toronto's Stillwater is located in the heart of downtown Toronto. It has a certain urban charm that resort environments do not. "We all try to have something that is indigenous to the area", says Semkuley. "In an urban environment, people really want to unwind. We create that sense of calm for you".

The spa offers a myriad of services that all promise to clear your mind. It offers an atmosphere in which you do not feel rushed, pressured or nervous. Stillwater's staff is there to pamper and take care of you.

When you enter the spa, the staff guides you, letting you know about all of the amenities that are there for you. You are pampered even while waiting between appointments, with flat screen TVs and private rooms at the ready.

Stillwater Spa promises a completely relaxing experience. Whether it is to get rid of pre-wedding jitters or just for a day of peace and quiet, the spa is the sure to rejuvenate you.

Another place that is sure to pamper you is Featuring…You Spa and Salon (416-783-7793). The spa's philosophy is evident in its name. "Featuring…You" will do just that. "We take care of you from the top of your head to the tip of your toes," says Mary Orlando, the spa's owner.

What began as a small makeup consultation service 20 years ago, has grown into a full-service spa and salon. Featuring…You offers everything from manicures and pedicures

to botox and waxing. As well, Featuring…You has expanded to offering makeup services for Canada's Bridal Show. Featuring…You provides various special services in its beautiful interior.

"The most popular service at the spa is the crystal peel, a microderm abrasion facial," says Orlando. The crystal peel deeply exfoliates skin, stimulating movement in uneven skin.

A popular service for brides, travellers and practically anyone before the summer is airbrush tanning, which the spa has been offering for four years. Airbrushing gives an even, glowing tan all over your body. Airbrushing can even used to fill in strap or sleeve marks.

Featuring…You puts a creative spin into spa treatments with monthly themed manicures and pedicures. June is lemon meringue month, with everything from lemon sugar scrub to soaking in lemon-scented water.

As well as offering unique spa services, Featuring…You has a staff of loyal trained professionals. "Most of the staff has been here since the beginning, so that makes the clients extremely comfortable," says Orlando. Featuring…You's spa is also available for special events, and can customize their services for all your event-planning needs.

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Everyone can create a memorable speech – with a little help

By JEN THOMPSON
Special to The CJN

Does the thought of having to deliver a speech in front of your friends, family or co-workers send you into a panic?

For many of us, having to give a speech is a painful experience. Most people want to deliver humor and articulate sentiments in a speech but are unable to find the right words.

Hiring a speechwriter may be the key to delivering a speech that will not only be remembered but will also be one of the highlights of your simchah.

Esther Turner

Esther Turner, who writes speeches for many events, says she started her company, Your Word's-Worth (905-508-7035), 10 years ago, out of a growing need in the marketplace.

Turner has a background in drama and she was often asked to put her creative writing skills to work, writing speeches for friends. Turning her talent into a business was a logical step for her.

A lot of time at an event is spent either listening to or delivering a speech. Speeches can create memorable moments, some good and some bad – the uncle who wouldn't finish his speech or the aunt who sparked the laughter in the room.

Your Word'sWorth will help you to create a perfect speech for any occasion.

Turner has written speeches for corporate functions, tribute dinners, weddings, bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs and more, and she can captivate an audience with her words.

She says, "It doesn't matter if you are ghost-writing for a bar mitzvah boy or the CEO of a major corporation – you have to be a student of people in order to be able to channel their persona through your words and make it believable and entertaining for the audience.

"I consider my ability to connect with people a gift, and it's beyond rewarding to get a call from a client following their event and having them tell me that the speeches were the best part of the evening."

Clients begin by having a free consultation with Turner. She prefers to meet with them on their own turf. It is there that she can better get a sense of their personalities.

She says that you should come away from a meeting with a speechwriter knowing that you will get an original piece of creative work that is tailor-made to suit you.

She adds that if you have the personality of Billy Bob Thorton, don't try to deliver a speech made for Billy Crystal. If your friends know you to be the life of the party, don't decide to deliver a sappy poem because you feel compelled to conjure up sweet sentiments.

Turner says that everyone has within them the ability to create a great speech. However, the pressure of having to stand before a group of your closest friends and family and somehow convey what's in your heart on the most emotionally charged of days is no small task. The best way to deal with your anxiety is to be prepared.

A speechwriter should spend time getting to know you in order to give you a suitable speech to deliver. Turner says that if you decide to hire someone to help you write a speech, you should do that when the invitations are sent out. This will give both you and Turner enough time to create a unique, polished piece of work.

Your Word'sWorth also offers packages for events, including customized speeches for each segment of the evening.

Considering that so much time is spent on speeches at an event, preparing them should be as important as choosing the flowers and the music. Your Word'sWorth can ensure that your speeches enhance and enliven your event, creating memories that last a lifetime.

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Travel Network plans trips that are out of this world

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Planning the perfect honeymoon can be done with the click of a mouse, but many newlyweds want more than the standard all-inclusive vacation package.

The Travel Network is one agency that can help honeymooners find something special.

"Whatever you dream we can bring to fruition," says Carol Segal, a 19-year veteran at the Travel Network.

With contacts all around the world the company can not only book a couple into a hotel, but can create the perfect evening, something that most standard travel agents don't do.

"We can take a plain all-inclusive and add little things to it that make it special," Segal says. "For example, if you book something in a hotel, I can make arrangements for dinner in a private dining room in a particular hotel or restaurant for your anniversary, or for your honeymoon. I can have things organized so [an engagement] ring is brought out on a platter – anything to make your holiday special."

For one adventurous couple travelling in Barbados, dinner in a restaurant wasn't enough. They wanted to eat on the beach.

"Dinner on the beach in Barbados was an interesting experience. We contacted a hotel that is obviously very high-end and arranged for them to have their chef prepare a dinner, get the waiter to bring it and set it out on the beach and be there to serve. Whatever they wanted was prepared and then cleaned up as if it never happened," she says.

Segal says that places like Mexico, Jamaica and St. Lucia are always sought after locations, but, she adds "those are more run-of-the-mill."

She is quick to point out some of the quirkier places her clients chose to honeymoon.

"We've had people who did an African safari for their honeymoon. That was a lot of work."

Another exotic honeymoon adventure that was difficult to plan was a Tahitian cruise.

"We did a Radisson Seven Seas Cruise... to Tahiti and the couple wanted to stay on. They stayed at a water bungalow and dinner was served on their little balcony with a net tent over them. That was a very nice one."

Having a romantic dinner on your exotic balcony is something not everyone gets to enjoy, mostly because couples don't know how to make it happen. Segal says many people come to her without any idea where they want to go or what they want to do.

"'Take me somewhere wonderful,' that's a common request," she says. "I need to find out how much they want to spend and what it is they want and I try to do whatever they want. Often times people want something they can't afford, so we try and give them the next best thing and that's all based on a conversation I would have with the client."

One recent conversation with a clueless couple ended with the newlyweds having his and her massages in St. Lucia.

"I do spas and I just had a honeymoon couple come back from a place called Le Sport in St. Lucia. They wanted something more than just the regular all-inclusive and this place had spa services. They had massages for a husband and wife at the same time."

While the Travel Network can book vacations for people on a budget, planning a personalized honeymoon is usually more expensive than backpacking through Europe.

"Prices depend on what time of year you go," Segal says. "[The Tahitian cruise] ended up being, with everything included, about $10,000 US. How long you stay, the cruise line you choose, the airline you fly on – it's all factored in."

Fortunately, because the Travel Network is well-connected – they have 39 agents who've been all over the world, as well as a wholesale division – they can get the consumer the best prices.

Even with cheap airfares and connected travel agents, things can go wrong. Having a glitch in the plans of a honeymoon can really kill the mood. Segal says that her relationship with the client doesn't end when the couple leaves the tarmac.

"Once we sell a package, that's not the end of it. There's stuff that happens afterwards."

One typical problem is a couple arriving at a hotel and their room has been given to someone else – a practice called bumping.

"This often happens during peak seasons. The tour operators are unfortunately notorious for overselling and bumping.

"People have arrived at their destination and the tour company we bought it with sold a room they didn't really have and the clients are there and they're put in another hotel," she says.

Continued on page B25

Windsor Arms and Royal Kosher Catering offer quality kosher cuisine

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

With food more than anything else, the proof of the pudding literally is in the eating, and good food is essential to the success of a party.

George Friedmann is president and owner of the Windsor Arms Hotel (416-971-9666; www.windsorarmshotel.com), and he's also the owner of Royal Kosher Catering, the caterer at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre.

The Windsor Arms, a Toronto landmark, is one of the city's oldest and most famous hotels. It has its own in-house kosher kitchen, and Royal Kosher Catering, a separate company operating out of the Sephardic Kehilla Centre and the Village Shul, draws on the Windsor Arms' expertise, experience and style.

Royal Kosher also caters off-site in locations ranging from private homes to Roy Thompson Hall, for numbers ranging from 10 to 2,000. It caters every type of event, from sit-down dinners to cocktail parties.

"For generations, kosher catering in Toronto has had a bad rap," Friedmann says. "People just accepted the idea that kosher cooking was not top quality. Now, kosher can be as good as non-kosher – or better from the meat perspective, since kosher cooking uses only the healthiest parts of the animal.

"For some time, the standard has been rising. Now, people have to put up or get out of the business," he says.

"Caterers used to have cooks in the kitchen, not chefs," Friedmann adds. "Now, kosher trainees are learning to be chefs."

Friedmann attributes that former state of affairs to a lack of competition. For decades, people were forced to use the caterer at their shul. Today, he says, people see fine kosher cuisine provided by hotel caterers and they expect better from their shul.

In the old days, Friedmann recalls, people who kept kosher would often bring a caterer from their shul into a hotel, and if the food at an event wasn't great, it affected the hotel's reputation. Even though the hotel wasn't doing the catering, guests tended to associate the food with the locale.

So, to raise quality, hotels brought in their own kosher catering. This preserved the hotels' reputations, enabled them to compete with synagogue caterers, and encouraged competitors to improve the quality of their kosher food, he says.

Friedmann has observed another positive spin-off from all of this: the rise in catering quality has encouraged more people to keep kosher at their simchahs.

As well, the expectations clients have about their caterers are higher than they used to be.

"When someone organizes an event, they focus on two things: quality and price," Friedmann says. "And if you do 99 things out of 100 right, and one thing wrong, people remember the one wrong thing."

Accordingly, Friedmann has a number of policies to ensure that hosts won't be disappointed.

First, he insists on the highest quality in staff, equipment, ingredients and work standards.

Second, for every function, there's a tasting: you are served the exact menu that will be served at your event. This way, you know exactly what to expect when the big day comes.

Third, the kitchen staff and staff at all functions are professionals in their fields, with everything to lose from giving less than their best. By contrast, Friedmann says he has observed that when an owner is also a cook, he or she may try to cut corners in ways that detract from quality.

He also notes that while some people dine out regularly, some people do so almost exclusively at simchahs. Friedmann is especially keen to give such diners something special in service and presentation.

As well, Friedmann has noticed that everyone, not only kids, takes pleasure in a good dessert, so he makes sure desserts and sweets are given as much care in preparation and service as main courses.

The Windsor Arms has three venues. The Courtyard Café,which can host about 270 guests for a sit-down dinner, or 600 for cocktails; Club 22, 120 seated or 250 for cocktails; and the Tea Room, 50 seated or 120 for cocktails.

The Sephardic Kehilla Centre can host up to 650 seated guests, or more than 1,000 for cocktails; and the Village Shul can host up to 200 seated guests. Both the Windsor Arms and the Kehila Centre also have outdoor space.

A wedding at one of the Windsor Arms locations.

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A good event planner can think on their feet

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Question: What do event planners and vitamin B have in common?

Answer: They both help in reducing stress.

Event planner Heidi Gruenspan (905-738-5030) has been doing just that for many families, on many different occasions, and loving every minute of it. "It's a huge part of my life. It's people that I've bonded with over the years," says Gruenspan.

She jokes that many families have hired her for all their children's weddings, and when it comes time for the last child to be married, the parents have said to her that she should sit with them for the *mazinka*.

Her famous 'Mary Poppins' bag

Gruenspan has a quiet, calm manner, and is ultra-organized. Clients are supplied with a calendar, indispensable for keeping track of crucial dates. She arrives at every simchah with her famous "Mary Poppins bag." It's filled with anything one could anticipate needing at the last minute: necklace extenders, backs of earrings, a needle and thread, and much more.

She is always easy to reach, and available to clients for as much or as little as they need. She will also meet with various others involved in the function, such as the florist or bandleader, if clients desire.

Gruenspan chooses vendors for her clients based on the vendors' merit, their compatibility with the client and the price. "I'm there 100 per cent for my clients, and if I can save them money along the way, that's my pleasure as well," she says. An assistant is included in her price, as she notes that four hands are better than two.

Though she takes care of details on the day of the function, such as ensuring the proper number of tables and chairs have been set up, she believes it's better to work with someone on the weeks and months before a simchah.

"If you hire someone for the day of, you don't know them and don't feel comfortable coming to them with a problem. I build a relationship with people over the months leading up to the function," says Gruenspan.

At past events, her efforts have been invaluable in a variety of ways. Once she picked up deliveries that hadn't come; another time, a bridesmaid dress with a broken zipper was skilfully sewn together.

Gruenspan is competitively priced, and offers a free consultation.

Another name known within the event planning industry as a real stress-buster is Karen Garscadden, teaming up with partner Karen Jacobs. "The Karens," as they are affectionately called, head Up and Coming Events (416-665-6100). This year, they are celebrating their chai year in business, and they are always moving forward with fresh and innovative ideas.

"I can honestly say after 18 years that there's no one we're not happy working with and vice versa. Not only do we build relationships with our clients but also with our vendors. We are not tied into one source," says Garscadden.

Known for their infectious enthusiasm, she and her associates – several event planners make up the Up and Coming team – are constantly attending international conferences, conventions, and openings, and investigating new bands and entertainers. They also organize fundraisers and corporate events, so they can draw on ideas and resources with a different focus.

Upon first meeting with a client, they've been told they ask more questions than they answer. They take the information gleaned from the client and proceed to develop an event. Says Garscadden, "We really try to personalize what that event's going to be for that client, we take the 'want to,' to make it interesting."

'Referrals are our biggest form of flattery'

Garscadden recalls she once had seven days to put together a family's bris. She has since done a second bat mitzvah for them. "People have been very tried and true to us, and we've stood the test of time. The referrals are our biggest form of flattery," she says.

Garscadden's experience enables her to guide people. A client, for instance, may think the band should play nonstop throughout the evening. After she points out that people who are dancing will find a cold meal waiting for them when they get back to their table, the client understands that the band will have to take a break for dinner. As Garscadden says, a good consultant can think on her feet.

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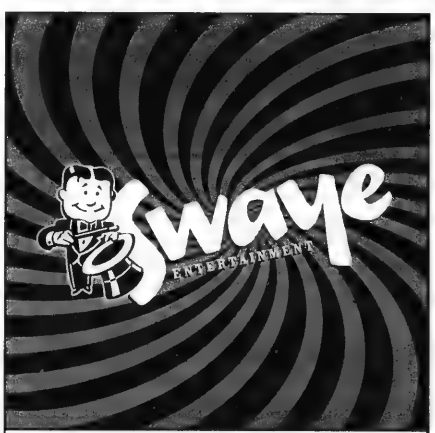

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Make choosing a gift registry fun

By JEN THOMPSON
Special to The CJN

Planning a wedding is often a stressful, time-consuming and demanding experience, but choosing your gift registry shouldn't be.

The staff at Goodman's China and Gifts, and Cayne's, The Super Housewares Store both offer superior service, value and help that makes choosing your gift registry an enjoyable experience.

Upon entry of either store, brides and grooms are presented with many different options.

Cayne's, at 112 Doncaster Ave., offers consumers a 25,000-square-foot store filled with high quality products every bride and groom needs to begin their lives together. Cayne's offers top-quality brand names at competitive prices.

The majority of couples who register at Cayne's do so to ensure their guests can buy gifts without breaking their bank account.

Having been in the business for more than 19 years, Jerry Cayne emphasizes that although his store is extremely large, their success is based upon the personal service each consumer receives when they walk through the door.

If a couple decides to register at Cayne's, they will team up with a Cayne's employee who will guide them through the process of registering easily and efficiently.

Rozie Goodman of Goodman's China and Gifts at 1136 Centre St., also prides herself on the personal service she and her staff give each customer. Goodman's is a family business that has offered competitively low pricing, variety and flexibility for more than 35 years.

Goodman's carries products from everyday home décor accessories to more formal pieces for entertaining guests, including dinnerware, figurines, collectibles, flatware and stemware. They provide a variety of product lines such as Oneida, Mikasa, Royal Doulton, Royal Worcester, Wedgwood, Heritage, Sheffield, Moorcroft, Denby, Swarovski and more.

Goodman also stresses the flexibility of her gift registry. There are numerous ways to purchase gifts for the bride and groom.

Guests can use a notification system in which they purchase a product and it will then be wrapped and delivered to the couple at a convenient time. Couples are also able to exchange gifts which will enable them to make matching sets.

Both Cayne's and Goodman's offer the convenience and flexibility of online shopping. Both stores use the latest technology to ensure your personal and payment information is kept confidential and secure.

Each store offers convenient, flexible, quality low pricing for all your gift registry needs. They provide personal, efficient service for both brides and grooms to make sure their special day is the best it can be.

Worldwide shipping is also available from both stores. Goodman's has a toll free number (1-800-665-8187) to ensure convenience for its consumers, and free delivery within the Greater Toronto Area.

For more information about Goodman's visit, www.goodmanschina.com. To get in touch with a Cayne's representative, call 905-764-1188 or visit www.cayneshousewares.com.

Helping honeymooners find someplace special

Continued from page B22

"This isn't what they wanted so they start screaming and yelling. We call our supplier to find out why and put them in the right place. Hopefully what would happen is we'd be able to get them back into the hotel they paid for. We try to sort it out and make the client happy."

One catastrophe Segal doesn't want to experience again was Jetsgo's sudden bankruptcy.

"I was here at 6:30 a.m. the day [the airline] announced [that all the flights were cancelled]," she says. "I made tentative reservations for my clients and started calling them at 7:30 in the morning and put them on other flights so they wouldn't miss their holiday. They needed to get their money back so we filled out their forms, made the phone calls, made arrangements and everybody was happy. It was a lot of work and a lot of aggravation that we don't get paid for."

Although Segal technically works five days a week, in case of emergencies, she's willing to be on call. She'll even give some of her clients her home number.

"I don't advertise my home number, but my clients are pretty important to me," she says. "We have a toll free number here (1-800-666-8747) and there is an emergency number, but most of the tour operators and hotels have toll free numbers so if there's a problem they have someone to call. And if one of us goes on holiday the other 38 agents certainly can kick in and do whatever it is."

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Lasting gifts & party favours

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

When we celebrate a milestone event, be it a bris, bar or bat mitzvah, graduation or marriage, we want to commemorate it with a gift. And because such a milestone marks a lasting change in someone's life, it's fitting to commemorate it with something that lasts.

Proprietor Israel (Izzy) Kaplan of Israel's Judacia (416-256-2858 or toll-free 1-800-449-5918 ext. 24; www.israelsjudaica.com) poses the following question: "When buying a gift for someone, ask yourself: is it for today, or the long term?"

Essentially, what Israel's Judaica offers you is for the long term (though they do carry items such as Israeli candy, whose quality is attested by the fact that it does not stay around long).

Here, you'll find ceremonial products for home and synagogue, from seder plates to washing cups. And they have something for every age group, from small children to great-grandparents. This includes many Israeli products, such as fine glassware.

There's a full selection of Jewish-themed audio and CDs, DVDs and software. They include Israeli popular music, cantorial singing, klezmer and a cappella Shabbat songs.

Israel's books vary in subject from religion to contemporary Israeli novels, from terrorism to Genesis and the Big Bang; and they receive regular shipments from Israel. Some Hebrew books have facing-page translations; and Artscroll offers a series of books with Hebrew, English translation and Hebrew in phonetic spelling.

Israel's Judaica does a lot of educational work. Kaplan has friendships with non-Jews interested in Jewish and Israeli culture; and he helps converts familiarize themselves with Jewish religion and culture.

Israel's Judaica also plays a big role in helping adults refresh their Jewish knowledge. "Parents whose kids are in day school want to bone up on their own Jewish education to keep up with their kids," Kaplan says, "and they buy the materials here."

Israel's also hosts Israeli and other Jewish art shows, book launches and music events. Such cultural events are important enough that they have a special person on staff to organize them.

Some regular customers come in two or three times a year, to find gifts for the holidays or life-cycle events. Others come once or twice a month, looking for things like new literature to regenerate their minds.

Israel's Judaica sells to shuls and wholesales to gift shops. They have two retail locations, one near Bathurst and Eglinton and one on Clark Avenue in Thornhill. Most of their wares are foreign-made, but in stock; and they take special orders. Also, they offer gift certificates.

***

Incredible Novelties (905-881-9900, www.incrediblenovelties.com) offers quite a different type of gift. Novelties are a big part of a bar or bat mitzvah; and purchasing them deserves some thought.

Partners Saul Sacks and Dan Jankelow have been DJs for years; and they've noticed that party clients tend to buy either too much of a novelty item, or too litle. "Either there isn't enough to go around," Sacks observes, "or things are wasted, left lying on the floor." Incredible Novelties solves this dilemma.

For one thing, as DJs, they know what's hot with kids, and what's not. For another, from working at different sizes of event, they can calculate needed quantities. Nobody will be left out and nothing need go to waste.

Incredible Novelties also maintains a high standard of service, making sure that you, the client, get exactly what you want. They drop the items off, so you don't have to shlep them; and the materials are "party-ready," as Sacks puts it, so you don't have to unpack them. The staff sets it up for the DJ, who hands it out. Delivery and setup are free.

The category of novelty covers favours and prizes. Favours include items such as flashing pins with LEDs, or "light-up" pins; necklaces, jewelry and buttons; game and sports items; and musical instruments. Prizes include CDs, DVDs, rock 'n' roll band T-shirts and shag hats. Incredible Novelties also stocks promotional items for business events.

By definition, though, novelties "age" quickly. To earn the "incredible" part of its name, this company continually brings in new items and updates its webite. They now do sign-in boards and menus; and they will customize novelties for you, such as place cards, table seating, life-size cutouts and banners.

Sacks and Jankelow are still DJ-ing. "It's fun," Sacks says, "and it keeps us in touch with novelty trends. We love to see people reacting to novelties, and kids winning prizes."

Incredible Novelties has a full showroom in Richmond Hill, at 55 West Beaver Creek Rd., Unit 42. They have a huge stock, and can meet short-term orders.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Artistic Creations; David Edouard Jewellers Designs; Eileen's Pearls; Judaica Art Silver Miller; Figuretale Creations; Odyssey Jewellery Designers Inc.

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12. Moishe is now 12 and you are officially in panic mode. Come to King Solomon's and strike up a conversation with every stranger you meet at the buffet table until you find a psychotherapist you're comfortable with.
13. Your children have discovered the credit card. **YIKES!** Have a heart to heart chat with them over dinner at King Solomon's.
14. We all want everything to be perfect, but life isn't perfect. If it was, there'd be no stories to tell.
15. The kids are begging you to let them drive the car "off the record." Time to change the subject ... over lunch at King Solomon's.
16. If you've read this far, you need a simcha ... **ANY** simcha. Where else but at King Solomon's?
17. Did we hear Esther mention the word "love?" Time for a "tough love" chat ... over dinner at King Solomon's, of course.
18. Good news and bad news. The bad news is, the shidduch date you've arranged for Esther is not her first choice, even though you know he's perfect for her. The good news is, they're meeting at King Solomon's.

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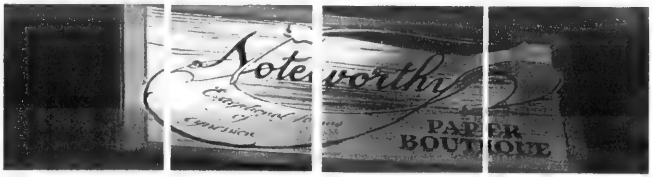
Make a good first impression with an invitation

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN



NOTEWORTHYINC.CA

Invitations to a party, whether they're for a big bash or an intimate soiree, are great fun to receive in the mail. Invitations are also the perfect way to set the tone for the fun to come and exhibit your personality, while letting your guests know what to expect.

Invitation House (416-593-0519) and Noteworthy (905-944-9066) both design custom invitations for clients who are searching for unique ways to present their events. Terry Kirshenbaum of Invitation House remembers putting together invitations for an engagement party with the details of the party printed on a cocktail napkin. He also recalls putting together invitation boxes – two feet tall by one foot wide – and hand-delivering them for a customer's 60th birthday party.

But for those not quite willing to do construction work to make a statement, who still want something creative and different, Kirshenbaum and Noteworthy owner Lori Lievonen insist that there are other ways to do it.

The paper used for an invitation can often set the mood. Japanese papers, tissues, vellum, ribbons and pockets are simpler ways to achieve an outstanding effect that convey a sense of formality, says Lievonen. Kirshenbaum usually opts for papers that are 100 per cent cotton and have serrated edges.

Creating an emblem is becoming a trend for party-planners. This is especially true at weddings, says Lievonen, where the bride and groom will make sure that every printed piece of paper – invitations, thank you cards, place cards, menus and programs – carries the same design.

As for printing, there are several different ways to get the message onto the paper. Copper plate engraving requires the text to be etched into a copper plate, as the name suggests. The plate is then pressed into the back of the paper and ink is transferred directly onto the invitation.

"It's one of the oldest and most elegant techniques," says Kirshenbaum.

Another technique for writing invitations is embossing, which means the text or image is pushed into the paper from the reverse side, often without colour. The result is an elegant, raised message, with grooves on the back of the paper.

Thermography provides a similar effect to engraving and embossing, but for a fraction of the price. First, text is printed directly onto the paper using standard printing. Powders are then sprinkled on the paper and it's placed in an oven. When the invitation is done, the text is raised, but the back of the invitation is flat.

The wording of an invitation can also be used to let guests know how formal the affair will be. The way you invite people to a splashy pool party is different from the way you would word an invitation to a formal sit-down dinner.

"The wording is very important," confirms Lievonen. The language of the invitation can also be a big clue about what to wear to the event. "If there's going to be fun and dancing, your guests need to know to wear comfortable shoes," says Lievonen.

Both Kirshenbaum and Lievonen recommend ordering invitations well in advance. Kirshenbaum suggests working backwards to figure out how early you need to start looking for invitations. It can take up to six weeks for a stationery store to produce custom-made invitations, and they should be sent out six to eight weeks in advance so guests have enough notice.

It's also important to have a budget set before you decide on a particular invitation. Custom invitations at Noteworthy start at $3 each and go up to $20. Invitation House's invitations and reply cards together start around $6, but in both cases, all prices depend on the individual design and papers. If cost is a factor, there are ways to make custom invitations more affordable. If your invitation has multiple layers, offer to do the gluing yourself and you'll save on labour costs.

Noteworthy also has an Ellison machine, which cuts different shapes out of paper. Customers can use the machine on their own and assemble the shapes at home. Three months of unlimited use of the machine costs $25.

"It's great fun," says Lievonen.

Noteworthy offers free one-hour consultations. Representatives at Invitation House will consult with customers by appointment only.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Barbara Mortfield Invitations; Designs by Sharon; Invitations By Design; Mima Design; Paper Expressions; Partyzazz – Heather Hennick; The Printed Word.

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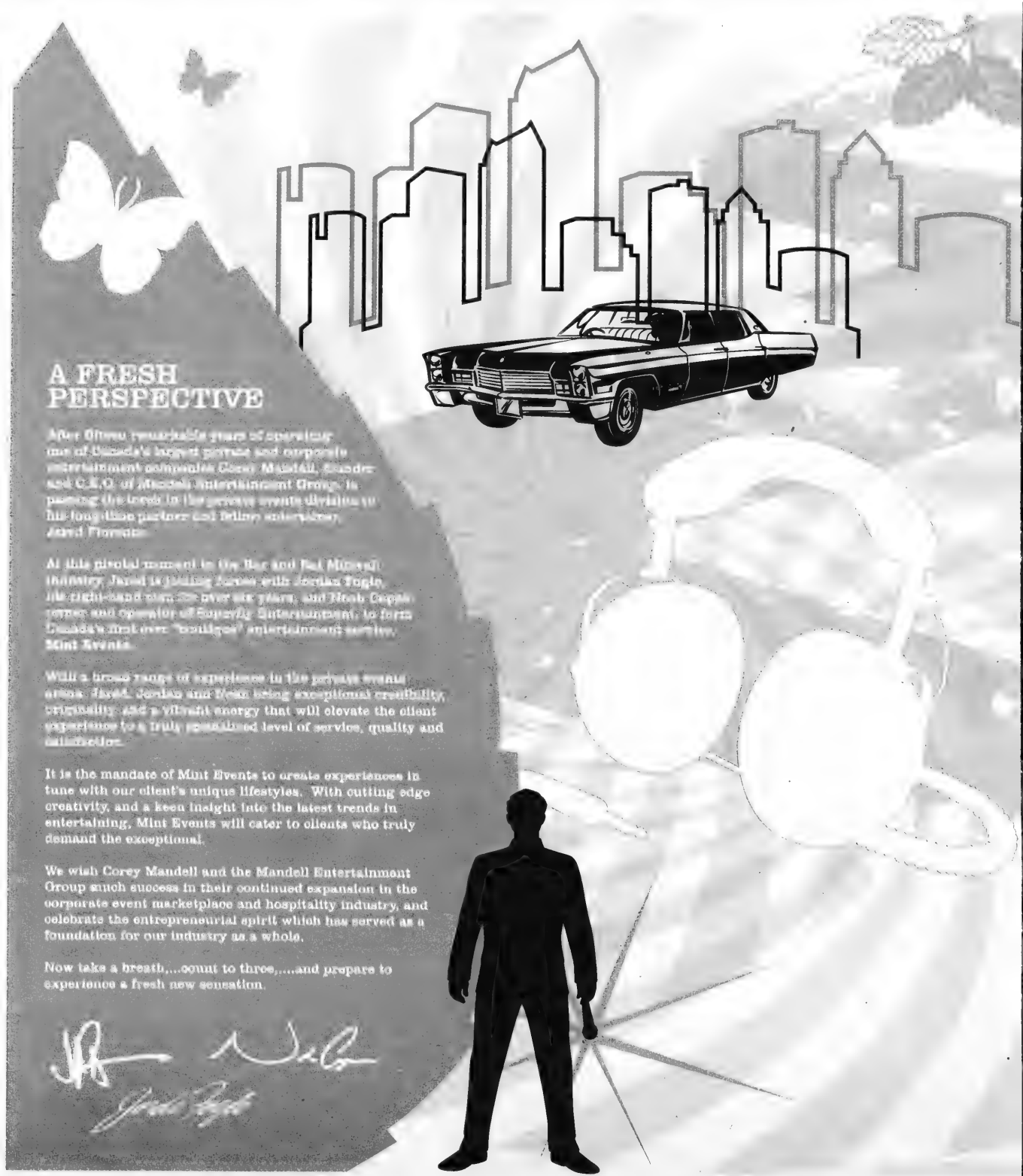
A FRESH PERSPECTIVE
After fifteen remarkable years of operating one of Canada's largest private and corporate entertainment companies Corey Mandell, founder and C.E.O. of Mandell Entertainment Group, is passing the torch in the private events division to his long-time partner and fellow entertainer, Jared Florence.
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LIFESTYLE EVENTS

Immortalize loved ones with a documentary

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a moving image with sound is worth that much more – at least that's what the Toronto-based company Storybook Films and their clients think.

The company makes films honouring the work, life and achievements of a parent, grandparent or colleague. The films are often used for retirement and anniversary parties, or even for baby boomers who want to capture their aging parents on film for future generations.

"It's important for people to document their life stories," says Dayle Levy, who does the marketing and advertising for Storybook Films (1-800-997-5070).

She notes that film offers something a still photograph cannot: sound. Having a loved one's voice on tape can be a soothing memory, especially if the person has since passed away.

Kellie Dearman and Dave Luetjen, the creators of Storybook Films, have been in the television business since 1989. The company started when Luetjen and Dearman were filming a series for Global TV called Second Change: Making It Work – a show about women who had overcome challenges in the past. It was then they realized they enjoyed talking to people about their lives.

Soon after, the couple noticed that many people were not taking the time to pass down family stories and histories to their children and grandchildren, and they feared family lore would be lost as elderly relatives passed on.

"Everybody has a story to tell. That's where the name came from," Levy says. "The purpose is to profile a life lived."

The beauty of filming relatives is that you can remember them with something tangible, says Luetjen. "It's family history," he says. "You can capture it forever to enjoy today, and you can pass it down."

> 'The beauty of filming relatives is that you can remember them with something tangible'

To produce a film of someone's life story, Luetjen and Dearman conduct interviews with the subject, family members and friends. Depending on the story, the duo will ask questions about the individual's childhood, marriage or work, says Luetjen.

"How did you meet your spouse?" and "Tell me about the challenges you faced while growing up," are two of the questions that Luetjen likes to use to explore the person's life. Luetjen also recommends incorporating photographs or other memorabilia with music and sound into the film.

The filming process is short – it usually takes two to three days – but editing can last up to two weeks. Within that time frame, customers have a chance to see the film and make changes before Luetjen and Dearman complete it. The finished product usually runs from 30 to 60 minutes, and is presented in the style of an A&E documentary.

The cost of an open project – a collection of unedited footage and interviews with which the customer can decide what to do – starts at $1,900. The couple offers a variety of packages and can accommodate the demands of the pickiest customer.

"We can do anything people want," he says. "The sky's the limit."

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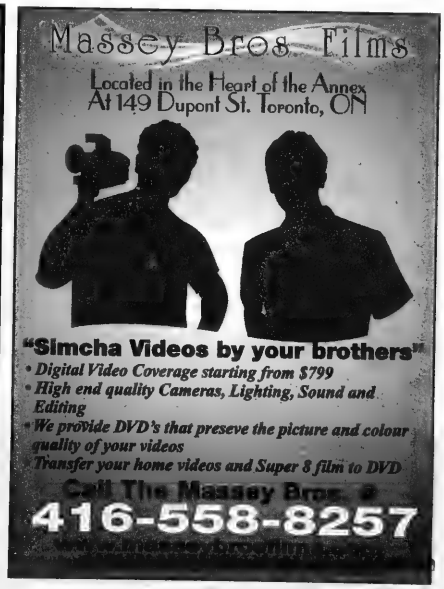
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Memories of my daughter's wedding

Carol Wise, above right, with her daughter Stacey. Jamie is pictured top left with Stacey.

By CAROL WISE
Special to The CJN

I thought it would be fabulous but it was so much more. How was it possible that my baby girl, Stacey, was standing before me looking like a Princess Bride?

It seemed like yesterday that I was buying pink bonnets, frilly dresses and barrettes galore. How have the years passed so quickly? A big tip for parents of baby girls is to savour every moment because in a blink of an eye, your precious baby daughter will be marrying her love.

I was not ready for this new stage of parenting. It felt like a mixed blessing. Part of me was saying goodbye to my baby and the other part of me was filled with such pride and joy that my cup runneth over. It was an emotional time filled with lots of tears and reflection. But soon I realized that I had better dry my tears and get ready for the best time of my life. The wedding planning was about to begin.

The first meeting with my future son-in-law Jamie's family was fabulous. Of course, I wasn't surprised, as Jamie had been part of our family for more than four years and he is a true joy. I didn't realize that his parents, Jerry and Helen, along with his gorgeous sister Lauren, were going to be equally as wonderful. My former husband Sid and I were delighted, and our relationship with Jerry and Helen just kept getting better. It was all about the kids, and no one lost sight of that. With one minor exception: Jerry wanted lots of cakes for the sweet table – he loves cakes and none of us like cakes – but because we all love him so much, cakes it was.

Continued on page B32

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Daughter's wedding was so much more than fabulous

Continued from page B31

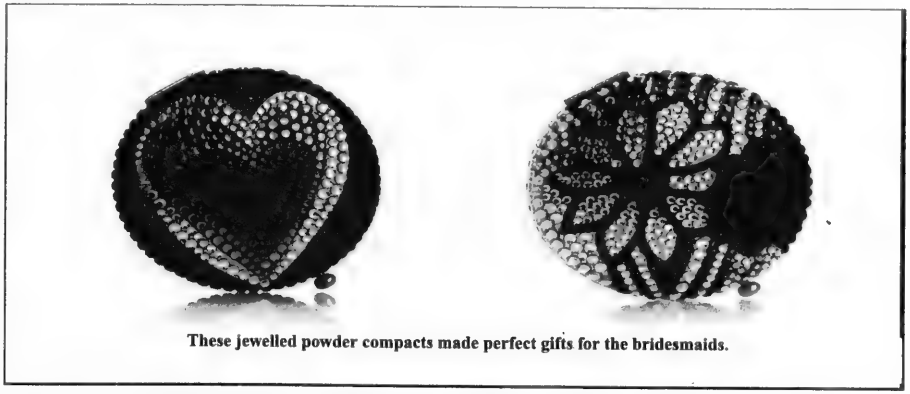
The hours spent fashion co-ordinating were well worth the effort and time. Our feet were exhausted and our heads ached as we went from shop to shop. However, that was not the hardest part. Making each decision was tricky, and the decision-making seemed endless. It was all so much fun but beware, the tears and frustration are bountiful.

Stacey and I were frazzled as we shopped, but our good luck was that Helen was there every step of the way, with love and calmness, as well as with some great ideas. We will always be grateful to her. And when we were all pooped, my dear mother, Belle, and my sister-in-law, Francine, stepped in.

The first item in the array of clothing to purchase was, of course, the gown. We were lucky to find the most exquisite Christian Dior gown that suited and fit Stacey to perfection the first time out. But no, this couldn't be the one, because it was the first gown she tried. Stacey had try on at least 40 more gowns. Eight hours and several stores later, it was decided that the Dior gown was it – hallelujah! We were all thrilled, especially me. It took a few weeks to decide on a tiara, but the wait was worth it.

Now the men, they were easy to dress, but that's not to say they didn't look elegant, sleek and sophisticated. Dressed head to toe in Hugo Boss, the dads, Jamie and the best man, my son Matthew, all looked great.

The bridesmaids' gifts were difficult to choose. We wanted something special that the girls would remember.



These jewelled powder compacts made perfect gifts for the bridesmaids.

We were lucky to find gorgeous jewelled powder compacts for them. The perfect gifts, they will be priceless mementos. The adorable flower girls were given bracelets.

Our party planner was there every step of the way. Don't even consider making a wedding without a consultant. They are worth their weight in gold, and then some. They are always there with the right answer to everything and take care of every detail, particularly on the day of the wedding.

Another unforgettable highlight was my sister-in-law's father, Harvey Tishcoff, violinist extraordinaire, who enchanted us with a medley of *Fiddler on the Roof*. He brought the house down.

So now I have my memories and I will cherish them forever. I am still not over being sentimental every time I think about how grand it was. A big thank-you to my daughter Stacey for her generosity, grace and sense of humour. What a glorious experience; every moment was a gift. How lucky I am!

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PARTY PLANNER

Bais Groove specializes in Jewish content

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Having the right entertainment at a wedding is almost as important as the big day itself. From the moment the procession starts and the music welcoming guests into the reception to the actual party, some events could have up to three different acts. One group, Toronto's Bais Groove (416-486-8417), promises to not only provide music for an entire evening, but they'll sing at your brunch the next day, too.

"It's the one-stop simchah shop," says Stacy Wintre, one of the eight-person group's singers.

The band's website (www.baisgroove.com) promotes Bais Groove as the "Jewish entertainment source" and offers up the group in multiple forms, from DJ sets to all-klezmer gigs or a small jazz combo. With so much to offer, they're more of a business than a band.

"We took a look at the resources everyone in the band has and decided we can provide a lot more," says Jeremy Otto, Bais Groove's resident DJ and guitarist. "Our musical director Robert Grunwald plays in a jazz trio with two other members of the band, so we're able to offer cocktail jazz before during or after the events. He's also involved with a klezmer group, so we're able to offer jazz and klezmer and the Jewish content."

While Bais Groove play a lot of family affairs, they didn't get their start rocking bar mitzvah parties. They honed their chops through community events.

"We were put together by Michael Soberman who worked with the regional Jewish Communities of Ontario," says Wintre. "He knew that we were musicians and said, 'Hey, I need you guys to come out and do three gigs for our small-communities campaign launches,' so we put together six songs and off we went. That was September 2001. Unfortunately, that was a bad year for Israel with the rise of the second intifadah and because Israel was in crisis, Toronto was in need of Jewish content and kept calling us."

After five years and hundreds of weddings and bar mitzvahs, they still consider themselves a community band. This past Yom Ha'atzmaut saw the eight-piece band play four gigs in one day, followed by a wedding on the weekend and another community event that Sunday.

While most wedding bands offer a couple horas followed by two hours of English hits, Bais Groove specialize in providing Jewish content to their clients. Songs such as *Ani Noladiti*, *Shir la Shalom*, and *A Boni Be* all work their way into the group's mainly Hebrew set. While getting an English wedding band, or a bar mitzvah DJ is still the norm, Wintre feels that more and more people want to add some Jewish music to their events.

"People are not getting enough bang for their buck on a spiritual level," she says. "A lot of the time people go out and buy things like dancers and the centrepiece – a bunch of things that will take away the focus from the real thing that's going on which is a Jewish life- cycle event, which should be spiritual and heimish. People are trying to get back to the grassroots and bring meaning to these events."

Bais Groove not only put the Judaism back into the party but also makes sure the hosts get all the attention, not the band.

"Our focus is on the bar mitzvah of the kid, or the couple who are getting married," Otto says. "Having DJ'ed so many years, I really wanted to keep the focus on them. I couldn't stand it when the focus became on the entertainers."

Bais Groove honed their chops at community events.

To do that Jeremy makes sure to remind everyone why they're on the dance floor.

"I've seen DJs get up on the microphone and say, 'We're so happy to be here, I want you to come dance with us and come and see what we're doing and check out the arcade at the back of the room' and maybe at the end of the night they say, 'Oh yeah, thank you for coming out to Jordan's bar mitzvah.' From the get-go, we make sure whoever's party it is is represented all the way."

Getting a DJ or a band for your simchah is always a matter of debate. Otto feels that bar mitzvahs have been moving toward DJs, while weddings should always have a band. For Bais Groove though, it's irrelevant. Otto often DJs bar mitzvahs without the band, but typically their sets involves the full group and recorded music.

"It's the clients call about how much DJ versus how much live band, but usually the band will play two full sets with some music in between. Then I'll lick it off with a dance set after the band's finished for the night."

It seems like Bais Groove do it all, but one thing they're inexperienced with is touring. Their first tour this summer won't take them to Ontario's clubs, but to Jewish camps.

"We're going on a summer camp tour this summer," says Wintre. "We have a grant… to tour up to eight major camps sponsored by them. We're spending five days on the road touring these overnight camps with our vibrant sounds of Israel. Kids go bonkers for this music, and why not get kids in love with Israeli music?"

Other advertisers in this supplement are: The 42nd Street Band; Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo; Aqualuna Music; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment; Good Vibrations Band; Joe Star Band; Klapman's Klezmer Band; Lorraine Ingle, pianist; Nice 'n' Easy; Rena Gaile Band; The Sky's Band; The True Sound Band.

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Little Miss success story for henna artist

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

In the days when henna – a form of temporary tattooing – was still relatively unknown to people outside of India, Melanie Markus wanted to be a dentist.

Today, the University of Western Ontario graduate is at the head of the successful Little Miss Henna Inc. (905-731-0067).

Established in 1998, the business brought, you guessed it, henna to Toronto for parties and events. Soon after, it expanded and was commissioned by Paramount Canada's Wonderland and countless other amusement parks across North America.

What began as a small endeavor has now morphed into a multi-faceted company that offers a number of services across the continent and at special occasions.

Personalizing anything from body art to crystal tattoos, Little Miss Henna offers something more than just a throwaway trinket from an event. Little Miss Henna now personalizes everything from belt buckles, to trucker hats, to flip-flops.

"We personalize everything for each person so that it's something they can actually wear and enjoy," says Markus. "I love being part of these events and knowing that the kids are going home with something that they love."

Although Little Miss Henna generally caters to a younger audience, their services are for guests of all ages.

"Sometimes I see more bubbies and zaides waiting in line than kids," Markus says with a laugh.

Markus thinks of new ideas for parties faster than you can say Little Miss Henna. While watching a little girl search for her shoes at a recent party, Markus came up with just one of her many creations, the "Ultimate Shoe Bag:" a personalized bag to keep belongings in while at a party.

In the last seven years, Markus has been working hard to ensure the best results for her clients – so much so that Little Miss Henna has veered from the original tattoo process, which takes almost an hour to dry, and smudges often. While Markus still offers henna services, she mostly concentrates on body art and airbrushing. This way, tattoos and decals can be applied freehand, allowing for more creativity and personal charm.

The perfect accessory to any party, Little Miss Henna's staff of friendly, creative artists come to any event completely equipped and ready to go. "People love that we can come in, set up and take charge," says Markus.

Whatever your event may be, Little Miss Henna will make sure your guests are having a blast.

Melanie Markus turned her little idea into a huge success.

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Bar/bat mitzvah celebrants share their good times

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

With all the glitz, glamour and hype surrounding a bar/bat mitzvah, it's quite easy to forget the "mitzvah" aspect of the celebration.

Recognizing that, party planner Ricky Bessner and centrepiece designer Elaine Risen teamed up to create It's A Mitzvah (905-738-8238), a unique service that adorns tables at bar/bat mitzvah functions with centrepiece-style gift baskets filled with items for the less fortunate.

"It's a win-win situation because the people who are having the baskets placed on the table know they are doing a mitzvah and the people receiving them are just delighted," says Risen.

The baskets are colour co-ordinated with the celebration's colour scheme, she say, and are decorated with tissue paper, curling ribbons and fancy bows, to give the centrepiece effect.

Inside the baskets are a variety of essential life items, including toothbrushes, hats, scarves, gloves, shampoo and deodorant.

The items are applicable to men, women and children.

"It's universal so everybody can benefit from it," says Risen.

Following the celebration, the baskets are delivered to organizations providing to those in need, such as shelters for the homeless.

To make the mitzvah a truly first-hand form of charity, some of the bar/bat mitzvah girls/boys have assisted in delivering the baskets.

"It was a wake-up call," notes Bessner, the brainchild of the service.

"These kids walked into these shelters and said, 'Wow, these people are not as comfortable as we are and they really need these [items].'"

Bessner, who helps run Ricky Bessner and Fern Cohen Party Planning, says the idea came to her after years of seeing decadence overshadow deeds at religious celebrations.

"Bar/bat mitzvahs have become so elaborate," she says.

"So instead of it being so elaborate and pretentious, let's show them we're taking some of the money you get and you're giving it back."

Risen says she makes an average of 25 baskets per affair and welcomes input from the client as to which group receives the baskets.

"If they end up telling me what organization they would like it donated to, then I make the arrangements to have it picked up," she says.

As vital as the items are on their own, Risen opines that the principle behind the act is important, too.

"It's A Mitzvah believes in the importance of celebrating simchahs with others, remembering those less fortunate and giving from the heart," she says.

Bessner says clients fully understand that principle.

"They [recognize] the fact they are fortunate enough to have a party [means] they can give back to the less fortunate," she says.

"By sharing in your good times, you also have to give back to someone who is less lucky."

Not surprisingly, the recipients of the baskets are thankful for the charity.

"They're absolutely thrilled," says Risen.

"They are so appreciative of everything and anything they get."

Risen says she has been putting the simchah baskets on tables since November and has seen demand grow ever since.

"It's just been taking off," she says.

Since November, they've made the baskets for more than a dozen parties.

Both Bessner and Risen note the rewarding aspect of the endeavour.

"I'm so proud of it," says Bessner.

"It really gets the message across."

Risen agrees.

"I love it," she enthuses.

"I know that I'm doing such a good cause for everybody and it just makes me feel wonderful."

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From music to massage, Rick Levine can help you create the perfect party

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

With his finger on the pulse of Toronto's event-planning industry, entertainer and entrepreneur Rick Levine has filled a void in planning parties, corporate meetings and charity events.

By launching his website, www.torontopartyguide.com, in 1999 Levine – with 20-plus years in the business and a reputation for paying attention to the smallest details – gave others access to the best of the best in the community: live music, décor, photography, catering and everything else you need to create the best possible function.

As Levine explains, the site has "everything needed to plan the perfect party. [It's] the only event planning site in Canada catering to bar and bat mitzvahs. It's a real good resource."

Viewing the site is free, and it contains a wealth of party ideas, from the smallest party favour to a hall accommodating thousands.

> The site has everything needed to plan the perfect party

Ten years ago, Levine partnered with event planner Lynn Cohen to establish their very popular event-planning shows. They were the first of their kind, and they continue to be the most successful in Canada. Always well attended, as many as 2,000 people come to the three events per year to learn about services offered in the community.

The next show will be Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, from 6 to 10 p.m.

If you leave the show with good vibrations, you may be in the mood to hear Good Vibrations, Levine's band.

For more than 20 years, the band has performed at thousands of weddings in some of the finest halls in Toronto.

And business has never been better.

"Live music has made a comeback at bar and bat mitzvahs," Levine says. "People want a lively party."

His capacity to entertain is enhanced by Times Square Entertainment Group, which offers DJs, dancers and even a light show.

With Times Square, Levine can plan parties and provide the music, sound, lighting, and even the décor when needed.

This year, he orchestrated a large corporate event, with 3,000 guests in attendance, which included guest speaker Don Harron, who showed up as himself and his alter ego Charlie Farquharson.

Rick Levine

Levine's background in fine arts – he is a graduate of York University – also led him to start Custom Graphics, which specializes in digital signage, brochures and posters.

"We do a lot of work for all the synagogues," explains Levine.

Some other past clients have also included B'nai Brith Canada, the Jewish National Fund, Beit Halochem, Reena, Mount Sinai Hospital and Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Levine is also promoting a service that offers partygoers a good rest.

Relaxfx offers on-site chair massage and is a great extra for promotional events, trade shows and golf tournaments. By charging per massage, it can also make a great fundraiser. For more information, visit www.relaxfx.com.

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Party venues fit for a queen – or her jester

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

When planning a party – whether it's a wedding, bar mitzvah or a small birthday celebration – there are two main options to choose from: extravagant and elegant, or cool and casual.

To make an informed decision about what kind of party to plan, it's important to carefully consider each avenue.

If you decide to throw a glamorous affair, the Liberty Grand offers amenities fit for celebrities.

Built in 1926, the heritage building on the western edge of the CNE grounds hosts about 400 events a year.

With its 27-foot wooden ceilings, crystal chandeliers, marble-floored foyers and a five-tiered fountain in the courtyard, a client would be hard-pressed to find a more luxurious venue in Toronto.

The Liberty Grand, above, and one of its function rooms.

Aside from weddings and bar mitzvahs, the Liberty Grand hosts the annual opening gala of the Toronto International Film Festival for 5,000 people, as well as the Molson Indy Black Tie Gala. It has also hosted actors Sandra Bullock, Penelope Cruz, Paul Newman and Warren Beatty, and hockey heroes Wayne Gretzky and Darryl Sittler.

Marketing director Darren Bryant said the Liberty Grand is unique, and it offers something for everyone.

"There is no other building or event space in Canada like the Liberty Grand that can provide guests with multiple spaces to explore during an event. It's also designed to accommodate a multitude of room arrangements and layouts, not simply the same old setup from one event to the other."

Marcelo DeOliveira, sales and marketing manager at the Hard Rock Cafe in downtown Toronto, said he can better accommodate people who want to break away from traditional formal parties.

Whether you want to celebrate with an intimate gathering of your closest friends or plan a reception for 500 people, DeOliveira said he can offer exactly the kind of party clients want.

"We had two wedding receptions last summer. It was for people that wanted something outside the box. They didn't want the traditional banquet hall and decided on a more fun environment."

If there is one place that is a departure from the more traditional wedding experience, the Hard Rock is it.

Continued on page B38

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Hard Rock Cafe offers alternative to traditional party scene

Continued from page B37

With rock 'n' roll music, televisions and memorabilia that the Cafe is famous for, this venue is ideal for a casual bash.

Last month, the Hard Rock Cafe hosted a reception for about 500 people for the Ontario March of Dimes benefit, complete with five live bands.

But, DeOliveira added, for a comfortable, relatively formal sit-down dinner, a guest list should not exceed 150 people.

Regardless of whether you want to plan a grand event, or just want a party that rocks, booking in advance is always a good idea.

Usually, if you're planning a corporate event or a big birthday party, you should book two or three months ahead of time, DeOliveira said. But if you're planning a wedding, you should give it at least six months to be able to make sure you have time to take care of all the loose ends.

Bryant said with so many events taking place at the Liberty Grand, people should book even sooner, just to be safe.

"Our most popular dates are between May and December, which always get booked quickly. Thursdays through Saturdays during this period will usually book 10 to 16 months in advance.

"Thankfully, the Liberty Grand is a multi-room, multi-use facility and we often run up to four events at one time on any given day," he said. "To guarantee your choice of date, however, the earlier clients call us, the better."

At the Hard Rock Cafe, the cost of a party varies based on the selected menu and the add-ons, such as invitations that are designed to look like concert tickets. DeOliveira said it can cost anywhere from $50 a person to $120.

Bryant said prices at the Grand are competitive with venues such as the Royal York and the King Edward hotels.

He said an event at the Grand will usually cost about $120 to $140 a person, but this includes food, bar and service, and the experience is worth the price.

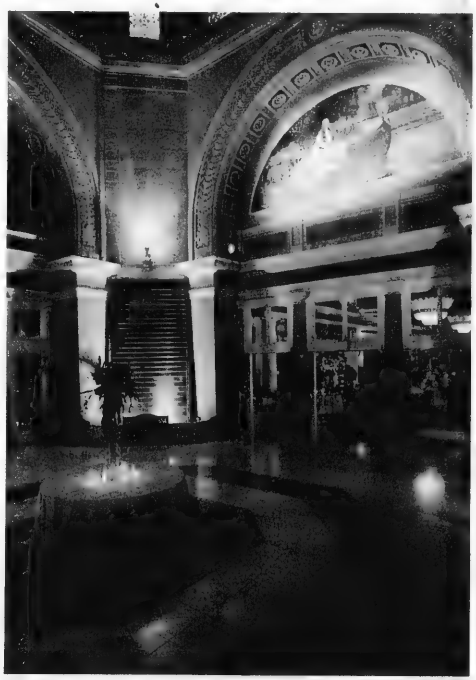
"The Liberty Grand offers a complete and world-class culinary and hospitality experience for everyone," Bryant said.

In contrast, DeOliveira said he thinks the Hard Rock Cafe can offer clients something that a banquet hall can't.

"It's a casual, fun environment that you probably won't get at a banquet hall... Our room has personality, with memorabilia, video screens and plasma screens that can show whatever you want. [Guests] don't feel like they are in a box, and our service is second to none. We can create an authentic experience that rocks."

For more information about the Hard Rock Cafe, call 416-362-3636. To reach the Liberty Grand, call 416-542-3789.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Acrobat Lounge; Akasaka Japanese Restaurant; Brant House; Captain John's Harbour Boat Restaurant; Casa Loma; Empress of Canada; The Estates of Sunnybrook; Fairmont Royal York Hotel; Hudson's Bay Catering/Arcadian Court; Juke Box Bar & Grill; Karbouzi Mediterranean Bar & Grill; Le Cantile Suites; Pickle Barrel; Richmond Hill Country Club; Rosehill; Scaramouche Restaurant/ Pasta Bar; Shmooze; St.Louis Bar &Grill; The Carlu; Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre.



The Liberty Grand is a multi-room, multi-use facility.

Capture unforgettable moments with party portraits

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Most people feel that a wedding or bar mitzvah is a milestone important enough to warrant hiring a professional photographer to capture those unforgettable moments.

That is, if you can manage to book one in time for your function.

According to Alex Himell of Platinum Studios (905-709-7754) and Sam Sciarrino of Horvath Photography Studio (905-707-5770), booking a photographer without a year's notice may prove to be difficult.

When it comes to knowing when to book, too soon is better than too late, says Sciarrino.

"It depends on whether the function is in high time. In June, we're going to be busy, but in January, it's less busy. You should give it anywhere from six months to a year. But we already have bookings for 2007 and 2008."

Himell suggests that people play it even safer to ensure the photographer you want will be available when you need him or her.

"Realistically, dates get booked very quickly."

For peace of mind, he says people should book as soon as they decide they want to use the service. He suggests at least a year to a year-and-a half in advance.

Most of the time, both photographers say they are commissioned to take portraits within a few days of the bar or bat mitzvah or a wedding.

Himell says on the day of the event, Platinum will send a crew of two photographers and an assistant to "fully capture the ambience of the function. That is how we get candid shots and that is how memories are created."

Sciarrino agrees that people are definitely leaning more toward capturing candid moments rather than boring poses.

As well, he says, "the trend is for portraits to be more relaxed and less stuffy."

Himell says that aside from clients wanting a collection of candid photos, he has picked up on a new trend: many are asking for custom collages.

He says that unlike the traditional portrait, the collection of photos tells more of a story.

Sciarrino says that with digital cameras, his company is able to accomplish much more in a shorter period of time. This leaves room for much more creativity.

Continued on page B50

A happy couple photographed by Platinum Studios.

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Jian and Page Magen with their troupe of entertainers.

Magen Boys offer total entertainment

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Jian and Page Magen of Magen Boys High Energy Entertainment (905-513-6464, ext. 21; www.magenboys.com) offer good advice on what you should look for in your choice of MC and DJ.

"We're launching a new website," Page says, "and we're gonna take over the world."

The site is interactive to showcase Magen Boys' bands, DJs and dancers. Along with online demos, there is fan mail. "Whether you're a party planner or hosting your own event, you should see this.

"We handle everything from lighting to MCs," says Page. This is part of the Magen Boys' total entertainment party. But their focus is on the role of the MC, and they urge you to make sure you get the best MC you can.

The guests, he adds, see the musicians and singers as the major entertainers. But it's the MC and DJ who organize the way the music is presented.

However good the bands or artists are, the MC's role is crucial. "He has to be genuine and love his work." He has to resonate with the guests, to have a feel for what the people want to hear – and the same goes for the DJ who plays the music.

A young crowd at a high-energy event like a teen's birthday will want to hear different songs and styles than an older, laid-back crowd at a corporate or institutional event. The Magen Boys put a high value on versatility, and they will work at parties of from 20 to 500 people.

But while they do all kinds of events, they give special attention to weddings and bar or bat mitzvahs. And these are all-ages events, where the MC and DJ have to sustain an energy level that satisfies the younger set while keeping the older generations in a party mood.

An MC, Page says, needs to combine a DJ's knowledge of music with an entertainer's warmth and vitality. "The MC has to radiate energy. He has to make the room light up and make the guest of honour shine."

Jian stresses the importance of reaching out to every guest in the room. "The dancers aren't there to show off their moves, the way they would be on stage in a club – they're there to get the guests to dance. The performers are players on a team, and the captain of the team is the host who's putting on the event."

As well, according to Page, the guests of honour are the stars. "At a bar or bat mitzvah, that means the bar or bat mitzvah boy or girl. At a wedding, it's the bride and groom. The people in the room should be having the best night of their lives."

"We're devoted to our guests," Jian says. "We're very caring about our clients and we're hands-on.

"Every event is different," Jian goes on. "Every family has its own special dynamic, and a milestone event like a wedding or bar/bat mitzvah should reflect this, and be unique and special. No matter how much they spend, the clients should feel this is their grand-slam event. We lift up host and guests, and make them feel good."

So remember: the MC's and DJ's musical and entertainment knowledge is at your disposal, and they should give you all the input they can, but it's you, the host, who make the final decision about what goes and what doesn't.

For any entertainer, a wide repertory is an asset. For those working at an all-ages event, it's essential. Magen Boys' repertory ranges, as Page puts it, "from age eight to 80." That includes Big Band and swing, which are popular these days as high-energy dance music; it also includes AC/DC. Page identifies R&B, classic rock and Motown as the most requested forms of music.

At the same time, the Magen brothers have observed that the young people of today are very knowledgeable about older popular music. They listen not only to hip-hop and all the other contemporary forms, but to all the greats of the past, as far back as early Elvis.

Jian observes that at every event, there are more and more older guests. And in his view, one of the major satisfactions for older people is to experience the milestone events in their children's and grandchildren's lives. As Leon Dubinsky's song says: "We rise again in the faces of our children."

Look for entertainers who combine youthful enthusiasm and energy with experience and practical savvy. Work in related fields and arts is an asset too. For example, Page brings to his work years of theatrical experience and training as an actor.

His business is based on "100 per cent rapport," Page says. This means rapport with the host and guests – but also with the other professionals at the party such as photographers and catering staff. And it's an asset to have a good name with other party professionals, as well as prospective hosts.

"Referrals play a big role in our business," says Jian. And Magen Boys must be getting lots of good referrals: they're doing 1,000 parties this year, and are booked well beyond; so Page advises you to book as far in advance as you can.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Hart Entertainment; A Cappella Lev Echad; Mint Lifestyle Events; Party Extras; Party Props; Starr Productions; Swaye Entertainment.

Party Planner

Tasty dessert treats catered by It's an Occasion.

Celebrate your special occasion with good food

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

The culinary world is always changing as new recipes and food fads evolve. That's why it's important to look for a caterer that keeps in line with the tastes of the times, says Raizel Serebrowski, president and owner of It's an Occasion.

"We're always on the lookout for something new," says Serebrowski.

"We change our menu listings probably about four times a year and we're always adding new items."

Serebrowski notes that these days, health is on everybody's mind, which has translated into a menu that features low-fat, low-carbohydrate meals.

"Rather than a lot of grains, we're doing a lot of fresh vegetables and fruit," she says.

"Salads have always been trendy and we're always on the lookout for healthy ingredients."

For the past eight years, It's an Occasion, located in North York, Ont., has catered every type of event from dinner affairs with hundreds of people, to desert receptions at galleries, to meals for people sitting shiva.

Most clients are located in the Greater Toronto Area, but Serebrowski notes she also caters to clientele in Montreal and Kitchener, Ont.

Depending on the size and nature of the event, Serebrowski encourages clients to book with substantial leeway, but says the company can churn out cuisine quickly, if need be.

"We have people that will call us in a panic and tell us to schedule a dinner two nights from now. For us, 48 hours for a small party is not a problem," she says.

"For big events, I have people that have booked a year and a half in advance. But for the most part… my clients usually book six months in advance."

It's an Occasion is under the rabbinical supervision of COR and has a meat kitchen located at Congregation B'nai Torah on Patricia Avenue.

"At our Marlee Avenue location, we deal with dairy and pareve," Serebrowski says, adding she also provides sweet tables for other caterers in Toronto.

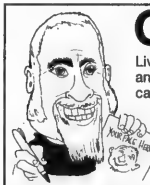
Food may be the bottom line when it comes to catering, but Serebrowski urges clients to seek out a provider that spices things up with good customer service.

"When you're planning a simchah, sometimes you tend to get a little bit nervous over details," she says.

"Most of my customers tell me that, for them,… the most calming effect is knowing they can call me for anything."

To contact It's an Occasion, call 416-785-0996.

Other kosher advertisers in this supplement are: Caterers York/ Sweet York Desserts; Ely's Fine Foods; L'Echaim Caterers; Miriam's Table Inc.; Royal Kosher Catering; Tri Elm Catering.



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PARTY PLANNER

Consult a rabbi before buying a ketubah

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Buying a ketubah doesn't just mark the beginning of a marriage anymore, it can also kick-start a couple's art collection.

"For most people, buying their ketubah is an important, even emotional purchase," says Michael Shapiro, owner of Toronto's Ketubah Ketubah (416-963-9191, www.ketubah.com).

"In a lot of cases it's the first piece of art a couple buys together, not to mention that it's an important document, laying a foundation for their married life."

Ketubah Ketubah is one of the few places in Toronto specializing in art ketubahs. On an art ketubah, the text is often surrounded by complex designs, brilliant colours and first-rate artistry. While the ketubah has been around for 2,000 years, people only recently realized its potential as an art piece.

"For at least a century or so, up until the early 1970s, the ketubah really was not used just as an art form," says Shapiro. "You didn't really see art ketubahs. Most people who got married more than 20 years ago very likely have a perfectly kosher ketubah, but it's not a piece of art."

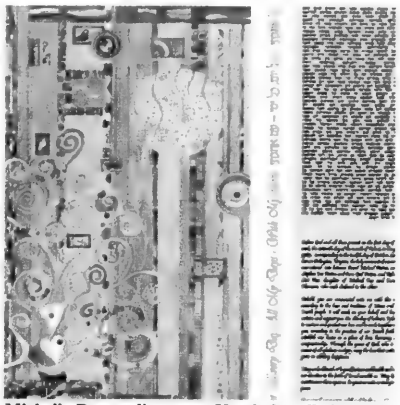
Shapiro discovered the art ketubah in Israel after leaving a job in the corporate world to attend yeshiva. While there, he had dreams of opening a Judaica gallery in Toronto, which led him to a ketubah artist.

"I started doing research about Judaica artists," he says. "As I was doing the research, I met my first ketubah artist, Ardyn Halter – he's still one of the artists who we carry. That was really my first exposure to artistic ketubahs. I didn't know much about them, but I immediately signed him up."

Shapiro then discovered the Internet in 1996, and his business was born.

Back in Ketubah Ketubah's early days, Shapiro carried only a handful of ketubahs. Now, he has more than 300 from over 50 artists.

With a ketubah as much an art piece as a marriage licence, it's easy to forget that it's still a religious document. Shapiro says there are a few things couples need to look out for before they make their purchase.



Michelle Rummel's newest Ketubah, called "All My Love," one of over 300 carried by Ketubah Ketubah.

"A very important thing to look for, which is sometimes overlooked in the beginning, is the text. It's particularly important because the rabbi or the person who's officiating at the wedding might have a strong preference or a requirement to get a ketubah with a certain text."

Shapiro says it's important to consult with a rabbi before buying or the couple may have to spend money on a new ketubah. While a rabbi would know for sure what text should be used, Shapiro doesn't mind sharing his expertise.

"The Orthodox text is a traditional text that goes back over 1,000 years," he says. "The Conservative text is almost identical but there's the addition of the section called the Lieberman clause. That's designed to protect women in case the marriage doesn't work out, and to make sure that if they decide to get divorced that the man grants her a *get*. Reform Ketubahs vary. In Toronto there's a Reform text, which is required by most of the Toronto Reform rabbis. That's something unique to Toronto. Elsewhere, Reform texts can vary from artist to artist."

Shapiro adds that another difference between Reform and other texts is that Reform contains modern ideas of love and support, while Conservative and Orthodox ketubahs are more religious legal documents.

While trying to find the right text might sound complicated, compared to Judaism's other religious writings, ketubah rules are trivial.

"The ketubah's interesting in contrast to say a Torah, or Megillah or mezuzah," says Shapiro. "It doesn't have to be written by a sofer. There are some rules – the handwriting should be clear, the letters shouldn't be touching each other and for traditionally Orthodox ketubahs, the signature lines are arranged in a particular fashion. But the rules are much less stringent than with the Torah or Megillah."

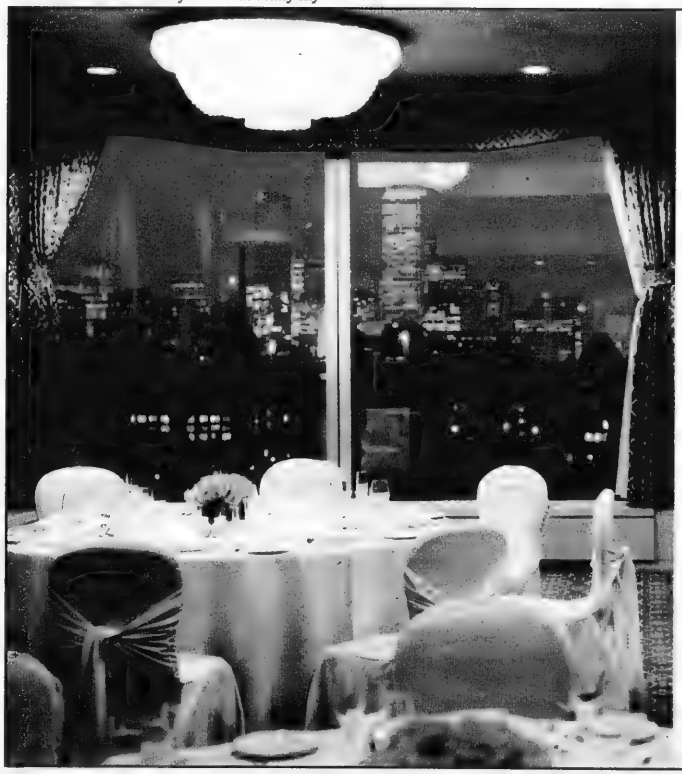
Fortunately, there are no rules when it comes to artwork. Shapiro says that at one time depictions of people weren't popular in Jewish art in general, so art ketubahs didn't have human designs. Now, it's all fair game.

Since ketubahs can feature anyone and anything the choice is virtually unlimited. Shapiro says it's almost certain a couple will have an art ketubah, so it's not a matter of if a couple should by one, but for how much. At Ketubah Ketubah, the marriage document starts at $150.

"There are relatively inexpensive ones on the one end and custom-made ones on the other," he says. "Most of the artists we deal with started off making custom-made and that's a far more expensive proposition. That's $1,000 and up. Our focus though is more on the high quality of limited edition prints of originals, but if custom is something someone is looking for, we'll do our best to help them."

Shapiro stresses that buying a ketubah, especially a custom one, should not be done at the last minute. Two to three months before a wedding is the best time to make the move.

"It's something that's with the couple through years and years of marriage. It's something people put up on their wall and it's a reminder of them at their best."



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Unique fashions for the unique woman

This Chacok design is one of many available at Quasar Mode in Toronto.

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

With the steady increase of convenience and one-stop shopping, it's become increasingly difficult to find a unique piece of clothing. Colours are subdued, fabrics tend to be cheap and sizing has become quite uniform. But amidst the confusion of big-box stores and big malls, quality and beauty can be found. Fortunately, for the most savvy of customers, originality is still alive and well.

One of the city's most cherished treasures is Quasar Mode (416-964-1214) in Yorkville. The store, which celebrates its 26th year in business this July, specializes in importing unique French designs. The store offers a wide selection of designers such as Chacok, Zapa and Anne Fontaine.

All designers carried in the store are exclusive to Quasar Mode in Toronto. Unique in every way from shape to cut to fabric quality, the designs bring a certain freshness to Toronto's fashion scene.

Walking into Quasar Mode, one can only be pleasantly surprised by the bright colours bursting from every corner of the store. "The clothes are like a big bouquet of flowers," Quasar's owner Ginette Beauchamp says. The colours and fabrics offered at the store are scarcely offered anywhere else. "Dull colours are shunned with a passion unmatched on the Toronto fashion scene," boasts their website (www.quasarmode.com).

Although the bohemian gypsy look that fills the store can be seen in many places this season, Quasar Mode has always stayed true to the loose and fun sensibility. "We strive to be leaders of fashion, we attract so many different tastes," Beauchamp says. Everyone from TV personalities and lawyers to grandmothers and granddaughters can shop at Quasar Mode and come out with a look that is unique to each of them. "We deal with people who like to stand out in a crowd, anyone who appreciates a little bit of excitement."

Along with the desire to wear styles that are a little different from the rest, Beauchamp understands the need for practicality. "Everything in the store has a bit of an edge, while remaining sophisticated and feminine," she says. "I'd never let anyone leave the store with something that didn't suit them."

Perhaps it is the relaxed and informal atmosphere in the store that attracts customers most. "People always feel welcome here," she says.

To Beauchamp, a former singer, selling clothing is a way of entertaining the customer. "You will always hear laughter coming from our doors because my store is like an extension of my home."

Another fabulous choice for unique designs in the city is Maura Miranda Couturier (416-763-1991). As well as a couture salon, Miranda offers wardrobe-consulting services for clients.

Miranda has been in the business for 42 years and has been designing clothing since she was 13. "I didn't know any other toys," she says, laughing.

In this day and age, couture is actually a relatively extinct service. Dresses are made to order, yet even alterations are made in a sloppy manner. Couture should mean quality, workmanship and, definitely, one-of-a-kind.

Miranda is a couturier in every sense of the word. Every creation she makes, whether it is a wedding dress or fur coat, is unique.

Miranda works with her clients, choosing looks and materials to become clothing especially made for them. "What starts as a piece of fabric, becomes something else," she says. All fabrics are specially ordered and imported from only the best of manufacturers, such as Valentino and Armani in Italy.

Although her clients are involved in the creative process, Miranda says, "I'm in heaven when the customer lets me do whatever I like. I like to create unique and different things, especially for wedding parties."

Miranda rarely follows trends, unless it is at the request of the customer. "I work for people who appreciate unique things," she says.

In a Maura Miranda creation, you'll never run the risk of looking like anyone else. Since she rarely duplicates a design, you can walk out of the house feeling like the unique person you are when you wear one of her creations.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Crawford Boys; Deja Vu; Fashion Pulse; Floriane Children's Fashions; K. Barketti; Le Club Menswear; Nancy Klein; Pinstripe Menswear; Underwraps Lingerie; Walter Steiger Shoe Co., Zero 20.

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It's never taboo to relax in style

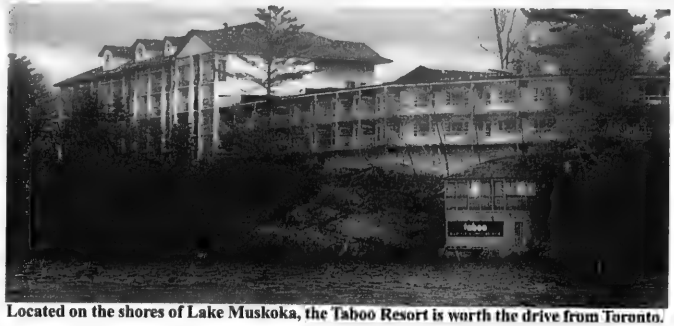
SPA LIFE
By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

The luxurious array of body and facial treatments makes it very inviting to indulge at Indulgence – a spa located in the internationally renowned Taboo Resort, Golf and Spa on the shores of Lake Muskoka in Gravenhurst, Ont.

It is worth the 90-minute drive from Toronto to Muskoka to bask in the warmth of your therapist's tender hands. Indulgence boasts up to 15 therapists, including registered massage therapists and estheticians working during high season.

The spa has six spacious treatment rooms as well as a tanning salon. The spa rooms located in the North Shore entrance of the main lodge are decorated in earth tones with wicker furnishings, and are all named after essential oils.

There is the Chamomile Room for spa manicures and pedicures, the double-sized Lavender and Jasmine rooms that overlook the resort, and the Bergamot and Sandalwood rooms. Geared toward couples or good friends is the Eucalyptus room.



Located on the shores of Lake Muskoka, the Taboo Resort is worth the drive from Toronto.

It has a lake view, a fireplace and a Jacuzzi tub, which is part of the specialized body treatments.

Every room has a private bathroom and a balcony, which is used as a place après treatment to unwind with herbal tea and a healthy snack.

The newest addition at Indulgence is the Sunset Vista by the lake.

"The Sunset Vista is a gazebo where you can book a custom-designed spa package for individuals or for two. Appointments at Sunset Vista are over a two-hour window, so that after you have your facial or body treatment, you still have time to enjoy a herbal tea in this beautiful, relaxed setting," says Christine Holloway, director of advertising, promotions and media relations for Taboo Resort, Golf and Spa.

Facials include the "facial indulgence," a Taboo-created procedure using products from Guinot Paris.

Indulgence's body treatments include a cocoa butter wrap and a white mud toning wrap, which is a clay-like product from RVB – an Italian brand-name cosmetics line.

The cranberry-maple body polish is the signature treatment that combines a maple scrub from B. Kamins Chemist – a Quebec-based company – followed by a cranberry soak in the Jacuzzi and culminating in a light massage using cranberry lotion.

Holloway says the resort area of Bala, 25 minutes from the spa, is the cranberry capital of Ontario, so it was important to incorporate cranberries into its signature treatment.

Other treatments include manicures and pedicures; waxing; makeup application and instruction; therapeutic, holistic, prenatal and hot stone massage and reflexology. Packages such as Indulge Yourself, which includes aromatherapy sea-salt scrub and a Jacuzzi soak, and Bridal Bliss, which offers a holistic massage, a Jacuzzi soak, a manicure and pedicure, are available.

Taboo also plays host to many weddings.

There are 149 accommodation units including 22 spectacular Platinum Suites, four of which are two storeys and nine of which have just been redesigned by designer Dragana. Toronto design firm Munge Leung just completed work on 79 lodge rooms. There are also 33 cottage chalets, seven hotel-owned condominiums and eight rental program condominiums.

Kosher meals are available upon advance request since they must be brought in from the outside.

The Taboo Resort is known for its 18-hole championship golf course designed by architect Ron Garl and is the home course to Masters champion Mike Weir. The Sands is the resort's nine-hole course designed by Stanley Thompson. Those who don't golf can learn how with lessons at the Golf Academy.

There are also tennis courts, a fitness centre, five pools including an indoor and kiddie pool, a marina with complimentary canoes and kayaks, and motorized boats available for rent.

Nature walks on the five groomed trails and boat cruises on Lake Muskoka are guided by Taboo's own naturalist David Hawke. For a nominal fee there's a children's program that will keep the kids busy while Mom and Dad partake in spa treatments.

To book your spa holiday at Taboo Resort, Golf and Spa, call 1-800-461-0236 or visit www.tabooresort.com.

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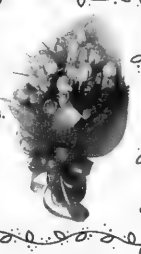

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Fun activities and clowning put smiles on faces

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Janice O'Bright of Party Extras has been operating her company for more than two years. It's a party activity company, with what O'Bright calls "incredibly creative event ideas."

For 16 years, before founding Party Extras (905-707-9919), O'Bright worked in fashion. From that experience, she learned how important it is to have fresh ideas that are well packaged and presented. That keeps her current clients happy, and makes her work interesting for her. Working with popular trends, she adapts them to offer something unique.

Doo Doo the Clown has gone international.

O'Bright likes to accommodate requests, and see everyone happy at the end of the day. "For me," she says, "customer service isn't just 100 per cent, but 1,000 per cent. Every party leads to another referral."

Party Extras does digital photos, tattoos and heat press, with special attention to digital photos and heat-press work. They're bringing out new digital photo novelties this fall. They also supply magicians, psychic readers and caricaturists. Caricatures can be templated and coloured. And everything can be themed; rock groups, for example, are popular themes for tattoos.

One of Party Extras' concepts for party entertainment is called See Your Game. They make a video of a guest taking a shot or swing in a game – golf, for example – then they freeze-frame, and compare the guest's game with either the guest of honour (say, the bar mitzvah boy) or a sports figure (say, in this case, Tiger Woods).

"For a bar or bat mitzvah," O'Bright says, "an idea has to have entertainment value. For example, it has to keep the younger set interested and occupied while the adults are enjoying their cocktails."

Continued on page B46

Janice O'Bright, left, of Party Extras, likes to accommodate requests.

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PARTY PLANNER

Entertainers put smiles on people's faces

Continued from page B45

The people who work for O'Bright are professional, experienced and competent. The artists have to be entertainers who have patience and work well with kids, and they work as part of a team.

Party Extras produces a lot of personalized goods, including pillowcases, corkboards, T-shirts, hats and rugs. "What I bring onto the market," O'Bright says, "has to be good enough to last. People take home a rug, or corkboard, or whatever; they like to keep it and look at it."

O'Bright likes to keep things simple and hands-on. For this reason, she has a showroom, but no website. "My showroom," she says, "is beautiful. It's an ideal environment for working with a client."

Party Extras also produces food novelties. Among the best-liked are beaver tails made of soya flour, fried in soya oil and covered with dessert toppings.

***

For 25 years, Shane Farberman has been Doo Doo the Clown (416-226-1108, ext. 11; www.farcoentertainment.com; see Doo Doo page), bringing smiles to Canadian faces. Now, with his many engagements outside Canada, he's Doo Doo the International Clown.

His four older brothers love having a clown as a kid brother. DooDoo's three children also love what their dad does. They're aged two, six and eight; and the six- and eight-year-old often come with him to a show, sitting by the stage with the important job of watching the props. Recently, these two did five minutes of magic onstage, wearing their own tiny tuxedos.

'An idea has to have entertainment value,' O'Bright says

Farberman started his career as a teenager, as a helper to another clown. His first show was at the Bloorview Macmillan Children's Centre, for kids with serious physical disabilities. He's always done a lot of charitable work, not all of it pre-planned. He recently made a series of unscheduled visits to hospitals in Jamaica, and was a great hit with kids – and adults – there.

Doo Doo is a magical comedy clown, but he's also into dance and costumes. Currently, Farberman has 32 clowns working for him in resorts and on cruise ships. Although they're his protégés, they're not copies of him. Each has his or her own name.

What makes Doo Doo unique? His signature word is "Un-be-lievable!!" which he exclaims every few moments. He has other unique abilities, such as blowing up 100 balloons in five minutes, without a pump.

In a stage show, Doo Doo uses a lot of props. But he also loves to get families involved in his show – adults as well as kids, even bubbies and zaides – and this often means mingling with the crowd.

He gets people involved with simple things, like throwing confetti. If you're near a guy with a huge smile tossing tiny flakes of paper into the air, it's hard to stay indifferent or reserved as those flakes drift gently down around your ears.

Much of what makes Doo Doo unique is a matter of style. He projects a sunshiny humour, in a way that creates good feeling and spreads it around – or, as the company's motto says, "to put a smile on the faces of children of all ages."

Un-be-lievable! Doo-Doo can blow 100 balloons in five minutes

And he gets enough out of it that he wants to keep working forever. "I'll never stop," he vows.

Doo Doo is getting ready to head for Brandon, Manitoba, then he travels to Ottawa, Beaches Sandy Bay in Jamaica and to the city of Vaughan for Canada Day. This fall, he'll be at the Canadian National Exhibition and, from there, he heads to Western Fair in London, Ontario. Then it's back to Toronto to get ready for Chanukah parties. Talk about being booked in full!

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Spice up your party with Mint Events

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Party hosts always want their affairs to be unique. Whether it's sprucing up the event with a special theme or dazzling guests with fantastic entertainment, the events company you hire is the key to bringing a party to life, says Jared Florence, co-owner of Mandell Extreme, soon to be called Mint Events.

"The biggest thing you want to look for is that the entertainment company is providing clients with what they need and not what is available," says Florence.

"We help them make their party different from most parties and that's what it comes down to. You want the guests to walk away feeling this isn't the same as the rest."

To that end, guests likely felt they'd never seen anything like a bat mitzvah Florence coordinated that transformed a country club party room into what looked like a music video set.

"We created an entire MTV theme and transformed the look of the room," Florence says.

"It was an event that was branded to exactly what the client [envisioned]."

In a landmark deal, Florence and partners Noah Cappe and Jordi Fogle are purchasing Mandell Extreme from Corey Mandell and remaking the company into Mint Events.

"Corey Mandell is passing the torch in the private events market to me… and Mandell Entertainment is going to continue on in the corporate events and hospitality markets," Florence explains.

Noah Cappe, one of the entertainers and partners in Mint Events.

"Mint is continuing to do all the events that Mandell Extreme did. The difference is… Mint Events is Canada's first boutique entertainment service… We're going to bring credibility, originality and energy to elevate our clients' experience."

Both clients and their guests have a range of preference and Florence emphasizes the need for entertainment that caters to a wide spectrum of people.

"The parties that we're doing are covering all the generations," he says.

"We're trying to make it more unique and fun for the kids and adults, [so that] everyone is dancing at the same time."

Depending on the client's wishes, Mint will provide a variety of entertainers, including everything from interactive dancers and disc jockeys to professional actors and musicians.

"A lot of our clients are looking for particular entertainers they've seen in the past," Florence says.

"If you know the entertainer you want… I would book them as far in advance as possible."

Entertainment and venue go hand in hand and Florence urges clients to ensure the entertainment company stays true to that.

Continues on page B48

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PARTY PLANNER

Mandell passes the torch to Mint

Continued from page B47

"I'm not going to sell the client a massive lighting package that's good for a party with 250 people, when she's having a party for 75 people," he says.

"The entertainment experience we send out is catered to the venue and to the [client's] budget."

Florence says it's difficult to categorize trends in terms of party themes, since hosts are always trying to do something new. But he noted there is more involved in creating a theme than transforming the venue's décor.

"If someone has a particular theme, we'll dress the part," he says, noting his entertainers have dressed in tie-dyed shirts for a 1970s-themed affair. For the MTV event, the guys were clad in sleeveless shirts while the girls wore tank tops and cargo pants.

"We have suppliers who can [provide] customized clothing within 48 hours."

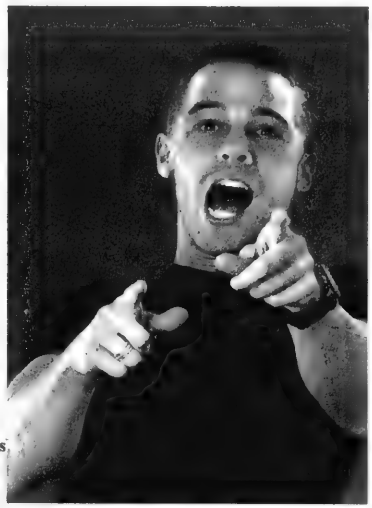
Customer service is at the core of any business and Florence says it should be a major factor for a client when selecting an entertainment company.

"It's all about customer service," he says.

"(With Mint) you have a big company thinking with small company values."

Mint Events will officially begin on July 1.

To contact Mint Events, phone 416-923-MINT. The upcoming website will be www.mintevents.ca.



Jared Florence, right, and Jordi Fogle, below, are two of the partners in Mint Events which officially begins on July 1.

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Party Planner

Korman and Myles hail the return of dressing up

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

If two popular Toronto clothiers had their way, everyone would be wearing suits. Fortunately for them, they're back in style.

"Business is better than ever," says Saul Korman, owner of Korry's. "People want to dress up again."

Korman says the days of "casual Fridays, casual Thursdays, and casual Mondays" is over, and the return of the suit is here.

Lou Myles hates to see people dress horribly.

"It got so casual that everybody looked like a sloppy bed. Now you watch all the politicians and what do you see? Everybody is dressing up," Korman says.

Wendy Myles, the executive vice-president of Lou Myles Disegnatore and married to the veteran designer himself, agrees.

"The trend is back to very skinny suits. I got a lot of young guys in their 20s who come to me cause they've never worn this suit. They weren't around when this happened and they love it. It's nice to have this whole influx of young guys."

Korry's and Lou Myles are two hot spots when it comes to purchasing suits. They've both in business for more than 40 years and have seen trends come and go.

And while the inclination to dress casual is waning, it's hasn't disappeared.

"Movie stars dress so horribly these days, you always see them in jeans, they look so awful," says Myles. "They think, 'Let's see how awful I can look today.' Guys who go around with their pants below their waist is disgusting and that's what most movie stars look like.

"Everybody wants to look like they just came back from summer camp, and it shows. To see guys the way they go around with shorts, hairy legs and sandals is disgusting."

Many of Myles' clients are celebrities, including basketball giant Shaquille O'Neal and George Bush Sr.

Both of these high-profile clients not only wanted a snazzy suit, they requested something extra.

"Shaquille O'Neal, when he was still with the [Los Angeles] Lakers, we made a sport jacket for him and lined it with a Lakers sweater. It was such a great idea that we also made a jacket for President Bush Sr. and we made a navy blazer lined with the American flag."

While Shaq and Bush have people shopping for them, most regular customers aren't sure what to look for in a suit.

Korman says it's important to buy something you can wear all year.

"If you start with a basic black or a navy, it takes you anywhere, to a funeral, a wedding," says Korman. "You try and buy a fabric that's 12 months a year. That's never changed. The young people want to buy the high fashion, but that's not what to buy."

Korman recommends pure wools and high performance fabrics, and not something too heavy or too light.

"Don't buy in the winter too heavy of a suit and don't buy in summer too light of a suit, but buy something that performs 12 months of the year."

Myles says consumers should know that a name brand doesn't mean a suit is top quality.

"Back in the old days, you knew what you were getting. Now you don't have any idea," says Myles. "You're paying the same for trash. In fact, you're probably paying more cause it has a bigger label behind it."

Myles says that while a name brand suit may look great, it probably won't last two trips to the cleaners.

"To pay $1,000 for a name brand suit is like paying $1,000 for a cup of coffee. This suit is not going to stand up for more than a year. It may look flashy, but I can tell you right away the suit is glued together, so it's never going to look that good. You take it the cleaner once or twice and the suit looks like dreck."

Lou Myles makes hand-made suits, something the big names don't do. While this means that Lou Myles produces less – 7,000 suits a year compared to about 10,000 a day for a name brand – Myles says Lou Myles clothing is made with more care and better materials.

Continued on page B50

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Photography captures the moment

Continued from page B39

"With digital photography, we're able to do things like never before. We can create a story line with the pictures we take, and we always shoot until we get what we want," he says.

"We do a lot of work on our pictures – the sky is the limit."

Both Himell and Sciarrino realize that photography is important work and take it very seriously.

"Photography does mean a lot to people – [the pictures] are cherished forever. Reaction is always positive," Sciarrino says.

"Photography is so important – it captures memories. When you look back, you have a whole story and it represents the people and the moments that are important to you," Himell adds.

This is why it's essential, says Sciarrino, to do research and make sure you know what you're getting. He also warns that if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

"You get what you pay for. But if you know what you want, then [finding the appropriate photographer] shouldn't be a problem."

For more infortmation, cal Platinum Photography at 905-709-7754 or Horvath Photography Studio at 905-707-5770.

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Dressing up is back in style

Continued from page B49

"There's so much work that goes into a suit, especially the amount of pressing the suit goes through while it's being made. It's pressed at so many different points," she says.

"Machine-made suits are untouched by human hands and they have about a minute and 36 seconds of pressing in a steam cabinet before it goes on the assembly line to be shipped. It's not a guy standing there with an iron, and it shows. In machine-made suits, the steam attacks the suit and the glue from the fusing starts to come away."

Korman agrees with Myles and offers an analogy to cars.

"The theory in a suit is not the fabric, it's the construction that's put into the suit. I can show you a Chevrolet with leather and a BMW with leather and the leather can be exactly the same, but when you sit on it it's not the same because the bench the leather's been made on is completely different. It's all the quality of what's put underneath it. Same with a suit: it's what's in its lining and how much handwork goes in it."

Suits aren't all the two stores sell. They also sell tuxedos.

When it comes to tuxedos, especially on the ubiquitous long tie versus bow tie debate, Korman and Myles disagree.

"It's got to be a bow tie," says Myles. "[Wearing a long tie] to me is the man saying 'I really don't want to put on a tux, so let's pretend I'm not wearing one.'"

Korman on the other hand, prefers a long tie with his tux.

"I like a pointy shirt collar, and I like a tie," he says.

The trend to wear the long tie, Korman says, comes from the film industry.

"If you watched the Academy Awards very few people were wearing bow ties. That doesn't mean you shouldn't wear one though."

After deciding what type of tie to buy, it's time to figure out what colour to wear. Myles gives a hint: invitations often say black tie.

"The odd time for a while they were doing charcoal grey tuxedos and you still have a few people that are doing navy, but black is the most appropriate. That's why they call it black tie."

The last question men often wonder about when it comes to tuxes is whether to rent or buy?

Myles says with more and more people attending charity fundraisers, tuxes are in high demand, so it should be bought.

Korman disagrees.

"If you're going to use it once every two years, then why buy? Just get a black suit and wear a black tie with it."

Other advertisers in this supplement are: Crawford Boys; Deja Vu; Fashion Pulse; Floriane Children's Fashions; K. Barketti; Le Club Menswear; Nancy Klein; Pinstripe Menswear; Underwraps Lingerie; Walter Steiger Shoe Co., Zero 20.

Simchahs: *Caught on tape*

By JEN THOMPSON
Special to The CJN

Choosing a good videographer for your next event is essential to document the memories of the day.

An event goes by so quickly, capturing all of the moments on video means that the milestone will be preserved for you, your family and generations to come.

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Hart and Yale Massey have years of experience shooting events such as the Daffodil Ball in Montreal, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs – even television commercials and tribute videos. The brothers produce custom-made, professional works of art to bring your stories and events to life.

Having made films since childhood, their film partnership began early on when Hart, the older brother and the actor in the family, used his bar mitzvah money to buy a home video camera. Since then their creativity, and passion for filmmaking has continued to grow.

Located in the Annex, the brothers have also created a reality-based television show entitled *Hart of the Annex* (www.hartoftheannex.com). It is this passion for filmmaking that the brothers bring to each event they shoot.

When choosing a videographer for your event, it is extremely important for you to feel confident and comfortable with your choice. The Massey brothers offer a free consultation with all their clients, are extremely flexible and work with each client to establish what kind of video they want.

Videos can be shot in a variety of different ways. A video can feature interviews and toasts from the guests or if the client wishes, it can be filmed in the style of a documentary. Clients can also view demo reels of previous work the Massey brothers have done in order to better help them with their selection.

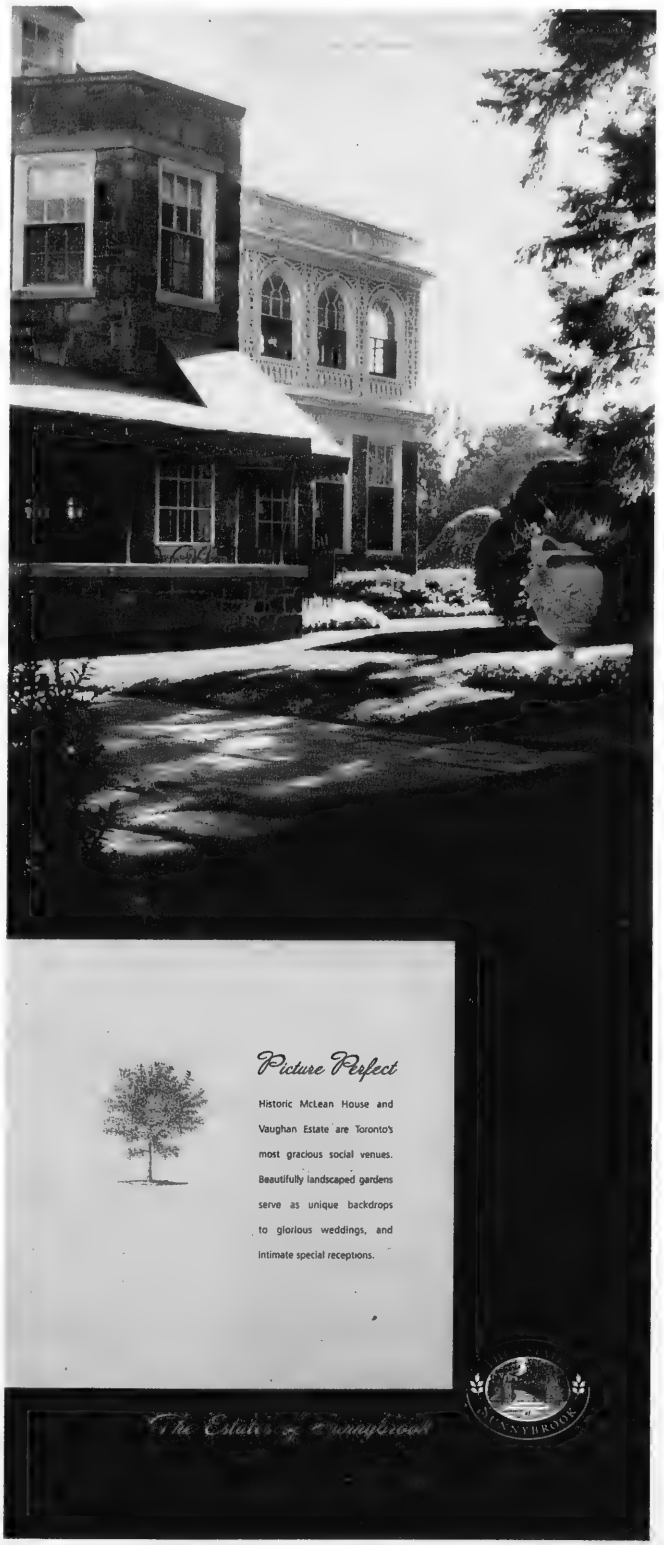
The brothers provide a full day of coverage for your event. They provide all their own equipment including lighting and cameras. Using a DVX Panasonic camera, the newest 24-progressive frame mini DV (digital video) camera, the Massey brothers are able to make digital video look much closer to film. Once the event is shot, footage is professionally edited in their film studio, music is added, creative flair is thrown in and videos are ready in about 6 to 8 weeks. Depending on what the customer wants, packages range from $799 to $2,000.

Spring and summer tend to be the busiest seasons for Massey Bros. Films. However, they said they are extremely flexible and will do their best to accommodate your special event. Located at the corner of Dupont Street and Davenport Road in downtown Toronto, the Massey brothers take pride in offering quality, professional videography for the Jewish community. As noted by their slogan, "Simcha Videos by your brothers," Massey Bros. Films is sure to create a unique and artistic video to capture all the moments and memories of your special day.

For more information call 416-558-8257.

Other advertisers in this supplement are: D.M.S. Video Productions; Lisa Productions; Northen Memory Productions; Rafael Studios; Redstone Pictures; Twins Photo & Video; Vivid Video Productions; Video Excellence; Video Productions by Josh.

The Massey Bros. were on hand when these special guests showed up.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Relive your wedding online

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

So you're having a simchah and the day has finally arrived. You've spent months planning the perfect affair. You've fretted over invitations, the venue, the entertainment, the caterer, the decorator, the videographer, the photographer and the flowers.

The list is endless. So are the sleepless nights. You've worried about what to wear and, of course, there were many shopping days until you found the right outfit.

On the big day, everything is perfect: the food, the decor and the entertainment. Even your kids are behaving themselves. Your dress is gorgeous. You're thinner than you've been in years – all that worry – and everybody's noticing. And now the party is in full swing. It's fabulous. Everybody's having a great time.

And then the party ends. It's taken a year of your life to plan and it's all over in a matter of hours.

But it need not be the end of a beautiful event. "Your party can live on… online," says Ryan Silver, the president of seemyparty.com (416-749-3895, ryan@seemyparty.com), a digital multimedia company that will capture your simchah with still shots and video clips, and have them up on your personal website within 48 hours.

In one or two days, you and your guests can relive the magic of the party – you can share the highlights while the memories are fresh – through the seemyparty.com website.

"We take professional digital photographs throughout your party and provide your guests with an immediate tool for sharing and interacting, says Silver.

"You can simply log on to seemyparty.com and view your photos 24 to 48 hours after your party ends. It's a perfect opportunity and simple way of sharing the party photos and memories with all the guests, including the out-of-towners.

"They can interact on seemyparty.com because it is an outlet for the host and guests to exchange memories of the event," Silver says. "We set up the site so it can be like a memory bank. Then it becomes an online blog where people can give their comments about the party or click onto a photo and say something.

An example of a personalized webpage.

"You can e-mail photos to friends, post your comments, view video clips, listen to sound bytes and create your own digital party place."

He says the company sends a professional digital photographer to a simchah to capture candid shots of all the action.

Silver stresses that his digital photography company is intended to complement the more traditional videography and photography services.

Business-sized cards are given out to the guests instructing them on how to visit seemyparty.com to view the photos. The card also gives guests a password to access the private party gallery.

"If you don't remember the party password, you make a written request and we will send it to your e-mail," Silver says.

After the party, a professional web team prepares the photos for the web, and a web page is coded to display all the photos within 48 hours.

Seemyparty.com is the brainchild of Silver, 27, a digital and multimedia expert who studied media information technology at the University of Western Ontario and followed that up with a graduate degree in interactive multimedia from Sheridan College. He also studied digital photography and lighting there.

This education gave him the expertise in all kinds of multimedia applications, he says. "I build and develop websites, and I can create CD-ROMs and DVDs. Essentially, we can design for any kind of digital application."

Silver came up with a marketing concept whereby "an event could become a driving force for marketing messages."

Seemyparty.com is an outgrowth of this concept, and a branch of his media company, Original-Fly Multimedia Corporation.

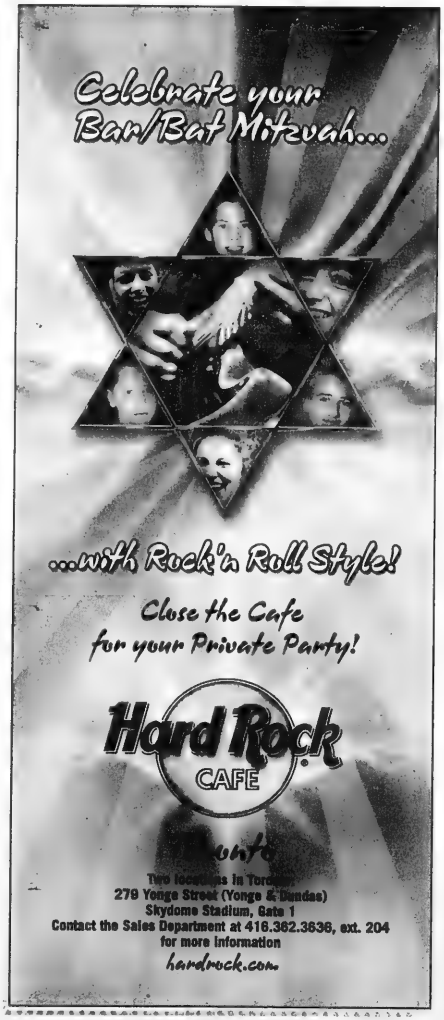
When he developed seemyparty.com, he tested it out at a bar mitzvah. "We did that about two years ago. The kids loved it. If you go online today, you can still see the comments."

And the response continues to be positive, he adds. "We do a party and we hear back that the service was unbelievable."

As for the cost, Silver says this party service is affordable. The introductory offer at $299, the basic package, provides a photographer for two hours of the party. Passwords, cards, additional photography time and a CD with stills and some video clips of the event can be added to the package at an additional cost. He also offers on-site photo novelties, such as framed photos and magnets, for the guests to take home.

According to Silver, the basic package is so reasonable, the cost is comparable to the trend of putting disposable cameras on the tables for guests to take their own pictures. "The results are better, more immediate and more professional, and the pictures are more accessible for family and friends.

"This is a quick and candid product to serve the immediate need of party hosts, so that they can have quick access to a record of their party."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PARTY PLANNER

Caribbean weddings a growing North American trend

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Imagine an outdoor wedding ceremony set on a Caribbean beach at sunset. It's the ultimate romantic backdrop.

The breathtaking vista – the sandy beach, palm trees, brilliant blue sea and orange and red-hued sky is the allure for many couples tying the knot at a tropical resort, according to the main Canadian representative for a large hotel chain in the Dominican Republic.

"The Caribbean weddings have a lot of appeal because of the beautiful beaches and the gorgeous sunsets. We get a lot of requests for sunset weddings," says Todd Kirlik, marketing director for Amhsa Marina Hotels of the Dominican Republic, the largest domestically owned hotel chain.

He notes that tropical weddings are a growing North American trend. "Many people are forgoing the large traditional receptions and opting for the more intimate affairs at resorts.

"It's also cost saving. It's a smaller and more casual function and you're combining the wedding and the honeymoon."

And while an array of wedding packages are available at many resorts throughout the Caribbean, few resorts can hold Jewish weddings.

The Dominican Republic, however, is one of the few exceptions in the Caribbean. This small Latin American nation can offer Jewish wedding packages because the country has a full-time rabbi and an active Jewish community 300 members strong.

Rabbi Oisiki Ghitis, the religious director of the Centro Israelita de la Republica Dominicana – he is based in San Domingo, the nation's capital – says he can perform wedding ceremonies anywhere in the country. He even gets requests to officiate at other Caribbean islands. "I have an upcoming wedding in Jamaica, but I'm trying to convince the family to move the event to the Dominican. It's much safer here."

The Colombian-born rabbi – he came to the Dominican Republic three years ago after spending 25 years in Israel – is looking forward to an upcoming wedding of an American physician and his fiancée, scheduled to take place in Sosua.

This quaint resort town on the country's northern coast has a unique Jewish history: it was a safe-haven for German and Austrian Jewish refugees fleeing Europe in 1940.

Some 700 Jews settled in Sosua, where they established a kibbutz style agricultural co-operative. And while only a few dozen Jews remain in Sosua today, some of the original settlement buildings have been preserved, among them, the wood-frame synagogue.

The American couple visiting Sosua were taken with the town and its unique Jewish origins, Rabbi Ghitis recalls, "They fell in love with the synagogue and they decided they had to come back to get married there."

As it happens, the synagogue and the adjacent Jewish Museum are on the grounds of Casa Marina Beach Hotel and Reef Resort– the two adjoining resorts share common facilities – owned by the Amhsa Marina Hotels and Resorts. It's "the most ideal setting for a Jewish wedding on the island because of its proximity to the Jewish museum and synagogue," says Kirlik, adding that the beach is also unusually beautiful.

"It's a spectacular private beach that has glorious sunsets. The natural reef is at one side of the beach where water continually sprays on the rock. It's very picturesque."

He says last year, the resort was the venue for a large Jewish wedding party made up of about 60 people from France.

They brought their own rabbi and mashgiach to kasher the hotel kitchen, he recounts. "The hotel staff found it all very interesting. It was out of the norm of everyday hotel life. The wedding received a lot of attention from local dignitaries. I heard it was amazing."

Rabbi Oisiki Ghitis stands outside the Jewish Museum in Sosua, a historical landmark in the centre of town. [Barbara Silverstein photo]

The hotel/resort, which typically in the Dominican is an all-inclusive (meals and alcohol are included in the cost of the hotel stay), converted one of its seven restaurants into a kosher restaurant for a week to accommodate the wedding party.

The hotel would welcome another Jewish wedding, but from a staffing and business perspective, the hotel needs a minimum of 50 people to cover some of the costs of kashering the kitchen, Kirlik says. "What we're doing is we're taking an entire restaurant option away from other guests."

Amhsa Marina Hotels and Resorts' wedding package, which is offered at its resorts across the country, starts at approximately $1,000 (US). This amount is charged in addition to the cost of hotel accommodation and flight, which vary from hotel to hotel and during the high and low seasons.

The wedding package covers legal fees ($400), and the wedding ($600), which includes a private venue, special dinner menu, wedding cake and a champagne toast for 10 people, as well as the flowers, music, decor, photos and a bridal bouquet. Extras such as live music and wedding videos can also be added.

To legalize the marriage, participants must present the following documents: passports of both parties and witnesses; original birth certificates; for widows or widowers, the death certificate of the deceased former spouse; and if a party is divorced, the original court decree of divorce. As a precautionary measure, a couple should verify the exact legal requirements long before their departure.

Kirlik points out that the most economical travelling option is to choose an all-inclusive resort and flight package.

Air Canada Vacations offers flight and hotel packages to Casa Marina Beach Hotel and Reef Resort in Sosua.

Kirlik says he would be happy to answer questions about the wedding packages. "People can contact my Toronto office and I can get the ball rolling from the hotel side, or just answer general questions about the island or hook them up with the rabbi."

He can be reached at 416-264-4756 or tkirlik@amhsamarina.com. To contact Rabbi Ghitis, call 809-533-0168 or e-mail him at chicole@ghitis.ws.

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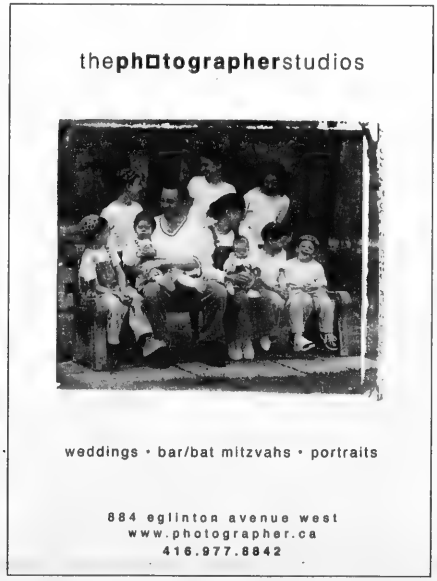
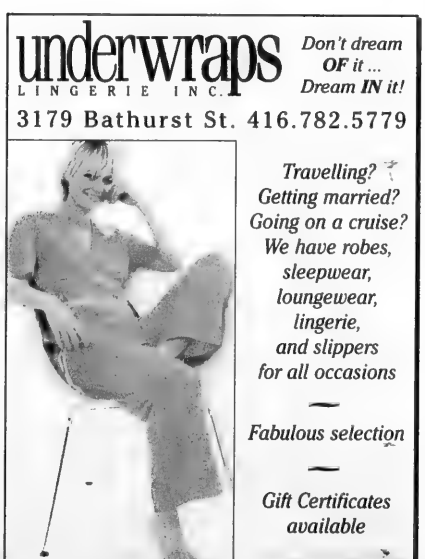




Decor – from elaborate backdrops to chair covers

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

It's a weekend night and the guests are arriving at a large modern hotel for a big bar mitzvah bash.

On their way to the ballroom, the guests literally get the red carpet treatment. And as they make their way along the red runner, they are welcomed to the party by celebrity look-alikes who mingle with everybody during cocktails.

The buffet dinner in the ballroom holds even more surprises. As the doors open, the guests stop in the entrance. They are mesmerized by the decor – a re-creation of the glitter of the Las Vegas strip with a large scenic backdrop and food stations decorated as some of the Nevada city's best-known hotels.

There are large replicas of the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower to represent the New York New York Hotel and the Paris Hotel and Casino respectively. Roman pillars and statues help simulate Caesar's Palace, while Egyptian artifacts and palm trees are the props for the Luxor Hotel.

Miki Klevan, president of FOS (Freedom of Sound) Entertainment Group, says he designed the decor and concept for the Las Vegas bar mitzvah theme, through FOS Decor (905-760-0040, www.fosdecor.com), the decorating division of FOS Entertainment Group.

He recalls the traffic jam at the entrance of the ballroom for the Las Vegas bar mitzvah. "No one was moving. I went to see what was going on. People were at the door. They were shocked. They couldn't believe their eyes. The guests felt as though they had walked right onto the Las Vegas strip.

"The custom lighting, designed by FOS Productions, the custom centrepieces, the linens and chair covers – all from FOS Decor – added to the overall ambiance of the glitzy Las Vegas theme," he says.

All four divisions of the FOS Entertainment Group contributed to the Las Vegas party: In addition to FOS Decor and FOS Productions – it was responsible for the lighting and staging of the party– FOS Entertainment provided the interactive DJs, dancers and other live performers such as celebrity impersonators of Elvis, Wayne Newton and Tom Jones, while the FOS Games and Amusement division took care of the casino tables complete with the tux-clad dealers running the games.

There was no question of client satisfaction at the end of this party, says Klevan. "There were lots of hugs and kisses and the party host booked us on the spot for the next bar mitzvah."

Klevan says the convenience of the one-stop shopping that FOS Entertainment offers appeals to many people. "We found this concept was something our clients are looking for to save on time and money.

"They are busy people. They want to deal with one person and this person can help them execute their vision for all the elements of entertainment and decor."

He says the company offers an extensive selection of large props for its special events, which have included Hollywood, medieval times, jungle and underwater themes.

"Within our 10,000-square-foot facility, we have a 3,000-square-foot showroom, where clients can book an appointment to view the latest-trend decor from themed and comtemporary bar mitzvah decor to elegant floral centrepieces and stunning chupahs."

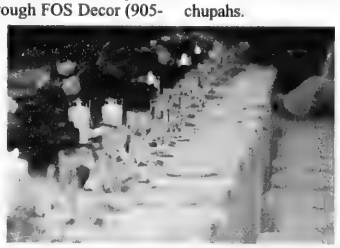
For more party decor ideas one might want to consult with Chair Decor Etc. (905-731-9217, www.chairdecor.com), a full-service rental company that has been an innovator in elegant party decor in the GTA for the last 14 years.

"We actually brought chair covers to Canada," says Jordan Rich, director of operations for Chair Decor.

"We started with a simple stretch cover in two colours – black and white – and now we have every colour imaginable."

The company has dramatically expanded its scope of services over the years. "We've grown from a single service product line to a full-rental product company," Rich says. "We rent chairs, chair covers, specialty linens, overlays, specialty napkins, napkin treatments and charger plates."

Other specialty decor treatments include draping material for mechitzahs and backdrops for the head table and custom chupahs.



Chair Decor strives to be innovative.

"We're basically a rental company," says Rich. "We work in co-operation with the decorators. We leave the flowers and centrepiece to the experts."

Chair Decor offers a variety of styles from "basic to extravagant," he says, adding that the basic tablecloth rental can be enhanced by adding overlays, napkin rings and charger plates. "We can create a visual presence that will absolutely wow the guests."

The chairs covers, which come in a variety of materials – brocades, damasks, satins and cottons – are custom designed to fit specific chairs, he says, noting that Chair Decor is familiar with chairs in most settings and can accommodate the chairs available in most GTA venues.

He stresses that Chair Decor strives to be innovative. "We're constantly on the lookout for new international decorating trends. We go to internal shows in the U.S. and Europe."

One of the newest items the company carries for elegant events is the Chiavari chair. "It has become very popular at many upscale events," Rich says. "These chairs originated at the presidential parties in the U.S."

FOS Entertainment provides convenience.

He describes the chairs as "cane backed with four spindles and squared off at the top.

"It's what they use for the award shows like the Oscars, the Emmies and the Grammies. They're used for big events because they allow you to put more chairs around the table."

Chair Decor offers the chairs in black, mahogany and gold. "We've upgraded our fine linen to co-ordinate with these more elegant style chairs," he says.

"We carry suede, satin and silk tablecloths to name just a few of the fabrics available – in a wide array of colours."

Rich notes the difference between trends in bar mitzvahs and wedding decor. "Bar mitzvah colours tend be very dramatic and very theme oriented, while weddings exude more understated elegance," he says. "The look is more classic."

Chair Decor is a family-run business that was started in 1991 by Rich's parents, Phyllis and Ben, and his aunt Mary Bien. "We all wear many different hats. We all help in many areas and we all meet with clients," says Rich.

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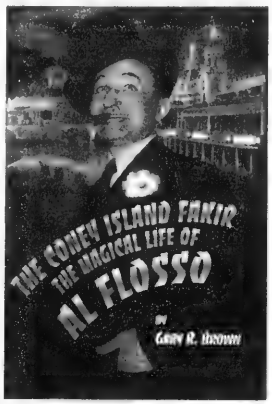
Jews have excelled as magicians

By VIC PHILLIPS
Special to The CJN

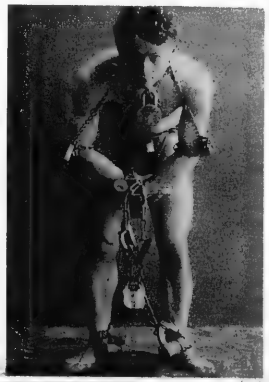
Leonard Bernstein was a great composer, Philip Roth a truly fine writer, Hank Greenberg was one of the greatest ball players ever, and we all know about Albert Einstein – Jews have become famous in the arts, science and sports. They can also be found in another field – magic.



David Kotkin is considered one of the greatest stage magicians of all time. Who is this Kotkin you ask? We all know him as David Copperfield, one of the highest paid entertainers in the world. The most "in" magician currently is David Blaine, who performs his miracles on the streets of America dressed in a T-shirt and jeans. He has astounded television viewers with his seemingly impossible feats of legerdemain, including his self-levitation in front of spectators on the sidewalk. Mr. Electric and Ricky Jay have performed in Canada and many other parts of the world for decades.

The most famous magician of all time was the Great Houdini, who was born Erich Weiss in Hungary and made his fortune in the 1920s. Houdini became famous as an escape artist. Today, some 60 years later, psychics attempt to contact Houdini's spirit on the anniversary of his death.

Judaism and magic date back hundreds of years, when the mystics exorcised evil spirits and created amulets. Even further back in time, we can ask if Moses was doing magic through God when he changed his staff into a snake. Ancient Jewish writings refer to wonder workers when discussing the Kabbalah and, of course, mystics believed astrology to be a form of magic.



Today, many young people have taken an interest in magic and are among the most eager customers of magic shops across the land. Jeff Pinsky, owner of the Browsers Den of Magic Shop in Toronto, says one reason Jews have always been attracted to magic is because it was a way to make a living when they were barred from other trades. He says discrimination forced many Jews into the outdoor markets as entertainers, where they became known for the "cups and balls" routine, believed by many to be the first sleight-of-hand trick ever performed.

Afterward it was a natural progression to using cards, coins and other objects as Jews moved from outside markets and performed in music halls and later in vaudeville shows. One family's ancestors, the Bambergs of Holland, began as magic entertainers in the 1700s, and the great-great-great-grandson Theo Bamberg took on the persona of a Chinese conjurer and became world famous as Okito.

Horace Goldin, born Hyman Goldstein in Poland in 1873, performed for royalty all over the world more than 100 years ago. His illusions made headlines wherever he appeared. During World War II, several Jewish magicians, male and female, performed for the Nazis while in Auschwitz and other death camps. Their lives were spared during the Holocaust.

Some 200 magicians are listed on the website Jews in Magic. Included is a talented performer known as Miss Blanche, who was born Ruth Iris Wachsman. She was forced to entertain the Nazis in order to save her life. She survived Auschwitz and died in the United States more than 40 years after the war ended.

There are magic tricks designed exclusively for the Jewish community. They include the "Chanukah-dabra," which involves the story of the oil that was meant to burn one day but lasted for eight days. Oil vey! The magic of Passover is also popular with youngsters and adds to the celebration of Passover seders.

In Toronto, Jews comprise 20 per cent of the 60 members of the Hat and Rabbit Club, which is Ring 17 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians organization. Some of the members perform professionally, while others volunteer at hospitals, where they entertain children, and senior citizen homes.

Since there is no real magic, new members are taught to be actors, as a magic trick is basically a short dramatic sketch. The mechanics of a trick can be explained by a salesperson at a magic store, but at a club a much more important matter is discussed: how the trick should be performed.

Magic is fun and often the only payment for magicians is the wide-eyed enchantment on the audience's faces and the wonder in their eyes as the "magic" happens right in front of them.

Vic Phillips, a Toronto writer, is the president of the Toronto Hat and Rabbit Club.

Clockwise from above: Horace Goldin, Harry Houdini, David Copperfield, Al Flosso and David Blaine.

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This Week

National

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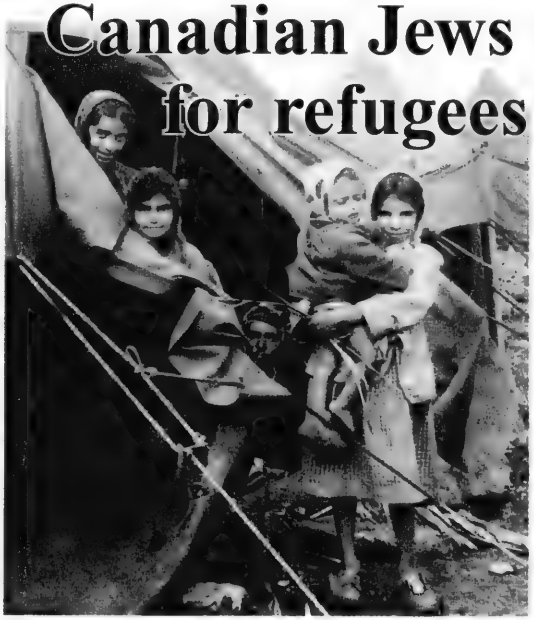
Canadian Jews to join campaign for refugees from Arab lands



Refugees arrive in Israel in 1949. *[UIA photo]*

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canadian Jews are joining an international effort to highlight the plight of Jewish refugees from Arab lands.

As part of a campaign that will kick off in March 2006 and involve as many as 14 international Jewish communities, Canadian Jewish Congress will reconstitute its moribund Jews from Arab lands committee and will make the pursuit of justice for north African and Middle Eastern Jews a key element for the current administration.

CEO Bernie Farber said Congress will undertake an education program that will target parliamentarians and inform the wider public about a mostly unknown international human rights issue. Congress will also push for a government statement in the House of Commons on Jewish refugees, and it is considering holding a conference in Ottawa to keep the issue alive.

"We want this on the radar screen," he said.

Farber said Congress will follow up on comments made last week by Prime Minister Paul Martin in an interview with *The CJN*, in which the prime minister acknowledged that as many as 850,000 Jews fled Arab or Muslim countries and that Jewish refugees claims should be taken into consideration.

"A refugee is a refugee," Martin said. "I think we've got to be prepared [to take Jewish claims] into consideration." Martin's comments created a buzz at the tail end of a conference in Paris last week that saw representatives from nine international Jewish communities discuss the advocacy campaign for the rights of Jews from Arab lands.

Continued on page 28

DANCING IN THE STREETS: Israelis flocked to the streets of their capital earlier this month to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim, marking 38 years since the reunification of east and west Jerusalem. *[Israel Sun photo]*

CJN wins award

MONTREAL — The Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) has named *The Canadian Jewish News* the best overall specialty newspaper for 2004.

In conferring the award, the QCNA said: "Apart from filling a niche in its community, this is a great newspaper. The news and features are top rate and the newspaper is full of interesting and well-written opinions. A great package."

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The News in Brief

CANADA

Victims Recalled

TORONTO — Students in Toronto and Montreal joined thousands of North American day school students studying biblical and talmudic texts on Shavuot in memory of terror victims. The project was organized by the Koby Mandell Foundation, named for a 13-year-old boy beaten to death by Palestinians in the West Bank in 2001. Participating students, who obtain sponsors for their learning, get a card with a picture and description of one of the 122 Israeli children killed in terror attacks in recent years. Proceeds go to Camp Koby, which serves kids who have lost kin in such attacks.

Cdn. Honoured At YU

NEW YORK — Ari Wainberg of Thornhill, Ont., was honoured as valedictorian of Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies at Yeshiva University's 74th annual commencement exercises last month at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. He was one of 18 Canadians who graduated from Yeshiva U's undergraduate programs.

$1M Goal Reached

HAMILTON — For the second time in three years, Hamilton's UJA campaign has surpassed its $1 million goal. And although final numbers are not available, there's a chance this year's campaign could break 2003's record haul, organizers said.

CJC and Federation Praise PQ's Landry

MONTREAL — FEDERATION CJA and Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region (CJC-Q), issued a joint statement of appreciation for outgoing Parti Québécois leader Bernard Landry's efforts to connect with Jews and other minorities.

"Bernard Landry was sincere in, and respected for, his outreach efforts toward Quebec's Jewish community, and in his desire to reach out to all cultural minorities of Quebec's mosaic," said CJC-Q president Jeffrey Boro. "We hope the new [PQ] leadership… continues to hold true to these ideals."

Landry unexpectedly resigned as PQ leader and from the National Assembly at the PQ's convention earlier this month.

"He is a man of principle and conviction truly committed to his party and its cause," added federation president Sylvain Abitbol. "Through his passion and intellect he enriched the level of debate in this province and added special dynamism and energy to our democratic process."

The PQ's interim leader is Louise Harel, longtime partner of Edmond Omran, president of Medical Aid for Palestine-Canada who, as a cabinet minister, has participated in some of the organization's public events.

The newly acclaimed PQ president is Monique Richard, who while president of the Centrale des Syndicats du Quebec union, urged a province-wide boycott of Israeli products in 2002 to protest Israel's alleged repression of the Palestinians.

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Seniors group turns 35

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Association of Jewish Seniors (AJS) is marking 35 years of making the community more aware of issues facing older people.

The umbrella group, with some 5,000 members, draws together individuals, seniors centres, organizations and clubs.

"Our efforts are geared to our mission: to keep all members informed of relevant issues affecting seniors, to advocate on their behalf, and to enhance the quality of life for our members and all citizens," says president Ben Goldmintz.

On social and educational issues, the group organizes monthly meetings with noted speakers such as Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber and Willowdale MPP David Zimmer, and featuring discussions on topics such as safe medication, and funding for home care.

"At our meetings, we have a good cross section of opinions and form many friendships," Goldmintz says. "With respect to religious celebrations, we have our annual second [Pesach] seder, a Sukkot lunch and a Chanukah dinner."

He adds that in the area of political activism, AJS works with organizations such as the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens and the Alliance of Seniors to Protect Canada's Social Programs.

"We take action on causes brought to our attention – not only those affecting Jewish seniors, but the whole community."

On June 21, the AJS, which is funded through Circle of Care and generous contributors, will celebrate Seniors Month at a lunch and program titled "Tap Into Your Creative Self For Your Good Health," to be held at Earl Bales Community Centre. There is no charge for members and $3 for guests.

AJS membership is open to any seniors group or individual.

Its executive members include Goldmintz, Carl Kellen, Ray Sadowski, Evelyn Shulman, Esther Pohn and Gerry Hurwitz.

For more information on the AJS or to register for its June 21 program, call Debbie Bernstein, 416-635-2860, ext. 458, or e-mail ajs@circleofcare.com.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Parents petition Ont. Tories on day school funding

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Parents of children in Jewish day schools poured out their hearts in meetings last week with senior Ontario Progressive Conservatives, saying the province's failure to fund faith-based schools amounts to "blatant discrimination."

The half-dozen parents joined officials from the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS) to describe for senior Tories the hardships and sacrifices they endure when faced with crushing tuition and no help from the government.

It was all part of a task force struck recently by the Conservatives to gauge public sentiment on a variety of education-related issues. Party leader John Tory has begun wide-ranging public consultations, saying he wants to hit the ground running for the next election, scheduled for the autumn of 2007.

Last Wednesday morning at Queen's Park, OAJDS co-presidents Ira Walfish and Aaron Blumenfeld briefed Conservative MPP Ted Arnott (Waterloo-Wellington), a former parliamentary secretary to the education minister, on the mechanics of how funding faith-based schools would work.

The OAJDS submission, a 46-page effort replete with number-crunching tables and charts, concluded that the preferred option is a tax credit with no income threshold.

"We believe this recommendation best meets the policy objectives of providing choice to the recipients and at the same time removes the current discriminatory policy of favouring one religion [Catholicism] over all others," the brief stated.

Jewish day schools have faced declining enrolment "primarily due to affordability, which has been financially disastrous for some schools," Blumenfeld told Arnott. "A lot of our schools are in financial crisis."

Task force consults community

Some 45 per cent of all children in Jewish day schools are subsidized, Blumenfeld added.

And the government's policy of funding Roman Catholic schools but not other faith-based ones makes non-Catholic children feel "like second-class citizens in their own country."

At a meeting immediately following with Arnott and several Tory advisors and aides, Jewish parents laid bare their feelings.

Georgeanne Burke, a longtime funding advocate and founding member of the OAJDS, choked up when she recalled that one year, her tuition bill was nearly $50,000 for her and her husband's six children.

But it was worth it, she said, because of the "good derived" from a Jewish education that taught her children "tolerance and respect."

For many Jewish families, a public school education is a non-starter, said Cari Kozierok Behar, four of whose five children attend a day school.

"For us to properly educate our children in Hebrew and Jewish social values, we need the immersive quality of a day school," she said.

Bruce Gilboord, a financial planner who is active in Conservative politics, says he has noticed that parents with children in the Jewish education system have higher levels of stress and often drive older cars, and they have lower levels of investment in such things as RRSPs.

"Our heritage costs," he said.

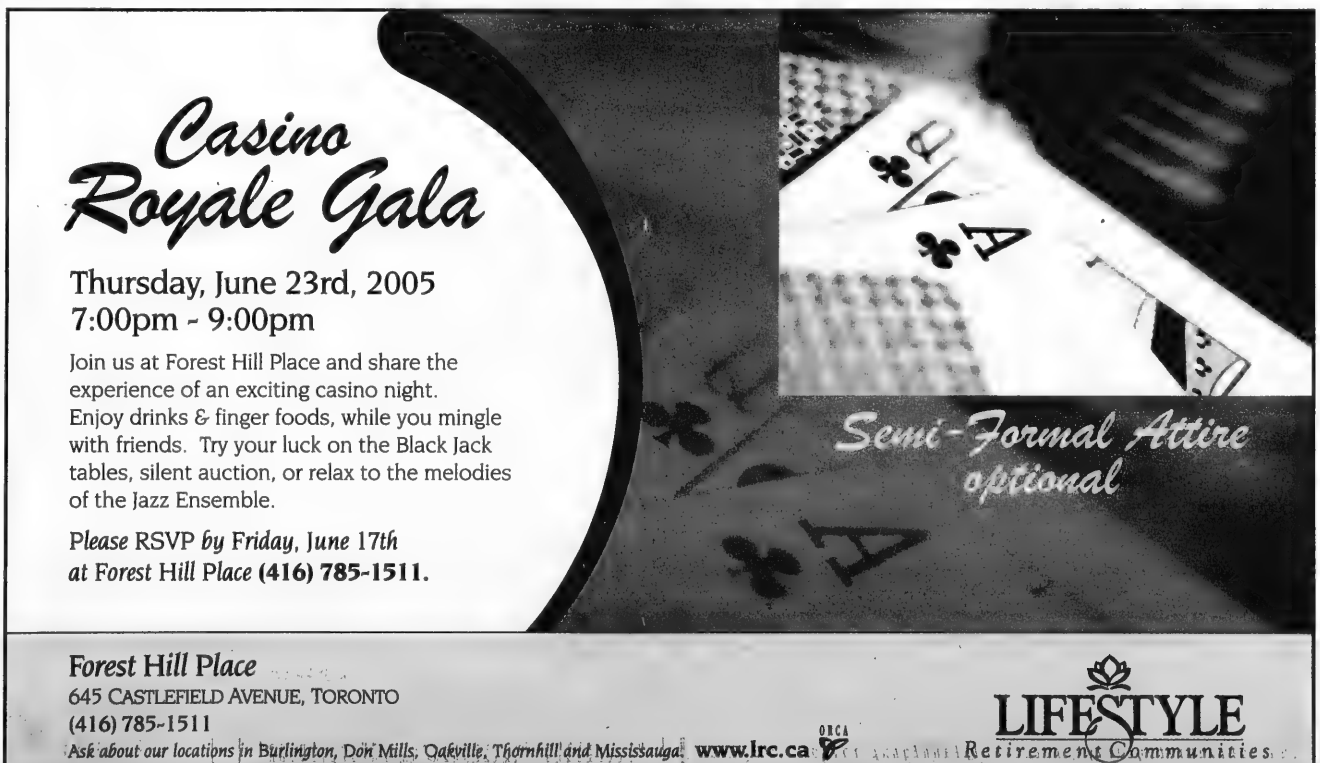
Speaking personally, Alex Roman, a senior Conservative advisor, said the constitutional requirement to publicly fund Catholic schools "has to be opened up" because in Ontario, most Catholic students are no longer French.

Roman called the failure to fund all faith-based education "legislated discriminatory practices based on religion."

Aryeh Snitman, who has two children at United Synagogue Day School, presented the officials with a 5,000-name petition calling on the government to fund faith-based schools. He called the current situation "blatant discrimination."

The petition was also presented to the Liberals, who cancelled the Tories' landmark Equity in Education Tax Credit after assuming power in 2003.

The OAJDS said it will seek similar meetings with Liberal MPPs in the coming months.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From the editor's desk

Hard work, discipline and unflinching resolve are the midwives of success. When we see our youngsters using these virtues to give birth to their dreams, it is important that we write about it.

Two very talented young people from Ottawa have worked extremely hard to realize their dream of a career in the theatre. And what a theatre it is this summer and fall: The Stratford Festival of Canada.

Jennifer Waiser is in her second season at Stratford. This year, she plays Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods*, and appears in *Hello Dolly*.

Born in Montreal, she moved to Ottawa when she was five years old. She was "great friends" with the Gould family, another Ottawa household whose children – Jennifer, Adrienne and Jonathan – have graced the stage at Stratford.

With a bouncy, friendly enthusiasm that did not abate throughout our conversation, the actress, who is in her late 20s, told *The CJN* that "acting is definitely a calling. It chooses you. It's what I want to do."

And she has done it for most of her young life, at school and for 11 years at Camp B'nai Brith. But her formal drama education received a major boost when she enrolled in the Canterbury Arts High School in Grade 12 and part of Grade 13.

At the end of Grade 12, Waiser won a major acting role in Toronto in a David Mirvish production of *Jane Eyre*. She admitted to be being a bit nervous for that part. "Am I good enough to be doing this?" she asked herself. But she took considerable comfort in the fact that she could and she did. It was a both a humbling and a maturing experience.

After high school, Waiser continued her drama studies at Ryerson University.

Despite her young age, Waiser has a long list of acting credits in her portfolio, including the title role in *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the Bathurst Street Theatre in Toronto. In 2002, she was nominated for a Dora Award for her portrayal of Queen Victoria in Sky Gilbert's *The Boy Jones*.

Wise, veteran maturity shone through our conversation. "It is very important to know one's strengths and weaknesses. I know what roles I am right for and the roles I am wrong for.

"In creating a character, you know you are going to be judged every day. Some of those judgments will be negative, but you must take it in stride. Criticism is never-ending. You always have to prove yourself."

Gabriel Wolinsky

If she has been hurt by the inevitable criticism, it did not show in our discussion. She chose to emphasize the sources of her confidence rather than any reasons for doubt.

"Because the production schedule is so demanding, time is scarce. Family and friends become ever more precious, and choosing relaxing, restorative pastimes ever more important. If I didn't have the family, friends and resources that I had, I might not have been able to make this a reality."

Jennifer Waiser

Her advice to youngsters dreaming of a life on stage is both lofty and pragmatic. "Think that it is possible and take as many classes as you can so that you are ready when the chance comes."

* * *

Not that long ago,Gabriel Wolinsky was taking his cues and his instructions from Jennifer Waiser, who was his counsellor at Camp B'nai Brith.

This year, he'll be with her on stage at Stratford, where he makes his debut in *Hello Dolly* and *The Tempest*.

For 13 of his 20 years, Wolinksy has been dancing. Like Waiser, Wolinsky came from "a creative and artistic home" that encouraged and supported his theatre aspirations and imbued in him a strong identification with the Jewish community.

He began his dance lessons at the Greta Leeming Studio of Dance with the intricacies of jazz, then added tap and ballet, which he described as the foundation of all dance, to his skills.

"Dancing is hard and great and wonderful," Wolinsky told *The CJN*. "I want it to be challenging." For the effervescently enthusiastic artist, no challenge could be greater right now than performing on the stage of one of the world's pre-eminent theatres.

His advice to youngsters dreaming of a life on stage echoes that of his former camp counsellor. "Don't give up. This business is tough. Keep going. If you get rejected, that means the job was not right for you. Keep going."

Though Wolinsky is making his debut at Stratford, it is certainly not his professional dancing debut. He recently performed in *A Chorus Line* in Toronto and *Cats* at the Neptune Theatre in Halifax.

* * *

Adrienne Gould, about whom I wrote in this space last year, performs the lead role of Miranda in *The Tempest* this year.

***

Next month, I will write about Evan Stillwater and Sammy Rosen, two other young adults whose dreams have taken them to the Stratford stage. *–MBD*

SeeJN

LONDON BACKS JERUSALEM: About 125 members of the Jewish community in London, Ont., marked Yom Yerushalayim on June 5 by marching in support of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel. The event raised funds in support of the community's donation of a fully equipped ambulance for Israel. Marchers stopped at checkpoints at all three of London's synagogues before ending up at the city's Jewish community centre for a barbecue and party. [Carmi Levy photo]

More Israeli withdrawals will occur, Olmert says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer will not be its last from the territories, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert revealed last week.

"There is no trade-off between Gaza and the West Bank," he said in a conference call from New York City.

"This is the initial chapter, not the last one," added Olmert, who is considered a close adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Olmert would not delve into further details, explaining that discussing the issue now would be premature and unhelpful.

But he did say Israel is prepared to make "painful concessions" in the interests of achieving a two-state solution to defuse the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Olmert, the former two-term mayor of Jerusalem, warned that the success of Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza will determine the next step in the political process with the Palestinians.

"Everything depends on it," he declared. "It's essential for it to be carried out successfully."

Describing the scheduled withdrawal as the "most significant and historic" political initiative Israel has ever undertaken, Olmert said it marks the first time an Israeli government has chosen to dismantle settlements in an area considered historically Jewish.

Olmert said the plan requires great courage for at least three reasons: Settlements are the "purest manifestation" of the return of Jews to their historic homeland. As well, the disengagement, due to launched in mid-August, has aroused a vociferous backlash from settlers and their supporters, and Sharon has always been partial to settlements beyond the Green Line.

Nevertheless, the prime minister is determined to move forward, Olmert said.

"We are going ahead and will implement the disengagement," he said, calling the pullout "one of the most fundamental concessions" in Israel's history.

Sharon believes it can break the current status quo, lead Israel and the Palestinians to a new phase in negotiations and generate better relations with the Arabs, Olmert added.

Claiming the move was not forced on Israel by outside pressures, he said the withdrawal proposal was adopted by a majority of Israeli parliamentarians and is good for the country.

If friction between the Israeli army and Palestinian civilians can be reduced, the prospects for peace can be reinvigorated, he suggested.

In a pointed remark, he said Jewish settlers in Gaza will not enjoy security as long as they remain there.

Conceding that cross-border terrorism may plague Israel once it withdraws from Gaza, Olmert promised Israel will fight it with all its military might.

He dismissed criticism by Israel's ex-chief of staff, Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, that the pullout may worsen Israel's situation. "He can be mistaken," said Olmert, taking pains to express his admiration for Ya'alon's contributions to the state.

Attempting to make a case for withdrawal, Olmert said it's incumbent on politicians to change with the times. As an example, he cited his own opposition to the 1978 Camp David accords with Egypt.

"I was wrong to vote against it," he said.

If Israel had not vacated the Sinai Peninsula in accordance with the Camp David agreement, he argued, Israel and Egypt may well have been driven to the brink of war.

Olmert said the Israeli army is prepared for problems once the withdrawal from Gaza takes place.

He praised Mahmoud Abbas, the newly elected president of the Palestinian Authority, for being "wholeheartedly against terrorism."

"We have a lot of respect for Abu Mazen," he said, using Abbas' nickname.

But decrying the recent Islamic Jihad mortar attack that killed two Palestinian workers and one Chinese field hand in Gaza's Gush Katif settlement bloc, Olmert said Abbas has not done enough to stop terrorism.

If the Palestinian Authority fails to rein in terrorism, Israel will do it itself, Olmert asserted.

Israel, in tandem with the United States and the European Union, must assist Abbas in improving economic conditions for the Palestinians.

"We want to build up positive forces and strengthen the Palestinian leadership. This is our strategy."

In a reference to last January's election in the Palestinian Authority, Olmert said the Palestinians have begun moving toward democracy, and that is important for Israel. "We're fully behind it, and we respect it."

Responding to a question about Iran's efforts to acquire a nuclear arsenal, he said Israel cannot resolve the issue itself.

According to Olmert, the matter should be addressed through political means by the United States and the European Union.

SINGING FOR JERUSALEM: Students in grades 1 to 3 at Netivot HaTorah celebrated Yom Yerushalayim by participating in a lively singing competition in which every class received a prize. **[Rebecca Ansel photo]**

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Documentary recalls Iraq's rich Jewish heritage

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Imagine Iraq teeming with Jewish life and culture, with Jews occupying high positions in government and comprising nearly half the population of Baghdad.

That scenario seems almost imponderable in today's Iraq, where anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism flourish and a mere 22 Jews call the embattled country home. But it was the reality less than a century ago.

The story of what happened to this dynamic community is the subject of a new documentary film titled *The Last Jews of Baghdad: End of an Exile; Beginning of a Journey*, which was screened recently at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

"It's very interesting to delve into what happens when you take a whole group of people out of a society," said Carole Basri, who co-directed and produced the film with Adriana Davis and Bryan Durr.

"I think [that society] loses some of its humanity."

Human rights in the Middle East is the main issue explored in the film, which provides first-person reflections of Jews who experienced both peaceful and fruitful times in Iraq, as well as persecution and exile.

"I try to build bridges so that everybody can understand all the pain that's occurred in the Middle East," said Basri, a New York lawyer and scion of a well-known Iraqi Jewish family.

"I've shown this film to Arabs and Muslims who said, 'We didn't know this happened.' When there is a feeling of common pain, then answers can be found."

Iraq's Jewish community dates back 2,700 years, and prior to the creation of Israel, it boasted a population of 160,000.

Iraqi Jews were patriotic and highly integrated into Iraqi society.

"I interviewed over 100 Iraqi Jews… and they loved that country very much," said Davis, co-founder of D-Squared Media.

"They were a part of the creation of the country when Britain granted it independence in 1932."

The film focuses on the years when Iraq became a dangerous place for Jews, beginning in the early 1930s, when they encountered institutionalized discrimination, largely as the result of the coming to power of a pro-Nazi government.

In 1934, Basri said, the government began imposing Nazi-inspired statutes, such as restricting the distance Jews could travel.

A succession of laws, including discriminatory quotas in schools, the banning of business partnerships between Jews and Muslims and the introduction of an anti-Jewish school curriculum, soon followed.

In 1941, a pro-Nazi coup sparked rioting and a pogrom of Jews in Baghdad, which left close to 200 Jews dead.

"In 1948… Jews had to pay $80 million for the war effort against Israel," Basri said.

"The only way you could leave was to renounce your citizenship."

Many Jews made that choice. From 1949 to 1951, more than 100,000 Iraqi Jews fled to Israel and thousands more went to Iran.

"The [Iraqi government] took away their property and said all they can take out is 50 dinars," Basri said.

For the Jews who remained, life became increasingly precarious. The most notorious example of the plight they faced was the 1969 public hangings of several Jews, which was turned into a national holiday.

"The hangings in 1969 made the world press, but nothing happened about it afterwards," said Davis.

"We just want it to be clear that this is the history. It's the truth told from the people who lived it."

Basri said the oppression of Iraq's Jews laid the foundation for Saddam Hussein's persecution of the country's other ethnic groups.

The Last Jews of Baghdad is the third in a trilogy of productions about Iraqi Jews, following *The Life of Frank Iny: A Granddaughter's Journey* and *Searching for Baghdad: A Daughter's Journey*.

For more information, visit www.lastjewsofbaghdad.com.

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Justice for Jewish refugees too

The fact that the war launched against the nascent State of Israel in 1948 by its neighbouring Arab states created two sets of refugees has been mostly forgotten in the past 30 years. The international community has focused only on the plight of the Arab refugees. But there were Jewish refugees as well.

In 1957, Auguste Lindt, of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed the existence of Jewish refugees in consequence of their flight from Egypt. Ten years later, in 1967, Dr. E Jahn, of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said, "I refer to our recent discussion concerning Jews from Middle Eastern and North African countries… Such persons may be considered *prima facie* within the mandate of this office." And 10 years after that, after the Camp David Accords were signed in 1977, then-U.S. president Jimmy Carter said the Jewish refugees "have the same rights as others do."

Indeed, there were as many as 850,000 Jewish refugees from Arab lands after the founding of the State of Israel. But the international community, will no longer be able to ignore the injustices that were done to them.

Last week, representatives from some 14 international Jewish communities met in Paris to reinvigorate efforts to assert the human rights of the nearly one million Jewish refugees from Arab countries. A campaign to that effect will be launched in March 2006.

Stanley Urman, the executive director of Justice for Jews from Arab Lands, one of the groups that helped convene the Paris gathering, told *The CJN* that the campaign will have two essential elements: "highlighting the mass violation of human rights versus Jews and their flight as refugees and cataloguing individual and communal losses. We found in some of our research a pattern of orchestrated repression… in 10 Arab countries. There were murders, arbitrary detentions and expulsions in all countries."

The Canadian representative in Paris, Bernie Farber, CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress, stated emphatically that "we want this issue on the radar screen." The CJC will follow up on comments made by Prime Minister Paul Martin to *The CJN* last week that "[A] refugee is a refugee." The prime minister said that "we've got to be prepared [to take Jewish claims] into consideration." His statement was as welcome as it was precedent-setting. For no western leader in modern times has put on the record so definitively the need to achieve justice for Jewish refugees from Arab lands.

Security Council 242, which was adopted in 1967 as a framework for finally finding a solution to the Arab-Israel conflict, envisions that Arab *and* Jewish refugee issues would be resolved. It refers to "a just settlement of the refugee problem" without differentiating between Arab and Jewish refugee claims.

Urman told *The CJN* that "Canada could play an important role in pushing for Jewish refugee rights." The forthright pronouncement by the prime minister should be the impetus for that – for helping achieve justice for *all* the refugees of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Jews.

PM's late conclusion about Hamas

Prime Minister Paul Martin should be commended for recognizing Hamas as a terrorist organization ("Hamas are terrorists: Martin," *CJN*, June 9). After all, this group has been on the federal government's banned terrorist list for a few years, and prior to him becoming prime minister.

With the prime minister finally arriving at this conclusion, would it be too much for us to ask Martin and his cabinet ministers to take the next logical step and stop Canadian tax dollars ($10 million annually) from being used to employ Hamas members at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)?

Perhaps the prime minister can go one step further and tell Canadians whether the Liberal government of Canada will recognize Hamas' democratically elected representatives, or will they only recognize and support Fatah's political representatives, as we did when Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas visited Canada recently.

Naresh Raghubeer
Executive Director
Canadian Coalition for Democracies

* * *

German-Israeli relations aren't warm

There is something misleading in the headline of Sheldon Kirshner's piece, "Germany forges warm, complicated ties with Israel," (*CJN*, June 2). Very little in his article suggests the warm relationship between the two countries. In one detail after another, Kirshner relates the German public's consistent rejection of Israel's reasons for its actions in the perpetual war waged against the Jewish state by implacable Islamic foes. In fact, it's the Germans' acceptance of Palestinian propaganda as the real picture that shatters the cozy image of a warm relationship. In addition, Germany's "real concerns" about "some of Israel's policies" chill this correspondent to the bone. Sadly, Germany is no more Israel's friend than France is. As for the relationship, complicated, perhaps. Warm? Hardly.

Nathan Shuster
Toronto

* * *

Saint John's Jews overlooked in book

As principal of a large Toronto supplementary school and as a former Maritimer, I waited with anticipation and excitement for the publication of the Canadian Jewish history book *Telling Our Story: A History of the Jews in Canada to 1920*. In the article "BJE: not the Toronto District School Board" (*CJN*, March 24), the book was described as the fruit of an Etgar project, in which three teachers from different Jewish day schools worked together to produce it. When I finally saw it on the day of its launch, I can only describe my reaction as one of heartbreak and disbelief.

The chapter titled "The Maritimes" consisted of pages, reducing the entire region to the mention of Halifax. When I came to Toronto in the early 1970s, I was appalled by the general ignorance and disinterest of Jewish people who, on hearing that I was from Saint John, N.B., would respond, "Oh, are there really Jews there?" In the year 2005, I am stunned that the authors, editors and Etgar judges of this book would be perpetuating this ignorance in every student who will now be given this book as an official text.

When I think of how little effort was required to do even an adequate job on this section, I could weep. One call to the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC) office in Halifax and one question, "Who can I contact in the various Atlantic provinces to fill me in on the history of their communities?" would have been highly productive. Even one single copy of *Shalom Magazine,* published twice yearly by the AJC, would have given the authors contacts in every community.

Each Atlantic province was host to immigrants disembarking on their shores. The harbours of Saint John and Halifax didn't freeze in the winter, so they could accommodate ships all year round. Partridge Island, just off the harbour in Saint John, had a fully functioning lighthouse and served as a quarantine station much like Ellis Island in New York.

The three main waves of immigration to the East Coast have been traced back almost 200 years. Saint John's award-winning Jewish Historical Museum receives thousands of visitors each summer. This museum has extensive archives, which are used by historians across Canada, and has published *Weaving the Past into the Present: A Glimpse into the 130 Year History of the Saint John Jewish Community*" (1989) by Marica Koven.

I understand that space was limited, but there is a lot more history that Jewish students should know about, even if *Telling Our Story* only goes up to 1920, especially in a country where "None is too many."

The damage this book does in perpetuating the ignorance of our rich cultural heritage and contributions to the Canadian mosaic is a disgrace to its authors and a dishonour to all those who have kept, and continue to keep, our Atlantic communities alive.

Charlotte Koven
Toronto

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Jews come 'home' through Taglit-Birthright Israel

By CHARLES BRONFMAN

In Israel, ideas of independence and birthright are so bound up with each other that the first line of the Declaration of Independence refers not to freedom but to the fact that "Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people."

The special charge of this link underscores the fact that for the majority of Jews, the birthplace of our people is not our current home.

The challenge of sustaining a symbiotic relationship between Israel and world Jewry is synonymous with the challenge of preserving our birthright as Jews, and of nurturing our independence. As is inevitably the case, here too rights translate into responsibilities. Awareness of this special relationship led to the founding of Taglit-Birthright Israel.

Our practical mission has been to enable young Jews from around the world to come "home" to Israel, so they can connect to their historical heritage, experience the rich fabric of life in the Jewish state and, most importantly, meet their peers, who are oh, so very similar and so very different.

Just as there are links between the ideas of birthright and freedom, we operate on the principle that the Jewish people are themselves a series of interlinked chains. If we strengthen one of these links, we strengthen the whole. At the deepest level, we have begun to re-forge the bond between Israel and world Jewry for the next generation.

Years ago, while I was walking in the Old City of Jerusalem, I saw some Israeli children playing in the street. A sense of wonder came over me, and I thought, "Do they understand where they are?" Of course, had I asked them, they would probably have told me that they were home.

I assumed that they were too young to comprehend what a gift Israel was, and my sense of wonder came not only from the awareness of the magnitude of that gift, but from the realization that I, too, was home. Looking back, I think it was that moment that aroused in me a deep desire to promote the unity of the Jewish people, whose soul was and is in Jerusalem.

Today, through Taglit-Birthright Israel, nearly 85,000 young Jews from more than 40 countries have already experienced Israel, thanks to the commitment and hard work of visionary philanthropists, Jewish communities from around the world and Israel. This partnership, focusing on the younger generation as the foundation of the future of the Jewish people, places Israel in the centre of a new, pulsating dynamic with Diaspora Jewry.

"Welcome home." That is the first thing a Taglit-Birthright Israel participant hears when setting foot in Israel for the first time. Whether or not, at that moment, it rings true for him or her, I can assure you that 10 days later, in departing Israel, that person is leaving the home of his or her Jewish soul.

"Stepping into Israel was an amazing feeling," wrote Nurit Roded, who attended Birthright Israel during the 2002-03 winter session. "This was a place I had always learned about and read about and heard stories about, but it was always sort of abstract. I never really thought about what Israel was and what it meant. It all became clear to me within the first few days of my trip."

What is abundantly clear is that Taglit-Birthright Israel works, and that its impact lasts, because it is anything but abstract. Through *mifgashim* (encounters), on an eye-to-eye level, between more than 10,000 young Israelis – primarily Israel Defence Forces officers and soldiers from elite units – and busload after busload of young Jews from around the world, we have created thousands of real relationships that were not there before.

We are encouraging Diaspora Jewry to make their physical and spiritual engagement with Israel a core element of their Jewish identity. Studies of Taglit-Birthright Israel participants show that four years after the experience, feeling connected to Israel and to the Jewish people are the most prominent effects of the trip.

We have also supported Israel's economy through troubled times, with progressive increases in numbers of participants despite the collapse of tourism to Israel. In fact, Taglit-Birthright Israel is the biggest tour operator for incoming tourism in the country, responsible for many hundreds of millions of shekels in revenues.

The impact of these trips is not solely on the visitors. The 12,000 Israelis involved to date are equally transformed by the encounter. Four out of five Israelis now believe that the government should invest in embracing the young generation of the Diaspora. The IDF tells us that participation in *mifgashim* has become an important educational aspect of military service.

As it turns out, some of the most profound feelings of connection are forged from the sudden realization that, despite their similarities in appearance, worldview or even tastes in music, there's a vast difference in experience among these peers.

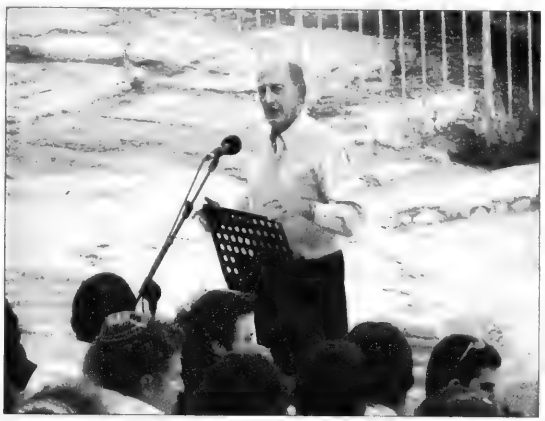
I was on Ammunition Hill on one of these trips when the group was learning about the 1967 Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem. The *madrich* asked how many of them knew someone who had died violently. Only one of the American kids raised a hand; every one of the Israelis had lost someone in war or a terrorist experience. That knowledge seared the souls of the non-Israelis, and drew everyone closer.

"Before, I was flying for Israel," said one F-16 pilot. "Now, I understand that I am flying for the Jewish people."

Our vision at Taglit-Birthright Israel is to ensure the continued connection of the Jewish people by strengthening Jewish meaning, identity and community. Why does Taglit-Birthright Israel work so well? The experience is both immediate and rich with history, which makes the educational aspect relevant, with personal connections and powerful Jewish values.

Simply put, Jews the world over need one another. Disconnected, we fall. United, we stand forever.

Charles Bronfman is the founder of Taglit-Birthright Israel.



Charles Bronfman speaking to the Canadian birthrighters on June 3 outside the walls of the old city of Jerusalem. [UIAC photo]

Some of the Canadian participants in the Birthright Israel program May 30 — June 8. [UIAC photos]

March distorts Poland's image

The March of the Living, which for the last 18 years has taken some 100,000 young Jews to Poland for Yom Hashoah and then to Israel for Yom Ha'atzmaut, strengthens the participants' Jewish identity. The experience has brought many of them closer to Judaism and the Jewish people.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

But the project, admirable though it is, has its flaws and we would be doing it a disservice by ignoring them.

An obvious flaw is the potential distortion of Jewish theology. Taking the participants from Auschwitz to Jerusalem has, I fear, left many with the impression that the Holocaust somehow validates Israel. But Israel does not need such validation and the horrors of the Shoah defy simplistic explanations, however patriotically couched.

Another flaw is in the misrepresentation of Jewish history. From the beginning, Polish Jews, especially the young, were dismayed that their peers from abroad considered them renegades because they live in Poland. The visitors failed to see that, despite the terrible past, some Polish Jews are bound to the land and the culture of their birth. In this respect, they are not different from Jews elsewhere in the Diaspora. In recent years, the disdain from abroad seems to have been toned down. Nowadays, some young Poles, Jews and non-Jews, even join the March.

But too little is still being done to show that many, especially young, non-Jewish Poles, are anxious to learn from the past and keen to stem the tide of anti-Semitism. Without wishing to deny the prevalence of anti-Jewish sentiments in today's Poland – as in virtually all other countries, especially in Europe – we must also acknowledge the valiant efforts by many Poles to fight it. The Canadian contingent has been one of still too few delegations trying to bring together March participants with their Polish peers.

The Polish government – which, together with its German counterpart, is probably Israel's best advocate in the European Union – is said to have complained about the harmful effect the unbalanced approach of the March has on Polish-Jewish and Polish-Israeli relations. The government of Israel has taken note, for it values its ties with the new Poland.

Recently, too, Israeli scholars have urged March organizers to make the participants aware of the more than 800 years of Jewish history and creativity in Poland. For it is not only a land of catastrophe. Most Ashkenazi Jews come from Polish territories. The roots of their rich heritage must not be forgotten.

The March of the Living, like most other visits to Poland, is potentially a good educational tool. The challenge of those responsible is not to squander the opportunities by clouding them in obsolete ideology and thoughtless prejudice. Canadian Jewry could show the way.

Non-Jewish marchers taught me a lot

I have a bit of an insecurity about being typical. I don't like to be a typical girlfriend or a typical punk rock or hip hop fan, and I love to play the devil's advocate.

I realized the real extent of that insecurity when I found that my anticipation of the March of the Living was weighted with a worry that my expectations for a typical March experience would come true.

Jessica Apter in Vancouver

Without at all denying the importance of the major and obvious lessons to be learned from the March of the Living – and despite the wisdom of the words of a close friend, who reminded me that clichés become clichés because they represent universal ideas – my trip to Poland and Israel with other Jewish and non-Jewish Canadian university students left me with impressions that surprised me and will never be forgotten.

What was perhaps most unique about my experience is that some of the most profound moments of the two-week trip occurred because of the presence of the non-Jewish students participating in the cross-Canada multicultural student track of the program, a first for the March of the Living.

While I can definitely understand where my Jewish peers were coming from when they expressed discomfort at their presence in a very nationalistically, emotionally and historically significant setting, I felt just the opposite. In fact, I drew quite a bit of strength from the fact these students, some of whom hadn't previously met many Jews, would travel from Canada to Poland for a less-than-joyous trip, marching alongside 18,000 Jews in commemoration of our grandparents, great-grandparents and children who died 60 years ago.

But in two significant ways, they also helped make concrete my understanding of the phrase "Never again" and the importance of learning and teaching about the Holocaust.

First, I was able to witness how visiting Poland led them to understand the historical uniqueness of the Holocaust and gave them increased sensitivity in their understanding of Zionism and how it's tied to being Jewish.

Second, while we Jews were understandably focused on yearning for a glimpse of our families' pre-Holocaust lives and mourning our lost relatives, they had the unique ability to look outside their immediate surroundings. They reminded us about the genocides occurring today and our responsibility as humans to act against them. They helped me realize the difference between Holocaust education for the sake of Holocaust education – a circle I sometimes find myself in – and Holocaust education for the sake of bettering the world.

But these students did more than provide a unique perspective and demonstrate solidarity, compassion and understanding. Most importantly, and without realizing it, they also helped me learn an important lesson about my Jewish identity. In the past, I took being Jewish for granted. In my circles, there was a stigma attached to Israeli and Jewish singing, dancing, and even prayer – never mind that I'm tone deaf and self-conscious about these things.

For Shabbat in Poland, the ruach I felt in and around me surpassed anything I had ever felt before. Perhaps it was because we all needed a release from the weight of the previous week, or maybe it was our intense desire to recreate, for one Shabbat, the experiences of our great-grandparents and the Jewish spirit and energy that once thrived in Europe.

Amazed at the sights of a crowd-surfing Orthodox rabbi and hundreds of Jews spilling out of a hotel into the streets of Warsaw in song and dance, as well as a post-dinner "tish" of drinking and storytelling, some of the non-Jewish students approached me to say that if Christianity were as much fun as Judaism, they would be the most religious Christians ever. They also asked if there would be another chance to dance more.

At that moment, I realized just how much about my religion I had taken for granted, and I decided to make a conscious effort to abandon my inhibitions when it comes to spirituality.

My March of the Living experience was indeed far from typical, and I am indebted to those students who helped me see it from the outside in, so that I could so deeply benefit both the academically and spiritually.

Tales from a solo traveller

Baguettes and brie, champagne and patisserie – it is a difficult life I must endure. Okay, not quite. It is my third week in Paris, and I have already become accustomed to leisurely afternoons in cafes and some of the most beautiful surroundings one could imagine.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

Last night, I was sitting in bed and all of a sudden it hit me: I have graduated university, and in the fall, I will start law school. The best part, though, is that for the next four weeks, I am totally on my own exploring Europe's most beautiful cities, with all the time in the world to reflect on everything that has happened so quickly over the past four years.

And while there is time for reflection and analysis, there is also time for pure, unadulterated enjoyment.

As I walk through the varied arrondissements of Paris, a building, statue or monument captures my eye with its beauty, history and character every few minutes.

This city is magnificent. Every corner has something to offer. The opulence of the Opéra Garnier and the grandeur of the Champs Elysées, the character of the Marais (complete with kosher delis and falafel stands) and the daily life in the XVth arrondissement where I live – every corner has something different for me to enjoy.

I spend my days (after French class of course!) wandering through the Paris neighbourhoods. After a year of going non stop, constantly running from obligation to obligation, surrounded by familiar faces and places, I am taking full advantage of the opportunity to be wholly independent in a totally foreign place.

Of course, there are times when I wonder what I'm doing over here all by myself. I am living with a Frenchwoman who does not speak a word of English. We have dinner every night and we do our best to communicate and fill in the blanks left by idiomatic expressions and obscure vocabulary.

It is a great experience and ideal for French immersion, but there are moments when you just want to be understood, when you want your creature comforts and your privacy. So this summer continues to be a tremendous learning experience, as I not only adapt to a different culture, but find a means of feeling at home in it.

Forget the comments you've heard about Paris being wonderful except for the French – we've all heard them. I have found that people are helpful and friendly and willing to tolerate bad, flawed French, even helping with grammatical and syntactical errors. The average Jacques on the street is more than willing to offer directions. Even when dressed in a suit, he is not consumed by an all-encompassing need to "get somewhere," as is often the case in downtown Toronto.

What is perhaps most interesting is to experience a city that so powerfully embraces its own culture and history. In Canada, whether we live in Toronto, Halifax or elsewhere, we are in an immigrant country with no real Canadian culture to celebrate – or so I would argue. And while I am not naive about Paris's lack of ethnic tolerance, there is a positive aspect of cultural pride that, as a Canadian, I find it interesting to experience.

Every building here is rich with history. Sitting in the Théâtre du Champs Elysées, I participated in the audience's vociferous call for an encore at the end of a symphony thinking that in the very same theatre, audiences revolted against Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, a revolutionary composition and ballet that shocked audiences.

Of course, you may say, this is the case with all old cities, but for one who is not so well-travelled, yet educated in history and culture, it is really a tremendous experience to connect with these historic places and all that transpired – good and bad – within their walls.

In less than a week, I will be off to Italy and then Spain. I can now begin to understand why travelling has come to be a rite of passage following graduation. Thrown out into the world with a degree and – supposedly – a head full of knowledge, we experience something new that allows for a little digestion and a little pause – both needed during this period of crazy transition.

The Kirshner File

Russians change Germany's Jewish community

Yuri Rosov, Valerie Bunimov and Ekatarina (Katya) Epstein represent the new face of Germany's burgeoning Jewish community. They are among the 200,000 Russians who have immigrated to Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union just two years later. Before these historic events, Germany was home to a declining community of some 30,000 Jews, the vast majority from eastern and central Europe. But once the floodgates opened, Germany, wracked by guilt over its role in the Holocaust, granted the Soviet emigrants – half of whom were not halachically Jewish and some of whom were not even Jewish – the right of immigration and generous welfare benefits.

Sheldon Kirshner in Rostock

And though some of these rights were curtailed in January, Jews from the former Soviet Union, mainly Russia and Ukraine, continue pouring into the country. According to Jan Muhlstein, the director of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, a further 27,000 Soviet Jews have been given permission to immigrate under the old regulations, while an additional 20,000 already have filed applications. Stefan Szajak, the longtime director of Frankfurt's Jewish community, expects 100,000 more Russian Jews to settle in Germany in the next decade.

This remarkable influx has catapulted German Jewry, with 89 separate communities, into the third-largest and fastest-growing Jewish community in western Europe. It is a development that astounds no less a figure than the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Paul Spiegel. "No one, but no one, would have believed in 1945 that there could ever be Jewish life in Germany again." A community the Nazis destroyed has arisen from the ashes of the Holocaust.

Many of the new immigrants, particularly the older ones, have had problems learning the language, finding jobs and fitting in. But they have definitely left an imprint, as they have in Israel, Canada and the United States. "They've enriched our community," said Salomon Korn, the 61-year-old Polish-born vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. "They've brought in new blood."

His assessment is widely shared. "They can make a very big contribution," observed Micha Brumlik, a Frankfurt university philosophy professor. "They will form the community's new leadership." Szajak, who was born in Poland, noted, "They're a cultural asset and better educated than the Jews from eastern Europe."

A sizable proportion of the newly arrived emigrants, who now comprise 80 per cent of Jews in Germany, dwell in the eastern states, or *lander*, which were part and parcel of East Germany – a Marxist state – prior to reunification in 1990. In a few cities there, the Jewish population is actually higher than it was prior to the Nazi era. In an attempt to learn more about these newcomers, I visited two such communities, Rostock and Schwerin, both in the economically depressed state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Yet Soviet Jews also live in Dresden, Chemnitz, Erfurt and other cities in this corner of Germany.

Once a prosperous Hanseatic federation port and much later East Germany's main outlet to the Baltic Sea, Rostock, with 200,000 residents, was in decline when the first Russians appeared in the 1990s. From 103 Jews in 1994, the Jewish population had climbed to 674 by last month, surpassing the pre-1933 total. Under the Nazi regime, life was bleak. The Moorish-style synagogue, finished in 1897, was destroyed by fire on Kristallnacht in 1938. The remaining Jews were deported to Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Riga. Arnold Bernhard, the community's last Nazi-era president, died in a gas chamber in 1944.

Rosov, the community's 44-year-old president, said that 100 per cent of its inhabitants hail from the former Soviet Union and 50 per cent are in mixed marriages and possess little or no knowledge about Judaism and Jewish customs. He arrived eight years ago with his wife and two children, aged 13 and 19, to escape the rising tide of Ukrainian nationalism, which sometimes spilled into outright anti-Semitism, and to ensure a brighter future for his family. He has no qualms about living in a country that demonized and murdered Jews, believing he is completely safe here.

A playwright back in Crimea, he currently works for the community centre's Jewish theatre. That he is still a Ukrainian citizen is hardly unusual. Only 10 to 15 Soviet Jews in Rostock – the biggest city in northeastern Germany – have acquired German citizenship. Seventy per cent hold university degrees, but that has not helped them obtain gainful employment, or escape the welfare rolls. Their job skills, their difficulty in mastering German and their age structure – 33 percent are 61 or older – work against them. "Many are very disappointed," said Rosov. Ilona Jerjomin, a Russian-speaking German employed by the community, said, "Some came here with big illusions."

Young Russians, however, have no such problems and are adapting to German society. Rostock's mayor, Roland Methling, welcomes them all. As he told me, "We are proud to have this community in our city, and we are doing everything to help them." The immigrants are eligible for subsidized housing and German-language lessons and, if jobless, can apply for special stipends. Methling claimed that neo-Nazism, which roiled Rostock immediately after German reunification, has virtually faded away.

Rostock's all-purpose Jewish community centre, which contains a shul, Sunday school and library, was refurbished by the municipality. Members can join a choir, a dance group or a visual arts circle. Prayer services are led by William Wolff, an itinerant rabbi originally from Britain who also ministers to the religious needs of 1,000 Jews in Schwerin, a picturesque town of 115,0000 famous for its quaint half-timbered buildings.

Valerie Bunimov

Yuri Rosov

[Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Bunimov, a 57-year-old electrical engineer who immigrated to Germany from Kharkov 11 years ago, said that Jews in Schwerin are ex-Soviets like himself. Amazingly enough, Schwerin's Jewish population is higher today than it was during the heyday of the Weimar Republic, said Bunimov, who was driven to emigrate by anti-Semitism and by a desire to improve his children's prospects.

As in Rostock, most of Schwerin's Jewish residents have yet to attain German citizenship, lack employment, are 60 or older and have non-Jewish wives or husbands. "Only 10 percent of our able-bodied people have jobs," lamented Bunimov, whose own employment record in Germany has been spotty. "Members of our community will take any job," said Adolf Schien, a 77-year-old pensioner from Odessa. Not surprisingly, Bunimov takes fatherly pride in the fact that his 28-year-old son, Viktor, is a research assistant in computer science at a university in Kiel, in Schleswig-Holstein.

Bunimov decided to settle in Germany because Israel's climate fazed him and because he calculated that his chances of getting into the United States or Canada were slim. To him, Germany's Nazi past was not problematic, even though his grandmother's relatives were murdered during the Holocaust. He chose eastern rather than western Germany because the shorter waiting period enabled him to emigrate sooner rather than later.

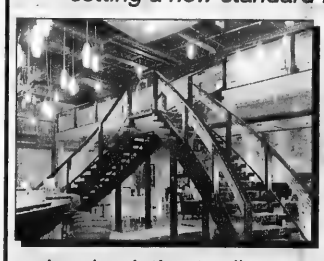
Since the passage of new immigration rules nearly six months ago – which place more emphasis on German-language skills and job qualifications and funnel a greater proportion of Jews to Israel – fewer Jewish immigrants have settled in Schwerin. Bunimov hopes that negotiations between the ministry of interior and the Central Council of Jews in Germany will restore lost privileges. He thinks Germany has a special obligation to Jewish immigrants. "You can't compare Jews with asylum seekers from, say, Vietnam."

Acknowledging that the new rules have drastically cut Jewish immigration, Korn said Israel pressed Germany to adopt the new guidelines. Last year, for the first time, Germany absorbed more Soviet Jews than Israel, a development that shocked Israelis.

Many kilometres away from Schwerin, in Hamburg, Felix Epstein, a retired 68-year-old shipbuilding engineer from St. Petersburg, looked back in reflection. He left Russia 13 years ago with the conviction that his 33-year-old daughter, Ekatarina, had no future there. He and his wife live in a modest flat in Bramfeld, a working-class area of Hamburg. "I had problems with Germany's history, but this is a new, democratic Germany."

Ekatarina, a Red Cross economist who resides in the leafy Hamburg suburb of Harburg, feels anything but German. " Maybe, after the Holocaust, a Jew can't be a German," she mused. A graduate of the University of Hamburg who would rather have gone to the United States or Israel, she considers herself a European and only a "guest" in her adopted country. Nonetheless, she feels pretty much at home in Germany, the destination of choice of increasing numbers of Soviet Jews.

setting a new standard in dining elegance



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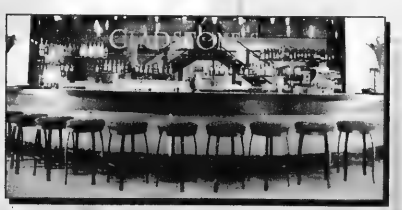

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Jewish Toronto

Volunteers make the Walk with Israel run

Over 800 community members lend a helping hand for popular event

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

This year's UJA Federation Walk with Israel brought out 15,000 people to celebrate Israel and all her achievements. Logistically, it is no small task to maneuver such a large crowd through seven kilometers of downtown Toronto, while arranging a festival at Ontario Place with refreshments and activities to finish the Walk. Only through the dedicated time and energy of over 800 volunteers is the improbable made possible.

Arthur (Rosy) Rosenzweig has been volunteering at the Walk with Israel for the last 15 years. He is quick to point out that he is merely one small player in a team of over 40 individuals assembled to run the barbeque portion of the RioCan Festival. For 15 years, Rosenzweig's team has been coordinating the barbeque station like a well rehearsed dance, cooking 4,500 beef and veggie dogs, doling out bags of chips and thousands of cans of pop.

"I started out volunteering at the Walk because I'm in the ice cream business and I own refrigerated trucks," Rosenzweig explained. "Fifteen years ago, I turned up with one of my trucks to help transport all the hotdogs and I haven't stopped since. Our whole group looks forward to this all year. It is a fabulous experience."

Ashley Greenberg, 16, has volunteered at the Walk for the last three years. She got involved through a family friend and intends to continue her commitment.

"I worked at the prize booth this year at the RioCan Festival," Greenberg explained. "It's a lot of fun and I love to see the whole community come out and participate. I always bring a friend to get involved too. It's a great event."

Jenny Eisenstein, who has been involved with UJA for the last 20 years, has been volunteering with her sister Regina at the Walk for almost as long. Both sisters, now in their 70s, are Holocaust survivors, having endured the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Before the war in Zagliember, a province of Poland, the sisters were ardent Zionists involved in youth groups where they studied Hebrew and learned literature, songs and poetry.

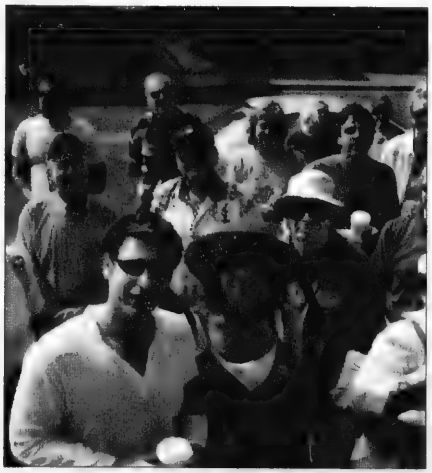
"Israel is the most important thing in my life," Jenny said. "I remember after the war in 1948, I was in Sweden and we were glued to our radios listening with our hearts beating intensely, praying for Israel's independence. I have been to Israel many times since. I am a singer and I have performed there as well. Israel was all we ever thought about."

This year the Walk with Israel, which was led by Toronto's Chief of Police, Bill Blair, raised approximately $350,000 which will go toward UJA Federation's annual campaign.

(l-r) David Stokes, Jenny Eisenstein, Morris Flicht and Regina Eisenstein at this year's Walk with Israel.

Getting a sense of Spadina

Thirty historically-minded individuals recently got a sense of Spadina during a 90 minute walking tour of the old Jewish neighborhood of Kensington Market in downtown Toronto. The tour on June 5 was a joint venture of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and UJA Federation's Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA), which has been offering Sense of Spadina tours for over 30 years. The remaining tour dates include: June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21, September 25 and October 16. To register for a tour, call the OJA @ 416-635-2883 ext. 170 or e-mail: OJA@ujafed.org *(Photo by Ilana Hirt)*



Paul Penna Jewish Day School honours David Green

The Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School recently held a gala celebrating the downtown Jewish community, while honouring one of its greatest champions, David Green. The gala, chaired by Michaele-Sue Goldblat, Jodi Tanenbaum and Vivienne Ziner, offered attendees a theatrical presentation including appearances by the Whiteley Brothers Band, Sophie Milman and Brent Carver well known for his role in the theatrical production of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, to name just a few. The event raised $160,000, surpassing its original fundraising goal.

Green was a fitting honouree for the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School as he was born on Major Street in the Annex (Bloor and Spadina) and still lives in this neighborhood. More importantly, Green was deeply involved in the transformation of the Bloor JCC into its recent incarnation as the Miles Nadal JCC.

"David is supportive, generous and loving," Elysa Cohen, principal of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, explained. "He has given so much of himself for this project and, in turn, to our school. He has gone above and beyond giving of his time and energy. We are eternally grateful."

As head of the building committee, Green was directly involved in the construction and renovations of the old JCC, solidifying the Miles Nadal JCC as the heart and cornerstone of the downtown Jewish community.

"David has been a part of the downtown core forever," Goldblat noted to an audience of invited guests and patrons. "We are thrilled to honour David this evening."

David Green, Daphne Wagner, and children Lita and Mikey

"We celebrate David as a visionary," City Councilor Olivia Chow said. "As a prominent Toronto business leader, his contribution to the economic growth and development of our great city exemplifies the importance of giving back and contributing to the cultural and spiritual vibrancy of our communities."

"You can't accomplish this type of project on your own; there are many people who did so much to contribute to the success of the centre," said Green. "I am just a figurehead; everybody did something. I just got lucky. I got to be the poster boy."

Membership at the centre is up beyond expectations from 1,800 individuals to 2,600 and Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School enrollment stands at a thriving 100 children.

"You do what you think is right for a community," Green continued. "I am fortunate that I had the right contacts and the time to put into the project. It was very important to me to step up to the plate and do what I could. I am glad that I did."

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

David Engel elected chair of UJA Federation Board

New leadership ready to meet community challenges

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

David Engel and David Koschitzky will be leading UJA Federation of Greater Toronto for the next two years as chair and vice chair of the Board. Engel replaces outgoing chair Leslie Gales. He was acclaimed for his new position at last week's UJA Federation Annual General Meeting featuring Alon Pinkas, Israel's former Consul General in New York.

Engel, who began his career with UJA Federation in 1978 as the chair of its Young Leadership Division, and who has held many volunteer positions within the organization, outlined some of his priorities.

David Engel

Leslie Gales

"Jewish education is what differentiates our community from so many, and we have to ensure that standards of education are always increasing," said Engel. "We must strive to make it as accessible as possible to all members of our community. Also, it is my goal to renew our relationship with the greater community and in particular, our agencies. We must open a two-way dialogue as to the issues facing our community and how to improve them. We must focus on community building and make the Federation a resource for all."

"To work with David Engel is a wonderful opportunity," said UJA Federation's new vice-chair, David Koschitzky. "He has such a tremendous grasp on the issues facing our community today."

Gales, was instrumental in getting Jewish Toronto Tomorrow and the Tomorrow Campaign off the ground. Through the Tomorrow Campaign UJA Federation is creating three new campuses fro Jewish life in the Greater Toronto Area.

"The past two years have truly been an extraordinary life learning experience," she said. "Most inspiring for me is the passion, the commitment and the time spent by our volunteers; everyone trying to make a difference within our community. Their enthusiasm and dedication have been the driving forces that pushed Toronto's Federation on to the world stage. There wasn't one single day when I failed to realize how privileged I am and how privileged we are, as a strong, collective community."

David Koschitzky

"We are a very fortunate community to have been blessed with the visionary and inspirational leadership of Leslie Gales over these past years," said UJA Federation president, Ted Sokolsky. "They have been exciting and dynamic years for Jewish Toronto and UJA Federation. Leslie's drive and passion have taught us all to think big and plan well. And what's so exciting is that I know first hand that David Engel will continue that tradition."

Neil Nisker honoured as She'arim celebrates 25 years

A unique and important community institution celebrated its 25th anniversary recently by honouring a man known for his contributions to Jewish families throughout Toronto.

More than 400 guests attended Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School's 25th anniversary celebration, which also paid tribute to Neil Nisker, chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the endowment arm of UJA Federation.

She'arim - a Board of Jewish Education affiliated school - is Canada's first and only Jewish day school for children with learning disabilities, located in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

"The real reason I humbly accepted this honour was because She'arim was one of the first organizations in the community to set up an endowment fund under the umbrella of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto," said Nisker. "Tonight is about the celebration of a great school and what it does. Tonight is about celebrating generosity of spirit, acts of kindness, and our people's long-honoured tradition of tzedekah."

Neil Nisker

"Neil's passion for philanthropy and his commitment to community have made him an outstanding leader," says Carol Kassel, director of the Jewish Foundation. "He has developed a very strong philanthropic base for us which combines good business principles with creative planning for the future. It is our hope that he will continue to remain an active member of our board when his term is over on June 30."

Thanks in large part to Nisker's expertise, the Foundation assets currently exceed $125 million in endowments, and another $100 million in known bequests.

"Neil helped us establish the Sara and Sam Hennick Endowment Fund at the Jewish Foundation approximately four years ago, when we moved into our BJCC location," says Faigie Davids, executive director of She'arim. "He even suggested an innovative approach to the annual tribute dinner, dividing the proceeds between the school and their endowment fund, which will ensure future stability for She'arim. Neil has always been a dynamic and well-respected visionary, with a great sensitivity to, and awareness of, all types of disabilities."

Young philanthropists ensure the future of the community

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation's endowment arm, wants parents and their children who are of Bar and Bat Mitvah age to think beyond the big parties and gifts. Through the Foundation's B'nai Tzedek program, teens can open their own endowment funds with $1,000, learning, at the same time, tangible lessons about working to improve Jewish life in Toronto, Israel and the world.

At a recent inaugural event to introduce the program to a new crop of B'nai mitvot, 20 teens were given the opportunity to allocate $1,000 toward the agencies they felt most needed the money. Gerry Richler, an endowment fundholder, and father of Andrew, who is celebrating his Bar Mitzvah, donated the seed money in an effort to inspire and motivate these teens into a life-long habit of giving.

"I have been involved with UJA as a lay person for a long time and I have worked in allocations," he explained. "It is really important to get the next generation of kids committed to philanthropic endeavors. The earlier we get them involved the easier it will be to find our next leadership. As we nurture our children and educate them, we are ensuring the strong future of our community."

The significance of deciding which initiatives to fund was not lost on these teens. The exercise gave them a deeper understanding of where the money UJA raises goes and how difficult the process can be.

Teens who participated in the inaugural B'nai Tzedek program, presented with a plaque for their commitment to youth philanthropy

"It was not easy deciding on where to put the money, to come to a consensus with the group and to figure out which organizations were more deserving," B'nai Tzedek Daniel Hendler, co-chair along with Kady Goldlist, explained. "It was a great learning experience."

The program also educated the teens about how their own Bar/Bat Mitzvah endowment funds can empower them as decision-makers in the community, giving them a voice about funding projects that are meaningful to them.

"Philanthropy is a really great thing, and this program allows you to get started early so that you can watch your fund grow, each year adding a bit more," Hendler continued. "It just feels good to help people and organizations in need."

For more information about the B'nai Tzedek program, contact Angela D'Aversa @ 416-631-5833 or e-mail adaversa@ujafed.org

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Environmentalist attempts to lure people to green side

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

If Israeli attitudes about saving the environment are going to improve, efforts must be made to show average citizens the connection between social justice and environmental concerns, says Momo Mahadav, the director of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI).

Mohadav, who began his career as a social worker, has expertise in both fields, and hopes to build a relationship between the two issues and engage more Israelis in the fight to save the environment.

The New Israel Fund of Canada, organizers of the event at Sy and Barbara Landau's home where Mohadav spoke, is usually more concerned with issues of democracy, freedom, justice and equality, but felt that environmental issues are not much of a departure from the organization's ideals.

"What I'm trying to work on is explaining more to people inside and outside Israel that the environmental movement is much more now than just protecting nature and rare species," Mohadav said.

Director of Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel visits Toronto

As an example of how social justice issues can be linked to environmental hazards, he told less than two dozen people about what he considers one of SPNI's greatest accomplishments.

The organization was able to help transform the landfill near the Ben Gurion international airport into a park twice the size of Central Park in New York City.

"Until five years ago, [the landfill] was one of Israel's largest and most visible environmental hazards," he said.

"All the residents of southern Tel Aviv, the less affluent residents of Tel Aviv, were the ones suffering from that landfill. The smells that came from the mountain [of garbage] and the poor image that the residents suffered – you can't disconnect the environmental problem with the social aspect of that problem."

Five years ago, Mohadav explained, the Israeli government decided to shut down the landfill and had ideas about what they were going to do with the space. Eventually, they decided to turn the area into a huge metropolitan park.

Because the park was slated for the area, there was heavy interest for developers to begin construction there to increase the density around Tel Aviv.

"We fought that intention, we fought the real estate developers, and we backed up the government…By the way, we won a unanimous approval. It was amazing. The national planning council for Israel all voted for the park and they all came out of that meeting with high spirits and that never happens."

For Mohadav this was a victory in two ways. Not only was he able to achieve his goal of turning a dump into a park, but he was able to get average citizens to act to elicit change.

"The residents around the park in Tel Aviv rallied for the park. For us, it was six years of strategy materializing."

He added that environmentalists need to learn to be more accessible to the little guys.

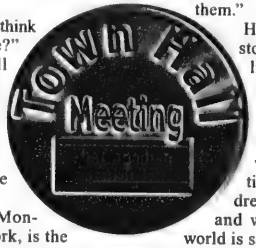
Greater Toronto Area

'Social entrepreneurs' change the world

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Author David Bornstein is much less pessimistic about the state of the world than the majority of his audience at a recent Toronto event.

"How many people here think the world is getting worse?" he asked at a Town Hall meeting on "How to Change the World," which was sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News* at the Barbara Frum Library. Most of the 60 or so people there raised their hands.



Bornstein, a native of Montreal now based in New York, is the author of *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas.*

Avrum Rosensweig, founder of Ve'ahavta – The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, who also spoke at the meeting, "embodies the stories" that Bornstein chronicled in his book, said *CJN* editor Mordechai Ben-Dat, who moderated the event.

Bornstein, who will be speaking again in Toronto at a Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) event June 16, outlined several little-known stories, including that of the Grameen Bank, the subject of his first book. The Bangladeshi institution pioneered the concept of "micro-credit," lending small amounts of money to poverty-stricken women.

David Bornstein and Avrum Rosensweig

Typically, the loans – in the order of $70 to $80 a year, to be repaid at the rate of $1 to $2 a week – would finance the purchase of a cow or rickshaw, which allowed the borrowers to move to "much less oppressive poverty." That way their families could have three meals a day instead of one or two, could have a tin roof over their house, would be able to grow vegetables (thus improving their nutrition), and could send their daughters to school, he said.

Since 1991, when Bornstein first went to Bangladesh, the number of borrowers dealing with the bank has grown from 500,000 to 4.5 million. Also, he noted, the idea of micro-credit has spread to more than 3,000 organizations in 100 countries.

"More than 70 million families are now benefiting from this idea."

The Grameen Bank was started not by government, but by a person, Bornstein said. "I came to understand that this person was what I call a social entrepreneur, a person who has all the qualities of an entrepreneur, but instead of building a business to generate profit builds an organization to solve social problems."

In his travels to places like India, Poland, South Africa and Brazil, Bornstein interviewed 100 social entrepreneurs and found that they are "springing up like wildflowers. There are literally hundreds of thousands of new organizations being started every year... and we never hear about them."

He said if people heard more stories like that of Jeroo Billimoria – an Indian woman who founded an organization to help street children, which has spread to 55 cities across India – "it would affect the conversations we have with our children, the careers we choose, and whether we feel that the world is safe or not."

Bornstein, a former computer programmer, said that if he were graduating today he would want to work with social entrepreneurs. The growing field also offers "a great opportunity" for retirees to contribute.

His aunt, who started a referral centre for fellow residents of her large New York apartment complex at age 77, is an inspiration to him, he said. At age 91, she is still involved with the project.

Rosensweig, a native of Kitchener, Ont., and the son of a rabbi, said he learned from his parents the importance of reaching out to the stranger. "I was brought up in a household where our door was always open to other people.

"We have to figure out why so many people are not taking the responsibility to make the world change," he said. "It's a very tough question."

At Ve'ahavta, he said, he has "the great honour of walking through the front door of my office every day, and dealing with the good side of humankind."

He admits he doesn't know whether evil can be eradicated. "But I do know that the louder the voice of goodness is, the weaker the voice of evil will be."

Rosensweig said there's no question in his mind that "if we make a decision to change the world, stop the war in Sudan, solve the problem of homelessness, that we would come up with that solution. The question is, do we have the will to do it?"

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Gone with the Grodtizinskys

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

One of the more durable myths of Jewish genealogy is the notion that names were commonly changed at Ellis Island or – in the Canadianized version – at Pier 21 in Halifax.

Despite what Great Aunt Sophie once told you, surnames rarely underwent transformation at Ellis Island or Pier 21. Immigration officers at both sites usually worked from written lists of arrivals compiled by ships' pursers. Perhaps they occasionally smoothed over the orthography of a difficult name, but they otherwise left the Cherkofskys, Horodetskys and Lazerovitches alone.

Roots & Remembrance

Canadian officials recorded immigrant names with particular care, knowing that aliens wishing to become citizens were required to apply for naturalization under the exact name used upon landing. At least until 1945 and probably until much later, federal officials routinely checked landing records of naturalization applicants.

In Ontario, people wishing a legal change of name were required to publish their intentions in the Ontario Gazette and elsewhere; submit affidavits listing birth, marriage, mother's maiden name, immigration and other personal details to the provincial court; then go before a judge to make it legal. While much of this paperwork has regrettably been destroyed, some still exists, for example in the York County Matter Files that are accessible through the Ontario Archives.

These files preserve background documentation for hundreds of name changes after 1939. Even when the files were destroyed, judges' order books retain an abridged record of the proceedings.

The following name changes are among many recorded in these musty handwritten judicial volumes from the 1940s:

Abramovitz to Abrams; Applebaum to Allen; Barenbaum to Barron; Bernstein to Burns; Bloomin to Brown; Blumenthal to Allan; Birenbaum to Ferguson; Borinsky to Borins; Borisofsky to Barris.

Cadesky to Cadsby; Cherkofsky to Chambers, Charles and Chesney; Chikofsky to Charles; Chitransky to Chester; Cohen to Cochin, Cole, Collins, Coltin, Conway and Cowan; Davidowitz to Daniels; Drapkin to Draper; Eichenbaum to Aiken; Enushevsky to Ennis; Finkelstein to Fink.

Garfunkel to Garfield; Ginsberg to Gilbert and Gilmore; Grabowsky to Gray; Granofsky to Grant and Gray; Grodtizinsky to Gardner; Greenspon to Green; Greifenstein to Griffin; Grunevsky to Green; Horodisky to Harris; Horwitz to Howard; Jolensky to Jordan.

Kamenski to Cummins; Kapatz to Kay; Katzenberg to Kenton; Katzman to Kay; Kershenbaum to Dalkin; Kestenberg to Keystone, Miller; Kirshenzweig to Kirsh; Koruntoff to Kearns; Kovinsky to Kovin; Kravkosky to Kray; Krawietz to Taylor; Krushilnisky to Krush.

Labovitch to Lebow, Leyton; Lapshinoff to Lapp; Layefsky to Laine; Lazerovitch to Lazer; Lipshitz to Lipsett; Litowitz to Little; Lubinsky to Lubin; Lutrofsky to Luther; Mandelkin to Mandel; Mechefski to Milton; Mersky to Merson; Morganstern to Morgan; Moscowitz to Moscow; Muldofsky to Melvin.

Nikolaevsky to Nicholls; Osheroff to Sheriff; Ostrofsky to Austin; Papernick to Pape; Paskowitz to Pascoe; Persovsky to Pearson; Pokotolowsky to Lofsky; Rabinowitz to Robbin; Rappaport to Rapp; Rosenberg to Roberts; Rotenberg to Raymond; Rotstein to Rolston; Rutmanovitz to Ross.

Salzberg to Sales; Schildkraut to Sheldon; Schnitlick to Saunders; Schwartzentruber to Brent; Shapiro to Sharpe; Shendalman to Jackson; Shimpolsky to Simpson; Shlislelheim to Shelson; Shniffer to Smither; Shushan to Shane; Silverman to Andrews; Sishlosky to Chesley; Slobodnick to Slater; Slotkin to Slater; Snitman to Lewis; Spiegelberg to Spiers; Stein to Sten; Sukloff to Sutcliffe.

Tarnovsky to Turner; Tolchinsky to Taylor; Warshavsky to Warren; Weingarten to Wayne; Weinrib to Warren, Winters; Weisberg to West; Welinsky to Wells; Wigodny to Wiggins; Woitowetch to Ward; Yarmolinsky to Yarmouth; Zagalsky to Zale.

Readers with stories about a change of family name are invited to write to me at info@cjnews.com. Please put "Att'n: Ze'ev Glicenstein" in the subject line.

A love affair with Kensington

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Sephardi community in Canada. This article is part of a series chronicling the community's early days in Toronto.

There were, of course, supermarkets. These at first fascinated the newcomers: orderly isles of neatly stacked shelves containing a seemingly endless variety. Packaged foods were truly a novelty; frozen foods were an outright wonder. Clean fruits and vegetables, some of which came on foam trays and were covered in plastic wrap. Spices in bottles. But the novelty quickly wore thin.

Through A Sephardi Window

One of the major adjustments for any immigrant is in diet. Speak to anyone who has moved from one country to another and you will not hear the end of his nostalgia. The food here is tasteless, the vegetables don't begin to compare to those "back home." Where can we even get our hands on fruit that tastes and smells like fruit? We took so much for granted…

Compounding matters for the Moroccans, indeed all expatriate Mediterraneans, including Italians, Greeks and Portuguese, was the very British nature of Canada in the '50s.

This was a time when being Canadian meant just that. The immigrant invasion was small and insignificant. In those days, spice meant salt and pepper, a walk on the wild side was perhaps salt and vinegar. Condiments consisted of ketchup, mustard and sweet relish. The spices and herbs that were the flavour staples of the Mediterranean were expensive and hard to come by in Canada.

Where an assortment of freshly caught fish was once daily fare, in Canada fish meant one thing, and one thing alone – a non-descript, white fish, deep fried in batter and served with a side of fries. Fish and chips to the immigrants were all the rage, literally!

Meats too were difficult to obtain. True, there were plenty of kosher butchers, but they sold only muscle meat and perhaps a bit of liver. Moroccans, like Europeans, were also accustomed to organ meat: tongue, brains, lungs, tripe. Here, all such items were not considered fit for human consumption. All were rendered into dog and cat food.

To save the day, the newcomers rediscovered Kensington Market, which, to this day, remains the alternate food market of Toronto. It has catered to wave after wave of immigrants – Russian and Polish Jews, Portuguese, Italians, Asians and Africans.

The Moroccans' love affair with the market is legendary. It so reminded them of their shopping experiences back home that they renamed the market "la plasa de Spadina." It was noisy and crowded. Its outdoor stalls were laden with all their familiar foods, so bizarre to most Canadians, from Artichokes to Zucchini, with plenty of olives in between. The pungent aroma of spices mixed with the consuming smell of fresh fish. Salted cod sides hung on strings. Cages of live chickens, ducks and pigeons were piled right on the sidewalk. Even the butcher shops sported sawdust on their floors and legions of flies crammed the air. Home at last.

Women would happily ignore the sterile neighbourhood supermarkets and ride the streetcars bound for Kensington, where they would buy their weekly groceries.

Coming home, however, was another story. These women would now carry with them laughable numbers of groceries bags, sacks of potatoes and onions, and gallon tins of olive oil. Again they would ride the streetcars, buried under their shopping. Properly gloved Canadian ladies would shake their heads and pity them. Exhausted immigrant ladies would beam with satisfaction and plan feasts for their families. No other scene could more effectively brand them as new immigrants. But they did not care.

Jewish Life

An attack on fundamentalist religion

***The Sins of Scripture* by John Shelby Spong, HarperCollins.**

The author of this controversial and contentious attack on fundamentalist religion – Jewish and Christian – has been the object of shocking invective. He has been called heretical, a betrayer of the faith, an iconoclast and an unbeliever.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Some of his previous books – *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, and *Role of Women in a Male Dominated Church* – have incensed traditional believers who regard him as a notorious firebrand and renegade.

Until his retirement in 2000, Spong was the Episcopal bishop of Newark, N.J., and was then called to teach at Harvard University.

In *The Sins of Scripture*, Spong asserts that the Bible contains pernicious texts that cannot be attributed to God. Unhappily, they have been used through the centuries to justify oppression, violence, hatred and discrimination against women, homosexuals, Jews, children, and the environment. With prophetic vigour, Spong lays bare the evil done by the people wielding these texts like weapons in the name of God. He also calls the Christian community to accountability for its long and sad history of violence and hatred toward those it has deemed as "the other."

For example, the familiar text in Genesis, "Be fruitful and multiply… and have dominion over the earth and all of its creatures" has been used to stamp out birth control and to justify the subjugation of the earth and the right to its unlimited exploitation. These objectives, he fears, are nothing less than a "a prescription for human genocide."

Spong is taken aback, even alarmed at the concerted attack against homosexuals, who are viewed by conservative Bible-quoting Christians as the scourge of the earth.

He asserts that overwhelming scientific and medical knowledge exists today pointing to an inescapable conclusion – sexual orientation is not a moral choice. It is something to which people awaken. "It is therefore not morally culpable… Can anyone imagine a church preserving its unity by tolerating slavery in its midst? Is there any difference between that situation and tolerating homophobia? Any prejudice based on who a person is, his or her very being as a child of God, cannot be a part of the church's life."

The Bible has been used by literalists to subjugate women as inferior and second-class human beings, to support slavery, justify the Crusades and the infamous Inquisition.

Anti-Jewish passages in the Bible have been used through the ages to foment hatred. The clear message portrayed in the gospels is that Jews are negative, sinister, anti-Christian characters who were responsible for the death of Jesus. That is the definition that has emerged from the Bible to infiltrate the minds of 2,000 years of Christian history. Far more people than Christians today seem to understand that to call the Bible the "word of God" in any sense is to legitimize this systemic hatred reflected in its pages.

In several chapters that describe the formation of the Hebrew scriptures, the author concludes that "the inspiration of the Bible is not found in its tales of supernatural occurrences and transforming miracles, narratives that speak of divine intervention or fulfilled prophecy. Its inspiration lies rather in those parts of this epic that probe the inner recesses of the human heart and tell us something about who we are, what our values are and what it means to touch the holy. In its pages, we listen to the wisdom of the ages even in its dated forms, in search of meaning, transcendence, and ultimately God."

What Spong offers to readers is a kind of spiritual humanism: "No one holds a corner on the market of salvation. There is no one way into God that all must follow if they hope to survive. There is, however, an ultimate reality beyond all human religious traditions. We call that reality God, and into that reality all religious systems must journey."

Spiritual home improvement

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"We gently and consciously enter the sacred space of our homes *sh'ma v'ahavta*, loving and listening, placing a kiss full of our loving intentions upon that little box, called a mezuzah, on the doorpost." (Rabbi Goldie Milgram) **[http://tinyurl.com/9wgo7]**

It is one of the most obvious signs of a Jewish home – an ornate box on the doorpost containing the mezuzah parchment. If you're in the middle of some home improvements, now is the ideal time to look at a spiritual fixer upper – your mezuzot.

The commandment for the mezuzah can be found in the Torah: "And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thy house and upon thy gates." (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21) **[http://tinyurl.com/crlhb]**

The Jewish Virtual Library points out "the mezuzah is not, as some suppose, a good-luck charm, nor does it have any connection with the lamb's blood placed on the doorposts in Egypt. Rather, it is a constant reminder of God's presence and God's commandments." **[http://tinyurl.com/9zv9l]**

The mezuzah must be hand-written by an ordained sofer, a trained scribe, onto parchment made from a kosher animal. If you have any doubts about your current mezuzot, a sofer should be consulted to verify that they are kosher. Although the mezuzah text is far shorter than what is found in Torah, the laws are complex. There are 22 lines, 713 letters and 4,649 laws governing the writing of each mezuzah by a sofer. **[www.milechai.com/judaism/mezuzah.html]**

Stories are legion about people who have purchased a mezuzah only to find out that it is riddled with mistakes. And unfortunately, sometimes the mistakes are not innocent. Mezuzot printed on paper rather than written on parchment are sold to unsuspecting consumers. Sometimes scribes take shortcuts that drastically cut the time needed to write a mezuzah but also result in inferior products. The Israel-based Vaad Mishmereth STaM was established to "promote the halachic integrity of scribal arts" by certifying reliable sofrim. **[www.shemayisrael.co.il/orgs/stam/]**

When you are ready to affix a kosher mezuzah to your doorpost, you can find the basic instructions online. **[http://tinyurl.com/e3gym]** But the laws applying to mezuzot can get quite complicated. For example, what do you do with an irregularly shaped door or archway? What happens if you are entering a tiny room? What if you're afraid that your outdoor mezuzah will be stolen? The Halacha-Yomi archives offer a detailed look at the laws of mezuzah based on an English translation of the definitive *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch*. **[http://tinyurl.com/9blzt]**

There are many places where you can buy mezuzah parchments and cases online. Whether you decide to buy the parchment from a local store or through the Internet, make sure that you are dealing with work done by a reputable scribe and reliable company. You can find a long list of commercial mezuzah links at MavenSearch's Judaica section. **[http://maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=138]**

We all know that mezuzot need to be affixed to doors. But did you know you can also get mezuzot for windows? Actually, make that "Windows." Download eMezuzah onto your computer and you'll find a familiar little brown box with the letter "shin" wedged onto the top right-hand corner of your screen. When you pay for the program, it will even recite the *Shema* to you. **[www.scs-intl.com/emuz/]**

Do you think that you can spot an invalid mezuzah? Take a look a copy of an error-free mezuzah online. **[http://tinyurl.com/ctfn9]** And then take the mezuzah challenge. According to the site, this one has 22 mistakes – one on each line. (Just one error will disqualify a real mezuzah.) The scribe Mordechai Pinchas has digitally doctored a mezuzah to contain a mistake on every single one of its 22 lines. After you examine it, you can contact him and he'll send you a list of the errors. **[http://tinyurl.com/8wm6k]**

But don't think you're going to be the first person to discover all the mistakes. That honour goes to "a visitor from Mexico, Aldo Zamudio, who found every error." The sofer goes on to explain that he was most impressed with Zamudio's abilities. "It is a great example of knowledge crossing all barriers" because Señor Zamudio isn't Jewish.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers. com.

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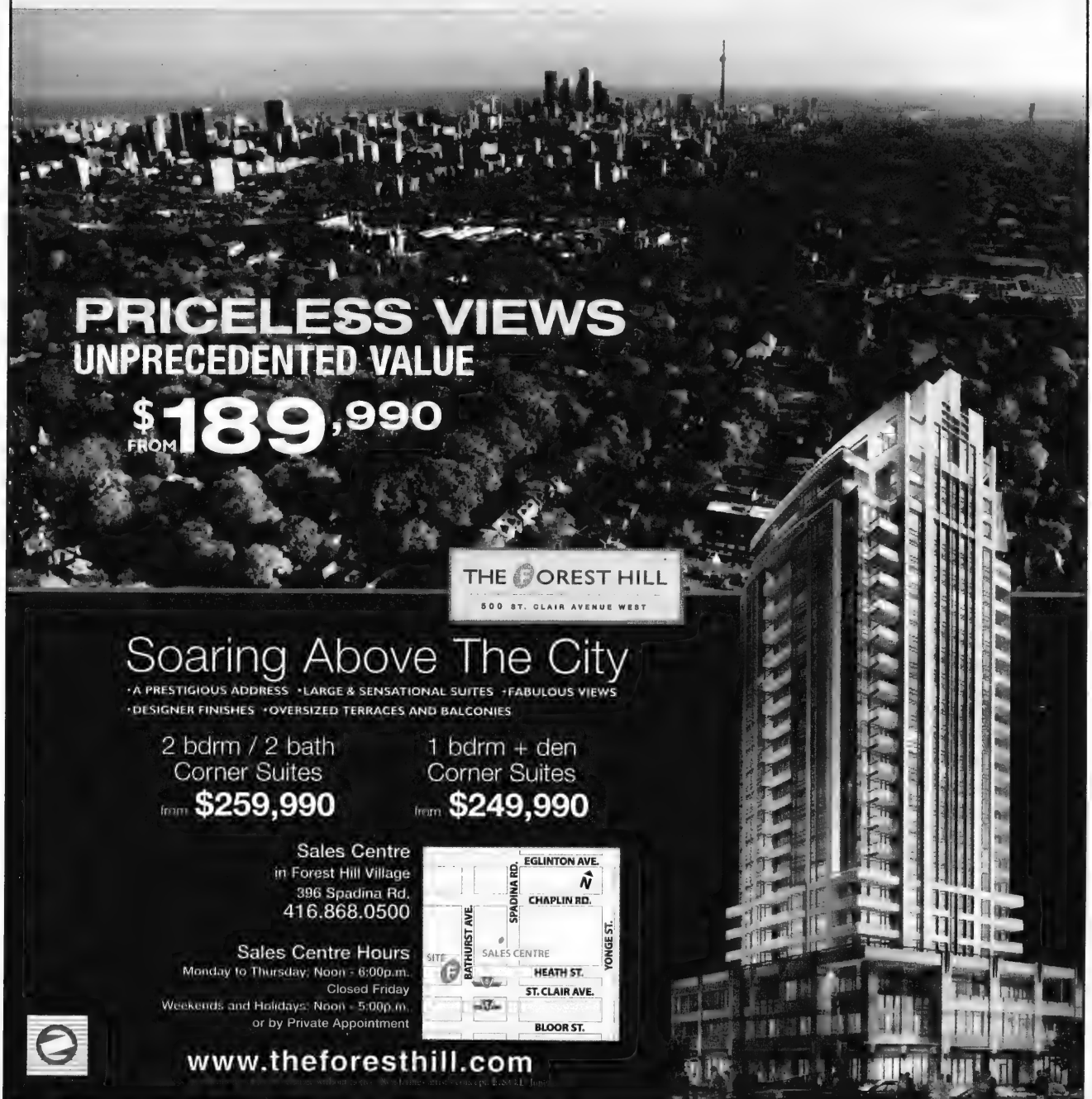

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Greater Toronto Area

Bar mitzvah boy honours Righteous Gentile

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Josef Pacula, who was honoured by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, played a prominent role at Ira Nightingale's recent bar mitzvah at Shaar Sholom Synagogue.

Quite simply, Ira told his guests, he is here because of the actions of Pacula and his family.

His grandmother, "Bubbie Frances" Nightingale, was hidden for more than two years by the Pacula family in Poland during World War II, Ira said.

"If he and his family had not acted, my late bubbie would not have survived, and if not her, then not my father, and not me."

Ira Nightingale

Ira, whose brother Josh honoured a child who was murdered during the Holocaust before celebrating his bar mitzvah, said in his dvar Torah, that "honouring the dead is a mitzvah, but I feel that bestowing honour on the person who is indirectly responsible for my being here before you today is equally important."

He said his father, Howard, had travelled to Poland in 2001 to meet the family that saved his mother.

"When he asked Josef why his family risked a certain death to hide my grandmother, [Josef] said, 'I was deeply moved by her misfortune. She couldn't count on anyone. Her compatriots were being pursued and killed. I couldn't live peacefully knowing this. I believe no one could, but the fear was paralyzing the people.'"

Howard said, "My mother had kept in touch with the family, of whom Josef is the last surviving member, and continued to send them money until she died. I have decided to do the same."

He said that in preparation for Josh's bar mitzvah about three years ago, they twinned him with the young boy after reading on a website, www.jewishgen.org, about a bar or bat mitzvah twinning program in Montreal.

"We would like this [recognition of a good deed] to be an adjunct to the twinning program. It fulfils the tradition of *hakarot hatov*, searching out of goodness.

"My mother had a big influence on Ira's life, and he felt that this linked him to her."

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Chair and Members

Hate Crimes Community Working Group

The Government of Ontario seeks to recruit members to form the new Hate Crimes Community Working Group. The Working Group will provide advice to the Attorney General of Ontario on approaches to address hate crimes in the province, including measures to enhance services to hate crime victims and to reduce hate crime victimization directed at both individuals and communities at large. The membership of the Hate Crimes Community Working Group will represent the interests of individuals, groups and communities affected by hate propaganda and hate-motivated crimes. Hate Crimes Community Working Group members will also, to the extent possible, reflect the diversity of Ontario's communities.

Qualifications: The Ontario government is seeking individuals who have:

- relevant experience obtained in community, victim services, public or private sector organizations;
- a track record of successfully working on multi-sector teams;
- demonstrated interest and expertise in hate crime issues;
- consensus-building skills;
- knowledge of some or all of the following topics – hate propaganda, hate-motivated crimes, victim services issues, the criminal justice system, and community needs, priorities and perspectives on hate crimes.

The Chair for the Hate Crimes Community Working Group will be selected from the appointed members.

Note: Pursuant to provincial government policy, all short-listed candidates will be asked to participate in a standard police records check.

Remuneration: Expenses only.

Term: The Chair and members of the Hate Crimes Community Working Group will be appointed for a term of up to six months.

Terms of Reference: Are available at www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca.

Closing Date: Friday, July 8, 2005

A signed application form must be received by Friday, July 8, 2005.

All application forms must be addressed to:

Hate Crimes Community Working Group
Ontario Victim Services Secretariat
Ministry of the Attorney General
18 King Street East, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1C4

A downloadable application form is available at
www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

Ontario

Coast to Coast

Media take note of Syrian shenanigans

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

As the United States continues to prod the Arab world toward democratic reform, the Western media are taking a break, with some exceptions, from their intense focus on Israel to report on the changes (some progressive, some regressive) taking place in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. (Of course, we can expect media attention to return substantially as Israel's disengagement from Gaza and northern West Bank settlements in August nears.)

The Feb. 14 assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister Rafik Hariri, the enormous street protests against Syrian occupation, and Syria's subsequent troop withdrawal have all received much coverage. This shows that the media will go where a story is hot and accessible, something that's not always possible in the countries surrounding Israel.

On June 2, Sami Qassir, a well-known journalist and staunch critic of Syria, was assassinated in Beirut. In Lebanon, the act was widely attributed to Syrian agents, as was the Hariri killing. Qassir's murder re-focused media attention not only on Lebanon but also on the possibility that Damascus is continuing to play a strong behind-the-scenes role in Lebanese affairs.

The June 5 election sweep by Hezbollah and Amal, the two major Shiite parties dominant in Lebanon's south (they took 23 seats in the 128-seat parliament) attracted substantial attention. So has Hezbollah's refusal to disarm as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1559. Hezbollah and Amal remain firmly pro-Syrian.

Another story that received some notice was Syria's test-firing of several Scud missiles that left debris in farmers' fields in Turkey. Israel monitored the firing, which Syria denied. Even more media reported on Syria's crackdown on dissidents and human rights activists who were thrown into jail just prior to a three-day Baath Party congress that began on June 5. Analysts see these recent acts as signs of desperation by a regime losing control.

In the "Damascus Spring" of 2000, Syrian President Bashar Assad promised to initiate reforms to the ossified, repressive regime he inherited from his father Hafez. Bashar never delivered. While a few journalists have been overly sanguine about Bashar "the reformer," others have been blunt in their description of him and his regime.

On June 2, the *Globe and Mail*'s Paul Koring wrote about the death in Syria of Kurdish cleric Sheikh Machouk Alkhaznawi, a proponent of reform and a thorn in the side of authorities. It is widely believed that he was murdered weeks ago by Syrian security after being abducted. "The cleric understood the dangers of challenging the brutal Syrian regime," Koring wrote. "President Bashar Assad has tried to put a cherubic stamp on the authoritarian state he inherited from his iron-fisted father… but the grim reality remains that Syria is a brutish, totalitarian state."

Trained to be an ophthalmologist in England, Bashar came back to Syria five years ago on the promise of reforming a moribund economy and backward technological infrastructure. As the founder of the "Syrian Computer Society," Bashar signalled an intent to modernize the state's tightly controlled Internet infrastructure.

Instead, as Megan Stack of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote on June 7 from Damascus, Bashar used the occasion of a meeting of the congress to avoid reform and rail against modern technology as a threat to Arab identity. "Assad's tirade against technology came as a surprise" she noted. She quoted Bashar on the effects of computers and technology: "[They have] overwhelmed Arabs and threatened their existence and cultural identity, which has increased the doubts and skepticism in the minds of young Arabs."

* * *

For the record: In her introduction to Martin Himel's June 4 report from Gaza on the plight of a family facing the loss of their home under disengagement, Global News anchor Jill Krop tried to provide some context to Israel's control of Gaza and the West Bank. But she committed a common factual error, saying Israel's "occupation of the territories is illegal under international law." Even though she immediately added "Israel disputes that," the fact is that in international law (as this column often points out), it is fully legitimate for Israel to remain in control of those territories pending peace and security guarantees from its Arab neighbours. That is the meaning – "land for peace" – of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which governs all Arab-Israeli negotiations on the future of the territories.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Don't invest in E. European Jewry, *Jerusalem Post* editor argues

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Amotz Asa-El doesn't mince words.

The executive editor, columnist and editorial writer of the *Jerusalem Post* says Jews living in the Diaspora, particularly in wealthy countries, must nurture Jewish life in the rich and free world, not Israel, and definitely not in Germany, Poland, Slovakia or Russia.

"I'm totally opposed to the active resurrection of Jewish life in those European countries," he said in an interview in Halifax prior to speaking to non-Jewish clerics, business and community leaders. Asa-El was on day four of a 10-day Canadian speaking tour sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee.

"Investment of Jewish dollars to build yeshivas and community centres should not be done," he said. "Investment of Jewish dollars should be confined to keep countries like the U.S., Canada, England and Australia alive and thriving."

Asa-El, 46, is Israeli-born. He lost both sets of grandparents in the Holocaust, but he says he doesn't necessarily base his feelings on that.

"My family is from Czechoslovakia and the Czechs had some tolerance of Jews, but I think we should not be helping those other European countries. Yes, we should visit the death camps to commemorate those we lost, but there shouldn't be Jewish life there. Too much happened there."

Asa-El's weekly column, Middle Israel, is widely read. In it, he covers a wide range of topics, from politics to economics.

A graduate of Columbia University's graduate school of journalism and a former foreign correspondent with the *San Francisco Chronicle* and foreign editor of a weekly Hebrew publication in Israel, he said that Israel will soon have the world's largest Jewish community.

"Our population is now about 5½ million. The U.S. is just above that but shrinking, while Israel expands. Israel is mature economically, with a gross domestic product of $110 billion, so it doesn't need as much aid as it's been getting. And most of that GDP comes from Israel's taxpayers anyway. Foreign aid is miniscule in comparison."

'Investment should be confined to keep countries like the U.S., Canada... alive and thriving'

He continued that "Israel can afford to tell the world that it is 'no longer in the business of you helping us. We are in the business of helping you.'"

He said readers respond positively when he writes of diverting aid out of the country, but there is controversy about his arguments against restoring Jewish life in the four European nations.

Prior to his Halifax stop, Asa-El had media interviews and met community leaders in Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa. He flew from Halifax to Moncton for a talk to an inter-faith group on the importance of Israel to the Jewish People.

He was then scheduled to meet journalists in Montreal, speak at Shabbat services at Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Synagogue, and meet Quebec members of Parliament. After another visit to Toronto and stops in Hamilton and London,Ont., he was slated to return to Israel June 8.

"When I speak to a broader audience, I stress that there is a misconception among Western journalists, diplomats and academics that the root of the instability in the Middle East is the Israeli-Arab conflict. That is a symptom."

He said the real problem is the refusal of the region's non-elected leaders to offer their people education, mobility and hope, as well as a share of the riches.

"One quarter of a billion people live in the region," he said. "Israel and the Palestinians are a blip in all that. Because of the despair of the wider population, terror results. For example, 9/11 was created by Arabs deeply disenchanted with everything."

He chastised the world for concentrating on problems in Israel.

"They're obsessed with us, with our little country and its problems. How can you explain why the world ignores far more serious problems only an hour or so away from us, like the quarter billion Arabs in the broader Middle East. And Sudan, with its genocide of a million people, is not afforded anywhere near the attention that Israel gets."

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Coast to Coast

ISRAELI MARKETPLACE IN TORONTO: More than 30 vendors from around Toronto came together on May 7 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue to simulate an Israeli marketplace. Organized by the Beth Emeth Sisterhood, the event offered a variety of products ranging from wine to designer hats and purses.The event aimed to promote the sale of Israeli products in Canada. Above, Sarah Zeldman sells a book from Israel's Judaica Centre as Hudi Kaiserman looks on. Right, Bonnie Hectay sells jewelry. [Benji Feldman photos]

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Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

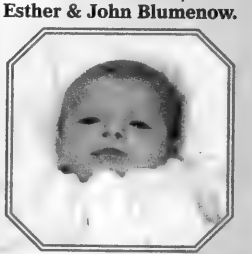
Adela & Zwi Zur, Moreen & Bill Tobicoe announce the engagement of their children Dr. Kenneth Beasley & Laura Tobicoe. Chupah will be in October.

To Max Dankner, a dear zaida, dad and husband. Mazel tov on your 80th birthday.

Mazel tov to Sharon & Mike on their recent engagement. Love Ellen & Sam Markowitz, Sandy & Simon Mawas, grandmother Chava Ezra.

Sylvia & Louis Kirshner and Adele & Melvyn Lewis announce the marriage of their children Lauren & Brian. Grandparents are Ruth Kirshner, Esther & John Blumenow.

Lauren & Neil Richler, and big brother Benji welcome Emma Yael to our family, born May 12, 2005



Welcome Brandon Taitz. Love from parents Shoshana & Michael, grandparents Marsha & Howard Cohen, Marilyn & Allan Taitz, great-grandmother Helen Pearson, aunts and uncle.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, June 20, is the deadline for the June 30 issue and Monday, June 27, is the deadline for the July 7 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 16

SILENT ART AUCTION

The Winchevsky Centre holds its second annual silent art auction 7-8:30 p.m. at 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Funds from the auction support the Winchevsky School and Camp Naivelt. 416-789-5502.

HEBREW SCHOOL INFO

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School, with two locations, JK-Grade 7, including bar/bat mitzvah, hold a registration and information night at Bakersfield Public School, 121 Misty Sugar Dr. 7-9 p.m. 905-886-1457.

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Support Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel and enjoy a concert featuring Duet. 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. For tickets, call 905-695-0611 or 1-800-355-1648.

Saturday, June 18

ANNUAL EMUNAH SHABBAT

Join the seudah shlishit program taking place across the GTA. **Ilana Sober** speaks at 5 p.m. at BAYT. **Adrienne Gold** speaks at 6:15 p.m. at B'nai Torah Congregation. **Michal Lixenberg** speaks at 5:30 p.m. at Beth Jacob. **Sara Chana Radcliffe** speaks at 5:30 p.m at Yeshivat Or Chaim. **Sarah Stern** speaks at 5:30 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah and **Ofra Gemara** speaks at 6 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Couvert $18, sponsorships $36 or $54. To reserve, call 416-636-0036.

Sunday, June 19

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST

Beth David Brotherhood presents "Music with a Jewish Heart," a performance of Russian, Israeli, Gypsy and classical music with **Nina Shapilsky** and **Michael Ziskin**. 9:15 a.m. $5. 416-633-5500.

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

Join the eighth annual Zareinu Moveathon, a full-day fundraiser supporting Zareinu, a day school and treatment centre for children with physical and developmental disabilities. Events include100 km and 50 km bicycle rides, 20 km family ride, 10 km run, carnival and community picnic with **SpongeBob SquarePants** and **Dora the Explorer**. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Earl Bales Park. 416-661-1800 or www.moveathon.com.

MOSAIC CLUB HIKE

Join Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario for a scenic spring hike at Mount Nemo, near Milton. This two-hour beginner hike offers optional intermediate and advanced routes. Departure 9:30 a.m. from the Indigo Bookstore at Yorkdale Shopping Centre. For information and cost, contact **Lynne** at 416-652-0001 or l.harriet@sympatico.ca or **Barb** at 416-638-1532 or btcohen@hotmail.com.

FAREWELL PICNIC

Temple Har Zion hosts a family picnic at Camp Robin Hood in honour of **Rabbi Michael Stroh**'s retirement. Current and prior members are invited to join the congregation in wishing Rabbi Stroh all the best for in his retirement, while you spend a day in the sun and connect with old friends and families. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration is required. Cost $20/family. Contact **Bernice Steinberg** at 905-889-2252 or e-mail bernicesteinberg@iprimus.ca.

FATHER'S DAY CONCERT

Temple Sinai Congregation presents a special Father's Day concert with **Jacques Israelievitch**, concertmaster with Toronto Symphony Orchestra, his son **Michael Israelievitch**, percussionist, and guest artists **Teng Li**, violist, and **Winona Zelenka** cellist, both of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. 4 p.m. Tickets $15, available at 416-487-4161.

Continued on page 23

OPEN HOUSE & BARBECUE
SATURDAY, JUNE 18/05

Come visit Lansing Retirement Residence of North York and enjoy a barbecue and violinist entertainment during their open house. Learn more about their wide variety of services, advantages and amenities. There will also be an appearance by Toronto Councillor John Filion.
WHEN: Saturday, June 18th, 2005: 10am - 4pm with barbecue and entertainment (violinists) between 12 noon and 2pm. COST: Complimentary

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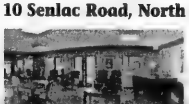

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(Doors open and sign-in at 6:30 p.m.)
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2467 Eglinton Ave. E.
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Toronto South West
Etobicoke Collegiate
86 Montgomery Rd.
(just north of Bloor, west of Royal York Rd – Royal York Subway)

Toronto North
Mitchell Field Community Centre – Gymnasium
89 Church Ave.
(east of Yonge St., south of Finch Ave. E., Yonge 97 Bus to Church Ave., walk east from Yonge St.)

Toronto North West
Elmbank Community Centre - Gymnasium
10 Rampart Rd.
(east side of Martin Grove Rd., south of Finch Ave. W.,Martin Grove 46 Bus to just north of John Garland Blvd. or Finch 36 Bus to Martin Grove Rd., walk south)

Toronto South
St. Lawrence Market - North
Front St. and Jarvis St.
(northwest corner, King 504 Streetcar to Jarvis St., walk south one block)

Register Now!
Call Access Toronto, 416-338-0338 (TTY 416-338-0889). Space is limited. Participants MUST pre-register.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekdays
Saturday, June 11 & Sunday, June 12 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
For more information visit: www.toronto.ontario.ca

TORONTO
Ontario

What's New

Continued from page 22

Monday, June 20

OR HADASH INFO NIGHT

Or Hadash, a Sunday morning Reform religious school at Leslie and Davis Drive, is holding a parents' orientation at 7 p.m. For information, visit www.orhadash.org or call 905-898-2220.

CHUG HATANACH

Rabbi Wayne Allen leads a discussion of chapters 53, 54 and 55 of Psalms. 8 p.m. at Beth David Congregation. All welcome.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

Shaarei Shomayim bar and bat mitzvah programs information meetings take place tonight. Bar mitzvah at 7 p.m., bat mitzvah at 8 p.m. Contact **Robin** for details at 416-789-3213, ext. 217.

Tuesday, June 21

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON

The Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood closing luncheon with musical program takes place at 12:30 p.m. To reserve, call 905-731-6660.

DEWITT ON JERUSALEM

Azra Canada presents **Prof. David Dewitt** speaking on "Jerusalem: Gateways to Beyond," addressing the current Israeli political situation. 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple.

WOMEN'S TORAH CLASS

Chabad offers weekly classes in weekly parshah, Chassidut, Tanya and holidays with **Rabbi Uri Gelman** and **Rabbi David Bisk**. 8 p.m. at 44 Edinburgh Dr. For information, call **Rachel Berkovitz**, 416-635-6313.

Wednesday, June 22

JOKERS GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets tonight offering fun for people of all ages. 7 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. For information, call **Irv Helpert** at 416-661-2541.

BOOK REVIEW

Harriet Morris reviews *Old Men at Midnight* by **Chaim Potok** for the Beth Tzedec Sisterhood. 7:45 p.m. Free. 416-781-3511.

SHTETL TO BROADWAY

Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir conducted by **Cantor Benjamin Maissner** presents *Shtetl to Broadway* at Leah Posluns Theatre. 8 p.m. $25. For tickets or information, call 416-782-3214 or visit www.lachan.org.

DA'AT.CALM

Jews for Judaism present "Da'at.calm: A Jewish Approach to Inner Peace," with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. 8 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg. Free. To register, call 905-761-0040.

LEIBTAG ON STORYTELLING

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag lectures on "The Art of Biblical Storytelling" at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. 8 p.m. $10, $5 students. www.torahinmotion.org 416-633-5770.

COOKING WORKSHOP

Shaar Shalom Synagogue and Levy's Catering offer a cooking workshop. Come out and help prepare a delicious menu, enjoy the meal and take the recipes home. 8 p.m., 2 Simonston Blvd. $10 admission to be donated to the Kosher Food Bank. Limit 30 people. To reserve, call 905-889-4975.

HONEST REPORTING

This workshop will teach you how to read between the lines of your local newspaper, write effective letters and take action to promote fair and accurate media coverage of Israel in Canada. Free. 8:15 p.m. at 8001 Bathurst St. 416-915-9157, www.HonestReporting.ca or mike@honestreporting.ca.

Other news

CLUB SIMCHA

Chai Tikvah Foundation begins a new program for people with mental health problems. Club Simcha meets every Tuesday afternoon, June 28 through August 30, 1-3:30 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., for movies, board games and discussions. Call 416-665-0482.

READY SET GO NURSERY

This September Adath Israel Synagogue offers "Ready Set Go," a pre-nursery program for children ages 2½ years old. The program runs 2 hours a day and offers an option of 2, 3 or 5 days per week. Call **Rachel** at 416-635-5340.

BETH SHALOM NURSERY

Beth Shalom Playtime Nursery, a casually structured program for toddlers and preschoolers, is accepting registration for 2005-06. For information and registration, call 416-783-6103.

FALL LECTURE SERIES

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Emanu-El's new lecture series is open to the community. Lecturers will present four different topics Mondays, 2-4 p.m. November 7, "Recent Canadian-American Relations" with **Robert Bothwell**, University of Toronto; November 14, "International Spies," with **John Twomey**, of Ryerson University; November 21, "Arthritis in the Era of Genetic Medicine," with **Dr. Katherine Siminovitch**, of the University of Toronto; and November 28, "The Swing Era," with **Mike Daley**, department of music, York University. $27. To register, call 416-449-3880.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800. Call ext. 215.

High-Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies and techniques to deal with a high-conflict situation, lessening the impact on their children. The workshop requires active participation and is not for individuals in an abusive situation. Thursday, June 16, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan: A workshop for parents to develop a businesslike relationship with their former partners by negotiating the day-to-day details of their children's lives. Monday, June 20, at the Promenade Mall, #313, 7 to 9 p.m.

Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour: A five-session group for parents who have children who frequently demonstrate difficult behaviours such as temper tantrums, aggression, talking back and not following rules, and have trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays, beginning July 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call ext. 246.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, June 19; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 29. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

Beth Emeth Chai Shalom presents its annual anniversary dance, Thursday, June 30, 7:30 p.m., with the music of **Boris Naiman**. Members $7, non-members $10. Tickets available in the synagogue office or contact **Helen Schwartz**, 416-633-4111, or **Mildred Persofsky**, 416-633-2436.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Strawberry Social: fun and entertainment by **Marie Go Go** on Thursday, June 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4. Register at the service desk or call Margot at ext. 2272.

Trip to Edward Gardens, Sunday, June 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy a picnic. Members $5, non-members $8. Register at service desk, ext. 2267.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. June 21, Hebrew book club, June 28, movie.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler concert band, Resa's Pieces, year-end concert. Tuesday, June 21, 8 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre $5. Call 905-731-4845.

Third annual golf tournament on Thursday, June 23, at Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club. Call ext. 371.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Registration for summer camp still open. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Extended hours available 8-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. at $8 per day. Call ext. 500.

TORAH HIGH GRADUATION: The Rosemount class of NCSY Torah High School were among 275 students who recently graduated from the school. The students studied two hours a week for 38 weeks, competing Ontario Education Ministry approved religious studies courses. With the students are Rabbi Dovi Klein, second from left, and Rabbi Yisroel Rabonowitz, far right.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Levitt, Freda	May 27/05	355 St. Clair Ave. W.
Boldovitch, Joseph	May 27/05	Private
Bigio, Linda	May 28/05	650 Eglinton Ave. W
Stern, Leon	May 28/05	550 Cranbrooke Ave.
Reytblat, Leonid	May 28/05	Private
Solomonov, Georgy	May 29/05	745 New Westminister Dr
Perlman, Anna	May 29/05	Private
Jerusalim, Harry	May 30/05	33 Huntington Park Dr
Schonblum, Menhard	May 31/05	Private
Reyn, Rubin	May 31/05	1121 Steeles Ave. W.
Penek, Klara	May 30/05	Private
Orel, Vadim	May 31/05	3 Goldfinch Crt.
Abramovitz, Joseph	May 31/05	Montreal
Danik, Maria	June 1/05	Private

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

David Zuckerbrot	May 27/05	288 Brighton Avenue
Ernest Berger	May 28/05	78 Rockford Road
Harvey Langer	May 28/05	55 Ameer Avenue
Joe Mann	May 29/05	11 William Carson Cres.
Ann Joseph	May 29/05	85 Skymark Drive
Helen Verman	Jun 1/05	1121 Steeles Ave.West
Barbara Koblinsky	Jun 1/05	6 Hearthstone Crescent
Boris Miretskiy	Jun 1/05	193 Wilson Avenue
Ray Kendall	Jun 2/05	64 Covington Road
Don Levine	Jun 3/05	141 Lyon Court
Jerry Stone	Jun 1/05	80 Antibes Drive

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FANNIE WOLL AVRIN (nee ZIFKIN) ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 19th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA BUDIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Apter Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ABRAHAM GOLDBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 19th, 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Shidlover Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SUNNY PRICE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LORRAINE SHANKMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 1:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTHER WEITZNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Photojournalist's son blamed for early closure of exhibit

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Officials of the borough of Cote St. Luc/Hampstead/Montreal West blame the intransigent attitude of the son of slain Iranian Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi for the early closure of an exhibition of his mother's works last week at the Eleanor London Public Library.

City councillor Anthony Housefather said Stephan Hachemi categorically refused to discuss any modification of the exhibition, which was of life in Afghanistan, Iran and the Palestinian territories. Housefather described Hachemi as "rude, unreasonable and resistant to dialogue."

The three-member council and the library decided four days after the exhibition was installed on May 30 to remove the five photos of Palestinians from the total of 23 photos on view because it felt they were a "one-sided" portrayal of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Complaints were also received from "several" borough residents soon after the exhibit opened. By June 6, the entire exhibition was down. It had been scheduled to continue until mid-July to coincide with the second anniversary of Kazemi's death while in Iranian custody.

Hachemi sent a letter to the borough demanding that the exhibition be kept in its entirety or not at all, Housefather said. Efforts by *The CJN* to reach Hachemi for comment were unsuccessful.

Hachemi has been quoted as saying that pulling the five photos was "scandalous, a discriminatory act, racist, an attack on freedom of the press which violates the spirit and the work of my mother." He has filed a complaint with the Quebec Human Rights Commission.

"This was not the best solution. There are no winners," Housefather said. "We should have been able to sit down with Mr. Hachemi and work out a way of exhibiting his mother's work while being respectful of our residents [the majority of whom are Jewish]... The last thing I want is this to be seen as censoring," said Housefather, who acknowledged the incident has left the impression, from the e-mails he and others received from Quebec, Canada and the United States, that the borough is suppressing free speech or artistic expression and showing disrespect to a woman for whom there is widespread sympathy.

Head librarian Lisa Milner and the councillors, who are all Jewish, agreed that the photos and accompanying text presented an "unbalanced" portrayal of the interaction between Palestinians and Israeli authorities, and were inappropriate alongside photos taken in Afghanistan and Iran.

"There's enough Israel-bashing in the world that we do not have to tolerate it in our library," said borough mayor Robert Libman, who said the way the exhibition was organized "equated" the repression carried out under the Taliban in Afghanistan and the mullahs of Iran with Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

"We wanted very much to help him with his crusade to find justice for his mother, we wanted to work with him, but there was no possibility of a semblance of diplomatic discussion with him," Libman said.

> ***'There is enough Israel-bashing in the world that we do not have to tolerate it in our library'***

The council was not aware in advance that the exhibition was going to be mounted, which is normal. The library always arranges its exhibitions independently, but in the past, they have not been political, he said.

According to borough manager David Johnstone, to whom Milner referred questions on the matter, the exhibition was arranged by Robert Hebert, a consultant to the library for 11 years. His contact with Hachemi about the exhibition was made back in October and "the impression was that it would be about women and children in Afghanistan and Iran," Johnstone said.

The actual content of the exhibition was only seen by Hebert about a week before it went up, and Milner did not see the exhibition until June 1 when she returned from vacation, Johnstone said.

A complaint that day from a resident "woke us up," said Johnstone, pointing out that the exhibition contained "a very one-sided" view of the Middle East conflict, and the five photos came down June 3. On June 6, the council supported the librarian staff's decision. (Housefather and the third councillor, Dida Berku, had been in Newfoundland a couple of days earlier for a national municipal officials' conference.)

Johnstone said the borough attempted to explain to Hachemi what had been done, "but he did not wish to talk." Hachemi showed up at Johnstone's office June 6 with a television camera crew and served him with the demand letter, he said.

According to Libman and Housefather, the five photos, while not depicting brutality, conveyed a sense that the Palestinians were living in fear of the Israeli military, but the violence inflicted on Israelis by Palestinians was ignored.

Housefather said he could have lived with the photos, but the narrative that accompanied them was "inflammatory" and "condemnatory" of Israel.

He believes the text was written by Hachemi and did not necessarily reflect the views of Kazemi, who died in July, 2003 in an Iranian prison.

Housefather said Hachemi would not listen to a suggestion of a "counter-balancing" exhibition depicting what the Israelis have suffered during the intifadah. "He wanted exclusivity," he said.

Stephen Scheinberg, chair of Montreal Friends of Peace Now, urged the borough to reconsider and allow the Kazemi exhibition to be shown in full.

Scheinberg, a retired Concordia University history professor, accused the borough of censorship, which he said is "negative, distasteful and undemocratic.

"No one has charged that Kazemi's photos were staged or doctored, only that they were not 'balanced,' meaning that the other side in the Middle East tragedy was not represented."

He suggested that balance could be provided by displaying the horrendous results of suicide bombings, if not concurrently, then after the Kazemi exhibition.

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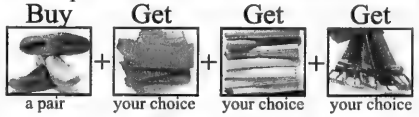

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Tamara Freeman	גולדה
Rebecca Himelfarb	רבקה
Mira Katz Blumenthal	מירה
Sidonie Loomer	צידוניה
Taryn Negin-Fryers	תמרהן
Sasha Rand	יעל
Rachel Riesel	רחל
Naomi Rosenfeld	נעמי
Ayelet Seed	אילת
David Shiff	דוד
Matthew Stein	מתיתיהו
Melanie Stitt	מלכה
Jamie Wolfond	ירון
Rachel Woroner	רחל

The Graduation Ceremony will be held on Monday June 20, 2005 at 7:30 pm at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto.

Food, Scrumptious Food

Batter Up Kids teaches children to 'step up' to the plate

By NORENE GILLETZ

Batter Up Kids: Delicious Desserts by Barbara Beery is a delightful, easy-to-follow kid's cookbook, with simple, scrumptious dessert recipes that any kid can make. In this spiral-bound cookbook with a wipe-clean cover, you'll find tasty treats, fruit-based snacks, cakes and cookie recipes, plus a child-sized cloth chef's hat that will transform any ordinary kid into a talented chef!

Batter Up Kids is ideal for beginner culinary experts and even the littlest chefs who can't yet read. The recipes include Flowerpot Ice Cream, Mountains of Mud Pies, Candy-Coated Dragonflies, Pink Princess Cake and Bonkers for Banana Bread. Fun for any occasion, the recipes use inexpensive ingredients and teach children basic cooking techniques and kitchen safety.

The inside front cover teaches children how to "Measure Up!" including the Wet Stuff (liquid ingredients), the Dusty Stuff (dry ingredients) and even How to Measure Brown Sugar and Shortening. On the inside back cover, children will "Learn the Lingo," which includes a list of cooking and baking terms – "Sous-Chef: That's you! A person learning to be a chef."

Barbara Beery teaches about 100 kids a month in her children's cooking school which she founded in 1991 in Austin, Texas. She also has created Batter Up Kits – theme baking kits with durable child-size bakeware, gourmet mixes, a unique recipe and more. For more information, visit www.batterupkids.com.

I firmly believe it is important to get children involved in the kitchen at a very early age. Cooking and baking will help children develop their reading, mathematical and co-ordination skills, while having fun at the same time. Also, if kids help cook it, they'll eat it!

Finding "well-done" cookbooks for kids is always a challenge, but finding kosher ones is almost impossible. The recipes chosen here from *Batter Up Kids* are perfect for the kosher kitchen. I hope you enjoy preparing these easy, delicious desserts with your kids (or grandkids), at home or at the cottage. Now go "stir up" some sweet memories!

Children's cooking school:

1. Get ready. Push your sleeves back, tie on your apron, wash your hands and make sure your work area is clean and spotless.
2. Now get all of the bowls, utensils and ingredients you will need for the recipe you are going to make. Place them in your work area and make sure you have everything ready.
3. Ask a grown-up to be your chef's assistant.
4. Now it's recipe time! Read through the recipe with your assistant and make sure you both understand what to do.
5. Remember, it is much easier to clean up as you go. Fill a big sink or washtub full of soapy water and get a sponge or washcloth. Wipe up as you go. Put each dish and utensil into the sink after you've finished with it. When your recipe is made, you'll almost have everything cleaned up, too. Easy as pie!
6. Don't forget to thank your grown-up assistant for helping you. Do you know the best way to say thanks? Offer them the first bite of your delicious dessert. With a reward like that, you'll want to help you every time.

A SKILLET FULL OF COOKIES

½ cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
2 eggs
2½ cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
2 cups milk chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375. In a large bowl, use a mixer to cream together the sugars and the butter until smooth. Beat in vanilla and add eggs, one at a time. Add the flour, baking soda and salt. Mix well. Dough will be stiff. Using a large spoon, stir in the chocolate chips.

Spray a 10-inch skillet (with an ovenproof metal or wooden handle) with nonstick cooking spray. Pat cookie dough into skillet and bake approximately 30 minutes or until the edges are lightly browned. Cool for 15 minutes, then slice. Makes 1 giant cookie, 16 slices.

IGLOO ICE POPS

1½ to 2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries, blueberries, sliced kiwi or strawberries
1 cup apple juice or cranapple juice
3 to 5 tbsp. granulated sugar (to taste)
a tiny pinch of salt
powdered/icing sugar (optional)

Combine all ingredients except powdered sugar in a large bowl. Stir carefully, trying to keep the berries whole. Divide fruit mixture evenly between Popsicle moulds or small paper cups. If using paper cups, cover each cup with a foil square. Poke a hole in the foil and insert a wooden Popsicle stick or the straight end of a plastic spoon. Place ice pops on a cookie sheet and freeze for 3 to 4 hours. Makes 12 to 15 ice pops.

Chef's Secret: For a cool way to serve these pops, sprinkle with "snowflakes" of powdered sugar.

LADYBUGS ON-A-STICK

12 seedless red or green grapes
12 (6- to 8-inch) wooden skewers or colored toothpicks
12 whole strawberries with stems
1 package mini-morsel chocolate chips

Place a grape on a wooden skewer, sliding it all the way to the end of the stick. This is the ladybug's head. Next place the strawberry on the skewer, stem end first, and slide it down to touch the grape. This is the ladybug's body. Lay the ladybug down and carefully push the pointed ends of several chocolate chips into the strawberry to make the ladybug's spots. Now you have a ladybug on-a-stick! Makes 12 ladybugs

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com

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גידי קורן וחברים

מדורת השבט(Campfire)

סרט ישראלי נטף עשה את דרכו למסכי הקולנוע של טורונטו. אלמנה דתיה, אם לשתי בנות בגיל ההתבגרות, מגלה בדרכים קשות עד כמה קשה להיות אשה בדדה בחברה שמרנית מסורתית, שבה רוב חוזקו של אדם בא מן הזוגיות. היא מבקשת להצטרף לגרעין שעומד להקים ישוב חדש במבואות רמאללה. זוהי ישראל של שנת 1981, עם הרבה אידיאליזם של ישוב יהודה ושומרון, וגיבורת הסרט מתמודדת על עקרונותיה שלה לעומת "עקרונות השבט". אלה הם אנשי בני עקיבא, מלח הארץ, שמוצגים באור בעייתי וקשה של שבט סגור ושמרני, שמוכן להסתיר אפילו מעשים פליליים לטובת כבוד השבט ושלמותו. סרט מפתיע בפנות שלו, בדיאלוגים אמיתיים, שלא מעודדים את הפריחה שמתפשטת בעד בהרבה סרטים ישראלים. בתחלט סרט ברמה אירופאית, ולא אתפלא אם יזכה בפרסים בינלאומיים. מיכאלה עשת, משה איבגי וצוות שחקנים נפלא הופך את הסרטו לחוויה קולנועית מרגשת.
ולכם, קוראי הנאמנים-הזדמנות לראות את ישראל מזוית שלא דובר בה רבות עד כה. תשע בסולם קורן. אבל שישאר בינינו.

לחיות בתוך השיר

תודה לכל אלה שהיו איתנו ביום ירושלים בערב מרגש עם לחקת "האחים והאחיות". הלחקה הראתה שאפשר לשיר בישראל של 2005 מילים של משוררים בצורה נפלאה שעומדת ברוח הזמן ולא נכנעת לכל סגנון שמתקיף את העולם.
בקונצרט התארחה המשוררת ג'ניס רביבו, שתרגמה את שיריו של נתן יונתן לספר הדו לשוני חנפלא "לחיות בתוך השיר". אחד הקהריוויים המשעשעים שגילתה ג'ניס קשור בשגיאות הידועות " הקאיתָ איזה יופי, נערי זה שדה פרגים".
מסתבר שהמתרגם הראשון של הספר תרגם את "שדה פרגים" ל "field of corps" . כששאל נתן יונתן המזועזע את המתרגם מדוע חפך את השדה לשדה של גוויות, הראה לו המתרגם שבמקור בעברית הודפס "שדה פגרים " במקום "שדה פרגים", ועל זה נאמר וחיים והמות ביד הלשון.

הסוס הטרויאני

בישראל נחשפה רשת ריגול תעשייתי דרך המחשב, הגדולה בתולדות המדינה. תחילת חסיפור בסופר אמנון ז'אקונט שגילה באינטרנט קטעים מסיפרו החדש לפני שהראה אותם לאיש.....
מסתבר שמדובר בתוכנה מתוחכמת שמותדרת למחשב רחוק על ידי אי מייל ומסוגלת "לשדר" כל מה שהיא רואה. עד כה, על פי החשד, השתמשו בריגול מסוג זה מיטב החברות בישראל. וכל זה מחייר לכולנו את החשש המתמיד מהסודיות של המחשב, ושל האפשרות שאנשים זרים יֵדעו דרכו את סודותינו הכמוסים ביותר.
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Ex-Shin Bet chief backs Gaza pullout

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — The former head of the Shin Bet security service supports the disengagement from Gaza and does not believe that it will worsen Israel's security situation, he said.

Avi Dichter disagrees with the prediction made by former Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon in an interview published in *Ha'aretz*, in which Ya'alon said that the disengagement will lead to a renewal of the terrorist war in the West Bank.

"I heard his assessment," Dichter said. "I don't know of intelligence that supports this. I don't know of logic that supports this."

Dichter objects to defining the disengagement as a "flight." He attributes the terrorist organizations' willingness to agree to a lull in violence in the territories to the heavy military pressure applied by Israel, and particularly the assassination of their leaders. He also believes that the threat of Qassam launches at Israel from the Gaza Strip will not be any greater after the IDF leaves Gaza, and that in fact, Israel will have greater freedom for military action if needed, because once the settlements and the IDF are out of Gaza, the number of Israeli targets there will be much smaller.

However, he is worried about emerging security arrangements in the northern West Bank, where four settlements are slated for evacuation. Dichter believes that the IDF must continue to operate in the Jenin area following the pullout, because otherwise, a security vacuum will result, and the terrorist organizations will exploit it.

Despite the difficulties — which, he said, include the likelihood that some right-wing extremists will not hesitate to fire on soldiers and policemen – Dichter believes the disengagement will be implemented. "Extreme scenarios are possible, but the critical mass of the evacuees will resist passively," he said.

"It will be difficult and unpleasant and it isn't going to look good on television, but we'll get through it."

Dichter expects the danger of an attack on the Temple Mount mosques or of an attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to increase as the disengagement approaches. He added that he had warned various rabbis from the northern West Bank that any attack on the Temple Mount would result in an unprecedentedly severe wave of terror against Jews around the world.

Ex-Shin Bet chief Avi Dichter

Dichter insists that the Shin Bet's "Jewish department," which tracks Jewish extremists, has better information than is generally thought. "Our intelligence penetration of the extreme right isn't bad," he said. "The problem is that we don't always manage to translate intelligence into legal evidence, and in some cases, revealing the evidence would be liable to burn our sources of information."

Dichter rejected speculation that Sharon decided not to extend his term as Shin Bet chief for a sixth year because he wanted someone less dominant and independent in the post. He insisted that his retirement did not stem from any disagreements with the prime minister, whom he admires. "Far be it from me to give him grades, but to my mind he is a real leader," Dichter said.

UN may investigate reports of Syrian presence in Lebanon

By SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

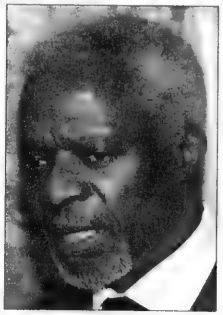
NEW YORK – United Nations Secretary General is considering sending a team to Lebanon to investigate reports of continued Syrian intelligence activity there, despite the official withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon last month.

The plan will probably involve the return of the UN team that investigated the circumstances surrounding the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri.

"We are receiving reports that claim that some [Syrian intelligence forces] are still there, and we are weighing the possibility of reinstating our inspection team to see what is happening," Annan said. The secretary general added that UN delegate Terje Roed Larson had been dispatched to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The United States is concerned about the possibility of a "pattern" of political killings in Lebanon, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said last week as two newspapers reported the Bush administration had word of a "Syrian hit list" targeting Lebanese leaders.

"What we don't want is that there is a pattern now of assassination of key figures, because that would be very, very destabilizing in Lebanon, and I think it would have to point a finger at those forces that have been destabilizing in Lebanon," Rice said in an interview on PBS' *Charlie Rose* show.



Kofi Annan

Hariri was assassinated in February and anti-Syrian columnist Samir Kassir was killed this month in Beirut.

"We need to be very clear that we expect a full investigation of the assassination of Mr. Kassir, following the assassination of Mr. Hariri," Rice said.

The FBI is helping the Lebanese government with its investigation of Kassir's murder. One FBI source said, "When Lebanese sources tell us that after the assassination of Kassir, more will follow, we take it seriously."

Bush administration officials say the United States has received "credible" word that Syria has developed a "hit list" targeting prominent Lebanese political leaders, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* reported on their webites.

The newspapers cited senior administration officials as saying Syria's plan was aimed at creating instability in an attempt to regain control of Lebanon.

Talk of the Syrian "hit list" has also gathered steam in Lebanon recently, but no one in the government has seen such a list, and there is no evidence attesting to its existence. Intelligence sources said they can't confirm the credibility of the reports.

A UN Security Council resolution in September demanded Syria withdraw all its forces from Lebanon, which were deployed there for 29 years. Damascus did so last month.

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Martin acknowledges fate of Jewish refugees

Continued from page 1

"[Martin] is probably the first western leader to acknowledge the fate of Jewish refugees," Farber said. "He understands the need to find a resolution for this."

Farber was the lone Canadian representative at the meeting convened by the World Association of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) in association with Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC). Delegates from Canada, the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Italy and Israel attended, while community representatives from Mexico and Australia participated through teleconferencing.

JJAC executive director Stanley Urman said the proposed international advocacy campaign contains two elements, "highlighting the mass violation of human rights versus Jews and their flight as refugees, and cataloguing individual and communal losses."

"We found in some of our research a pattern of orchestrated repression that was mirrored in 10 Arab countries. There were murders, arbitrary detentions and expulsions in all countries," Urman said.

Data provided by JJAC indicate the Jewish population in 10 Arab countries (Iran is not included) in 1948 totalled 856,000. By 2001, the Jewish population in all 10 countries totalled 7,800, of whom 7,200 lived in Morocco and Tunisia.

Algeria's numbers went from 148,000 to zero. Other countries to report having no Jews at all were Aden and Libya. Egypt's ancient community of 75,000 dropped to 100, Iraq's went from 135,000 to 100 and Morocco's 265,000 fell to 5,700.

Two-thirds of today's world Sephardi population resides in Israel, Urman said, and the country's ministry of justice has created a database to collect testimony of refugees and document the assets they were forced to leave behind. So far, Israeli officials have collected the case histories of some 3,000 families.

Urman said he expects the Knesset will proclaim March as "the month of commemoration and collection [of testimony].

"When the time comes when Israel or representatives of communities put the facts on the table [to request restitution], we must have the documents," he said.

Canada could play an important role in pushing for Jewish refugee rights, he continued. "We hope that Canada and others bring to the United Nations the notion there were multiple populations of refugees and it is an injustice to provide rights and redress to one victim population without providing equal rights to the victims of that same conflict," he said.

Sasson Mayer, a retired businessman originally from Baghdad, said he has already filed a claim on behalf of himself and his family with an organization in Jerusalem that represents Iraqi Jews. His family lost their interests in a weaving looms factory and two houses, and they were forced to abandon about 1,000 dinars in a bank account. In addition, his aunt's home in the Bestan al Chas neighbourhood of Baghdad was also lost.

Nevertheless, Mayer is not confident anything will come of his efforts. "I don't believe that Jews – myself – are going to get anything."

Instead, he believes, the claims of Iraqi Jews will be used to balance those of Palestinian refugees, netting them very little.

Farber, however, believes the claims of Jewish refugees should not be linked in that way to Palestinian claims. "Sephardi Jews want their narrative recognized," he said. Arab countries must "recognize the fact these are legitimate Jewish refugees forced to leave their homes and they are due compensation."

In addition, Arab governments should recognize the injustice they perpetrated against their Jewish citizens, many of whom had lived in these countries for thousands of years, he said.

Meanwhile, one of the participants at the Paris meeting, Libyan-born Gina Waldman, said that "over the years it has been difficult to raise the profile of Sephardi Jews throughout the world... This is about telling the stories that have never been told. It is not about money. And some of the stories are very sad."

Waldman recalled fleeing with her family from Tripoli in 1967 as a mob was setting fire to her apartment building.

"A Muslim neighbour saved us," she said. "He convinced the mob to leave. He saved our lives."

She and six family members managed to get to Italy, the former colonial power in Libya, where they lived in one room.

Her father had founded a land development company in Tripoli, which employed more than 300 people when the family fled in 1967.

"He never got over the loss," she said.

Waldman eventually moved to the United States, and she has worked as a human rights activist for many years.

After Sept. 11, she founded Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA), and has made a film, *The Forgotten Refugees*.

With files from CJN *news services.*

Most Iraqi Jews won't benefit from plan

A compensation plan for Iraqis wrongfully deprived of real property does not address the rights of most Iraqi Jews, according to an organization representing Jewish refugees from Arab lands.

Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), a worldwide coalition of major Jewish organizations, said the restitution plan announced last week by the Iraqi Ministerial Council targets Iraqis who lost an interest in property between July 17, 1968, and April 9, 2003, a period that corresponds to a Saddam Hussein-backed coup and runs to the end of his regime.

However, most Iraqi Jews were dispossessed in 1950 and 1951, meaning the plan does not address their rights, said Stanley Urman, executive director of JJAC.

Furthermore, JJAC noted, the deadline for claims is June 30 and they must be filed in Iraq.

JJAC applauded the Ministerial Council initiative, but added some caveats.

"Unfortunately, for members of our community, the [compensation claims] will be very difficult to address due to the limited time and the location for submission of claims," said Maurice Shohet, immediate past president of Congregation Bene Naharayim – an Iraqi congregation in New York.

"While we are encouraged by this development, redress for the mass violations of human rights must apply equally to all Iraqis, irrespective of when these offences took place, irrespective of which Iraqi regime was in power and for all those displaced from Iraq, wherever they may now reside," Urman said.

"It appears that the stage has been set for a new system of justice and the rule of law," added JJAC founding chair S. Daniel Abraham. "We hope that this signals the beginning of a process to rectify historical injustices and discriminatory measures perpetrated by previous Iraqi regimes."

According to an Iraq Property Claims Commission (IPPC) news release, the compensation process "is open to all persons, or their heirs, who have been wrongfully deprived of real property (for example, land, house or an orchard) or an interest in real property (for example, the right to farm the land) because of actions taken by the former governments from July 17, 1968, to April 9, 2003. This process also covers many actions carried out by some officials of the previous governments.

"Claims may also be made by people who lost or will lose real property or an interest in real property between March 18, 2003, and June 30, 2005, as a result of their ethnicity, religion, or sect; or for purposes of ethnic cleansing, or due to the return of individuals who had been previously dispossessed of their property as a result of the former government's policy of property confiscation.

For further information, contact Mohammed Jamil Abid, information department manager, IPPC media head office at 0096418161139 1.

—P.L.

Pope commits to interfaith ties at meeting with Jews

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUDAPEST — Following what they termed a warm and friendly Vatican audience with Benedict XVI, Jewish leaders are expressing the conviction that Jewish-Catholic relations will broaden and deepen under his pontificate.

"After this meeting, we are confident that under the leadership of Pope Benedict XVI, the Catholic Church will continue to build upon its growing relations with the Jewish community," World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman said in a statement after the audience last week.

The WJC's chair, Rabbi Israel Singer, added that the Church and the Jewish community would co-operate on joint humanitarian initiatives, including "much-needed relief and education aid to Africa, a continent suffering from the plague of AIDS."

The meeting between the pope and a 25-member delegation from the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations was Benedict's first official audience with international representatives of another faith community.

Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's director of interreligious relations, called the encounter "remarkably warm and the most informal private papal audience I have ever attended."

Participants included representatives from the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements; leaders from Israel, North America, Europe and Latin America; the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith International.

Benedict, who had met many members of the delegation when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, greeted them as old friends and spoke with them individually about a variety of specific issues.

Rabbi Singer said that he and Bronfman also had a private meeting with the pope in which they briefed him on this week's Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe summit on anti-Semitism and discussed humanitarian projects.

In his formal address to the group, Benedict reaffirmed his commitment to make Jewish-Catholic relations a prominent part of his agenda.

He noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a landmark declaration by the Second Vatican Council that opened the door to formal Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

That declaration, he said, affirmed the church's conviction that "the beginnings of her faith are already to be found in Abraham, Moses and the prophets." It also "called for greater mutual understanding and esteem between Christians and Jews and deplored all manifestations of hatred, persecution and anti-Semitism," he said.

"At the very beginning of my pontificate," he said, "I wish to assure you that the Church remains firmly committed, in her catechesis and in every aspect of her life, to implementing this decisive teaching."

Benedict noted that the history of relations between Jews and Catholics has been "complex and often painful," but he stressed that "remembrance of the past remains for both communities a moral imperative."

That imperative, he said, "must include a continued reflection on the profound historical, moral and theological questions presented by the experience of the Shoah."

The German-born Benedict, 78, was elected to the papacy April 19 following the death of Pope John Paul II. The Polish-born John Paul made fostering Jewish-Catholic relations a pillar of his policy.

Both popes clearly felt that "the burden of history rests on their shoulders," said Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, director of interfaith affairs for the Anti-Defamation League.

It was significant, he said, that at a time when a lot of people "wish the Jewish community would shut up about the past, here is a pope who says that it is a sacred obligation to remember the past and learn from it."

Israel destroys mortars

Israel destroyed Palestinian mortar shell launchers in the Gaza Strip. The attack came a day after three labourers were killed in a Palestinian mortar attack on the Israeli settlement bloc of Gush Katif. Palestinians also fired several mortar rounds at Gush Katif settlements. No injuries were reported in either the Israeli or Palestinian strikes.

Rabbi: Don't refuse orders

Soldiers should not refuse orders to evacuate Gaza settlers from their homes, a former Israeli Sephardi chief rabbi said. "Do not refuse orders," Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu said, according to *Ha'aretz*. "It's preferable for believing Jews to go among the houses and" evacuate settlers "while crying in tears and with a broken heart than for all kinds of evil people to come and joyously remove the settlers from their homes," he said in comments broadcast on Israel's Channel Two television. Israel's withdrawal from Gaza is set to begin in mid-August.

Onus on Palestinians: Straw

U.K. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told Palestinian leaders that the creation of an independent state "was in their hands." In the region for two days of talks in Jerusalem and Ramallah, Straw praised Israel's planned Gaza withdrawal, which he said would provide an opportunity for the Palestinians to prove they could rein in terrorists and make crucial economic reforms. "If this is a success, people will see that the Palestinians are capable of running the beginnings of their own state," he said. "They have the future in their hands." Straw, who also met Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, stressed that allowing terror groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad to operate would undermine the position of the Palestinian Authority and hinder peace prospects.

Gewurz, Cotler honoured

Bar-Ilan University awarded an honorary doctorate to Montreal businessman Samuel Gewurz as part of its jubilee year launch festivities. "We are honouring Samuel Gewurz for his profound involvement in public life and his devotion to the cause of Jewish education in Israel and Canada," said Bar-Ilan president Moshe Kaveh. Bar-Ilan also gave Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to human rights.

Bronfman opposes pullout

Canadian David Bronfman contributed $100,000 to the fight against Israel's upcoming Gaza Strip withdrawal. He made his pledge during a tour of the Neveh Dekalim settlement, *Ha'aretz* reported. Bronfman's late father, Edward Bronfman of Toronto, was the first cousin of Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress.

With files from JTA

4 acquitted in 2002 Kenya hotel bombing

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NAIROBI — A Kenyan judge last week acquitted four men charged in the 2002 suicide bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel that killed 15 people, saying prosecutors failed to link them to the bombers or Al Qaeda.

Kenya High Court Justice John Osiemo said the lack of evidence was such that prosecutors should not have accused the four, who faced 15 counts of murder.

"The prosecution has not established that the four accused people were at the scene of the murder, nor that they had met the two suicide bombers and there was a pre-arranged plan between them and the suicide bombers," Osiemo said.

Three Israelis and 12 Kenyans were killed after two suicide bombers broke through barriers outside the Paradise Hotel with a four-wheel drive vehicle full of explosives on Nov. 28, 2002.

At almost the same time, a missile was fired at, but missed, an Israeli airliner leaving the airport in the nearby Kenyan resort town of Mombasa. Three others have been charged with conspiracy in that case, and a ruling is expected later this month.

So far, no one has been convicted in either case, the most high-profile terror cases in Kenya since the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi.

But while three of the men charged with murder were released last week, one, Omar Said Omar, was kept in detention and charged with illegally possessing weapons. He faces from seven to 15 years in jail if convicted.

Prosecutors accused Omar of possessing five light anti-tank weapons, firearms, a hand grenade and forged national identity card, all found in his house in August 2003.

Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network, which is also blamed for the embassy blast, claimed responsibility for the missile attack and bombing at the hotel, a popular destination for Israeli tourists in Kikambala, north of Mombasa.

Osiemo said there was no evidence connecting the defendants to Al Qaeda, save calls between their mobile phones and that of a still-wanted suspect believed to be a top Al Qaeda member in Kenya.

The defendants, Mohammed Ali Saleh Nabhan, Mohammed Kubwa, Aboud Rogo Mohammed and Omar had denied the charges.

The men plan to sue the government for their long incarceration on the grounds it was unjustified, defence lawyer Amos Ngaira said outside court.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said Kenya's ambassador to Israel will be summoned and told Kenya must do more to bring the guilty to justice, and that Israel is offering further aid in finding them.

"The Foreign Ministry received with dismay the court's decision to release the suspects in the attack on the Paradise Mombasa Hotel. This decision means that until today, none of those guilty for this heinous crime have received punishment," the ministry said in a statement.

"This fact defiles the memory of the victims, Israelis and Kenyans, and raises fears that terror organizations around the world will view this as an encouragement for their vile deeds."

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Books & Authors

Survivor writes memoir 'for the generations to come'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Sixty years after his liberation from Ebensee work and concentration camp in Austria, Joseph Tenenbaum has an extraordinary memory of even the smallest detail and can reflect on the emotional vicissitudes of his life.

Like many Holocaust survivors, Tenenbaum does not like to speak about the horrors he lived through and the images that float in and out of his memory.

"I wanted to escape from the past, almost pretend it wasn't there. And yet not for a day could I forget it. How can you? With parents, friends, cousins and most of our town killed."

He says memory is a curse. But despite the pain of remembering, Tenenbaum wrote a book titled *Legacy and Redemption: A Life Renewed*.

"I wrote it for my children and grandchildren and the generations to come."

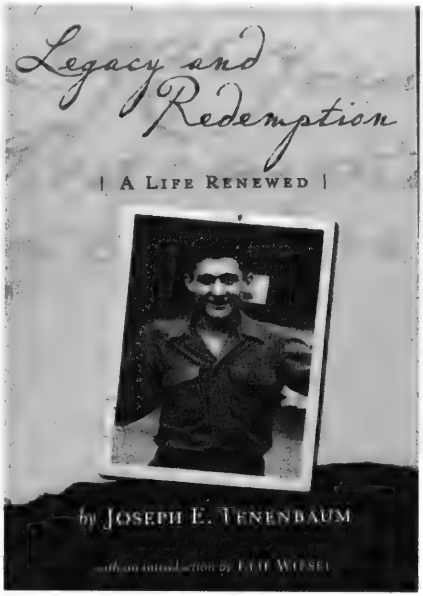
It begins with his pre-World War II memories of his happy and secure childhood growing up in Dzialoszyce, a small town in Poland where peace and love of life prevailed. He tells of the war years and the camps of Plaszow, Mielec, Mauthausen, Melk, Esbensee and others. He also speaks of "surviving the surviving" – rebuilding his broken life to become a successful Canadian businessman and philanthropist.

Despite his devastating experiences, Tenenbaum – who throughout his interview with *The CJN* quoted Socrates and the Talmud – adds humour and passion to his tale of rebuilding his life with optimism and courage, without succumbing to the urge to be blinded by bitterness.

Of some 950 submissions from Holocaust survivors to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., Tenenbaum was one of three authors selected to be published in a series called the Holocaust Survivors Memoir Project. Proceeds from the book will go to the museum, where Tenenbaum attended a signing ceremony last month.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, a longtime friend of Tenenbaum, writes in the introduction to *Legacy and Redemption* that "survivors tried to express their travails in words. People refused to hear them."

Tenenbaum's life can be segmented into five distinct eras: his happy idyllic childhood surrounded by family and friends; the arrival of the Germans, and the subsequent expulsions, separations and horrors as he reached bar mitzvah age; Tenenbaum as an 18-year-old survivor who becomes self-educated; Tenenbaum as a militant Zionist fighting for and building the State of Israel; and the challenge of establishing a new life – with marriage, children, making a living and becoming active in the community.



His accounts of becoming involved with the Irgun group in Germany and Italy after the war and of organizing illegal immigration to Palestine give a historical perspective on the struggle to establish the State of Israel.

Asked why he wrote the book, Tenenbaum replied: "The book wrote me."

He said he was first asked by his daughter in the mid-1970s to come to her class at the Associated Hebrew Schools to speak to the students and teachers about his experiences.

"It was with great trepidation that I went. When I thought about John Beattie, who started with small demonstrations with a small group at Allen Gardens, and other Holocaust deniers like Ernst Zundel, I realized that I must testify before those bastards contaminate the world to finish what Hitler started."

He began his remembrances by writing a letter to his children.

"It is said that thou shalt tell the children and the children will tell other children. So I started to write Bereshit – in the beginning. It was my legacy to them. And then the book wrote me."

He says he was determined that although the Nazis had stripped away their prisoners' names and replaced them with numbers, "they could not strip me of my dignity, my soul."

Tenenbaum's memory for names and events is awesome, and he is adamant that that we cannot let the past go.

"By writing, I bring the reader into the world to understand and know what I and many survivors could not speak about for a very long time."

Tenenbaum, who is frequently invited to speak to groups, sees his book as a warning.

"I wanted people to know that this could happen here, or any place, any time. About Amalek [the nation in the Bible that attacked the Israelites in the desert], it is written to remember and don't forget. They are two distinct things – to remember and never forget.

"With my parents gone, the only thing that kept me alive was working for Palestine, smuggling people out to settle there. I had to excavate my youth and put it back on the agenda."

His philosophy in life, he says, is to achieve balance. "This led me to… fall in love, get married, have children and to strive for a life of normalcy."

The first printing of *Legacy and Redemption: A Life Renewed* sold out and the book is being reprinted. It's available at Jewish bookstores and at the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BLUES FOR PEACE FESTIVALS OCCURRING SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TORONTO AND TEL AVIV

Simultaneous roots and blues mini-festivals are scheduled to take place in Toronto and Tel Aviv next week in affiliation with the Israeli-based non-political organization, Blues for Peace International.

The Toronto-area festival is free and features Juno winner **Jack deKeyzer**, **Wild T and the Spirit**, **Danny Marks**, **Gary Kendall**, **Brian Gladstone** and other artists. Gladstone, a Toronto musician and entertainment entrepreneur, is founder of the Association of Artists for A Better World, which recently released a CD anthology.

The family day of blues and roots music takes place at Mel Lastman Square on June 25, 2 to 10 p.m. Rain or shine. www.abetterworld.ca

* * *

Names in the News: British authors **Helen Davis** and **Douglas Davis** were in town last week, promoting their recent coffee-table book *Israel in the World*, which celebrates Israel's extraordinary high-tech achievements in medicine, science and technology, agriculture and other areas.

Although the Davises have lived for many years in Israel, where Douglas was senior editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, the pair say that collecting some of the country's high-tech success stories was an eye-opening experience. "Even we were surprised when we wrote the book," said Helen. "Our problem was not how to fill a book but how to avoid filling 10."

According to Douglas, even Israelis are often amazed to learn the extent of the country's achievements in the high-tech field. "One of the most common reactions is bewilderment, and surprise and delight," he said. The Davises were in Toronto for one day before proceeding to a book launch in New York headlined by newspaper mogul **Rupert Murdoch**, who penned the book's introduction.

* * *

Winchevsky Auction: Paintings, ceramics, drawings, signed books, sculptures and other works by Toronto artists are featured at the Winchevsky Centre's second annual silent art auction. Proceeds will benefit the Morris Winchevsky School, a weekly secular Jewish cultural program for children, and Camp Naivelt, a summer cottage community in Brampton.

Free admission, everyone welcome. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. (Five blocks north of Lawrence, east of Bathurst.) Thursday, June 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

* * *

Songwriting Workshop: Toronto songsmith **Stan Meissner** joins **Damhnait Doyle**, **Andy Kim**, **Haydain Neale** and other songwriters and recording artists on the faculty of the Humber Songwriting Summer Workshop, a week-long learning adventure in songwriting. It runs July 23 to 29 at the Humber Institute's School of Creative & Performing Arts. The fee is $675. 416-675-6622, ext. 3427; e-mail sanja.antic@humber.ca

* * *

For Children: Aloud, A Celebration for Young Readers brings together 23 authors for young people for three days of free readings and book-related crafts, music and other activities. Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay W. June 24 to 26. 416-973-4000 or www.readings.org

* * *

Arts in Brief

- Original kabbalistic paintings by Jerusalem artists **Dov Lederberg** and **Yael Avi-Yonah** are on display at the Park Avenue Gallery, 55 Avenue Rd. (lower level) in Hazelton Lanes, June 22 to 29. Meet the artists at the opening reception, Wednesday, June 22, 6 to 9 p.m. 416-923-6200.
- **The Civic Light Opera Company's** production of the **Lerner-Loewe** musical *My Fair Lady* is at the Fairview Library Theatre until June 26. 416-755-1717.
- The Mariposa Folk Festival is looking for volunteers. The festival runs July 8 to 10. www.mariposafolkfestival.com

Israeli family lives in 'bubble' in Quebec art gallery

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Alma, a pulp-and-paper town of 26,000 in the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean region about 200 kilometres north of Quebec City, is known for the scenic wilderness that surrounds it and not for its interior spaces.

But an Israeli family is changing that with the world-premiere of "The Bubble," a room-sized installation art exhibition, the centrepiece of which is a "home" encased in transparent fibreglass, on view at the Langage Plus Centre d'Art Actuel until June 19.

Bella Noviski and Evyator Stern, and children Danielle, 20, and Yonatan, 14, entered the bubble June 9 and were to live there for three days.

Its exterior is like a one-way mirror: spectators could see everything that goes on inside, but the family couldn't see out at all. A webcam also allowed anyone with Internet access to follow their every move live.

They were only allowed to leave the bubble to use the washroom (there are no showers), and even then they were to wear isolation suits and gas masks. The idea was that they would be completely cut off from the external environment. Call it the ultimate in cocooning.

Otherwise, they tried to live as normally as possible, just as they would back home in Herzliya. It wasn't an act.

They had e-mail access and visitors could interactively correspond with them. Having lived in Paris for 10 years, the couple are fluent in French.

The bubble measures eight by four metres and is 2.5 metres high. Air comes in through holes on top, and there is no mechanical ventilation.

The couple were designing and constructing the bubble for the past year. It was dismantled to be brought to Canada, and the family spent a week in Alma reassembling it on-site. They carried it with them on the long bus journey from Montreal to Alma. It was furnished and decorated to resemble a normal home, with materials procured locally. They didn't have to cook, as food was catered.

While on view, the family sorted photos and looked at videos of themselves taken over the years, and discussed their relationship. The activity was intended to suggest that families like to look at their past through rose-coloured glasses, while the present, which is on view, is a little more complicated.

So what's it all about?

The couple, who are established artists in Israel and have exhibited frequently in Europe, said "The Bubble" is inspired by the desire of families everywhere to shelter themselves from the outside world. But these boundaries are actually fragile and provide a false protection from the danger that is always just a stone's throw away from people in glass houses.

In the room with the bubble are monitors that play two video loops: one taken inside a public bus in Israel on an ordinary day, and another of cows grazing placidly. Although nothing happens, Stern said these scenes convey a sense of dread in the case of the bus, and of eerie silence following a catastrophe in the case of the cows.

The couple encourage viewers to interpret the installation in their own way. They emphasize it is not a cri de coeur against terrorism or a political statement. Although Israel's foreign ministry provided logistical help, the couple did not receive any government assistance for the project.

Yet, the violence in Israel of the past 4½ years and the Iraq war have strongly influenced them. "People have been afraid to go out of their homes or to get on a bus," Noviski said. "The Bubble" suggests the "escapism" that enables Israelis to endure an ever-present threat.

"To survive mentally, we have to live in some kind of bubble."

Of course, they realized beforehand that they were exposing themselves to something different in Alma: the critical eyes of strangers. The lack of privacy did not overly concern the family. If they argued among themselves, so be it. They are making art, not propaganda for some ideal of family life, they said.

"This is a reality show. The only difference with those on television is that ours will not be edited," said Noviski.

"To survive mentally, we have to live in some kind of bubble," says artist Bella Novisky, pictured with husband Evyatar Stern and children Danielle and Yonatan.

Yonatan, who wears his hair in long dreadlocks, sees the whole thing as a fun experience. "My friends are jealous of me," he said.

Danielle, who is on leave from the army, was more blasé. "We grew up under an artistic influence. This kind of idea is not unusual to us."

Speaking before the show's opening, they said they weren't worried about going a little stir crazy. "We'll see. It'll be like in a laboratory," Stern said with a shrug.

The family will remain in Alma until the end of the exhibition and be available to discuss it with visitors.

The connection between the Israelis and the Alma gallery was made through Quebec artist Michele Heon, whom Noviski met when she was completing a PhD at the University of Paris VIII in the 1990s.

This is the family's first time in Canada, and when interviewed in Montreal before the start of the exhibit, they had only a vague idea of where Alma was or what the area is like.

Langage Plus gave the artist couple "carte blanche" to create whatever work they wished. As director Christine Martel explained, the nonprofit, artist-run gallery encourages avant-garde and experimental art. Since its founding in 1979, it has hosted many international artists, but Novisky and Stern are the first from Israel.

"'The Bubble' fits well with our mandate. We are very enthusiastic," she said. The couple say "The Bubble" represents a blending of their principal artistic interests, and is the first time they have collaborated like this since meeting as students at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Art in the 1980s. Both are primarily sculptors working in large formats.

She has always been interested in portraying domestic life and everyday themes. His work has been more political and influenced by Israel's history and current events. His parents were Holocaust survivors, and he aroused some controversy when a work about the Lebanon war incorporated crematoria.

"It broke a taboo in Israel about using Holocaust imagery," he said.

"The Bubble" sparked interest in Israel even before the family left. They were the subject of a feature in *Ha'aretz* and are to be interviewed by TV talk-show host Yair Lapid when they return.

"The Bubble" is scheduled to be shown at Singapore's Modern Art Museum next February.

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Artist looks for moments that transcend time

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Looking for imagery that combines present with past, Barry Oretsky shoots close to 30 rolls of film on each of his frequent trips to Europe.

If Oretsky can later transcribe one or two pictures from each roll into a painting, then he considers himself lucky. His current show, "Observations," at Gallery One brings together 13 of those lucky moments into a gathering of high realism artwork that transcends time.

The Children's Case **is one of Barry Oretsky's paintings that form part of a Holocasut series that waits unfinished in his basement.**

Many of the paintings, which vary from still lifes to window displays, use reflections to force the viewer into the scene. In the time that it takes to analyse the work, Oretsky hopes that a cognitive and emotional understanding will emerge, so that it becomes clear what made the artist pause and snap his picture.

"You have these strange juxtapositions that take place in reflections," Oretsky said, explaining that with a reflection you're looking peripherally and the experience becomes non-threatening. When the viewer is more willing to engage, they look long enough that the image makes sense on a deeper level.

Oretsky's reflective ***The Sacred Feminine*** **is on display at Gallery one.**

While his paintings celebrate the beauty of the human experience, he also isn't afraid to look into the abyss. While "Obervations" is on exhibit in downtown Toronto, the artist talks about a Holocaust series that waits unfinished in the basement of his uptown home.

For Oretsky, the Holocaust paintings represent a totally different aspect to his personality. "Any Jew of 58 years of age knows about the Holocaust," he said, adding that the Shoah has affected him tremendously his whole life.

Oretsky grew up in Owen Sound listening to stories of the war and then later served in the Israeli army.

"I'm always aware that I have to be prepared to defend myself as a Jew," he said. "That awareness forces me to explore the dark as well as light sides of my soul."

"You can't have light without dark. The dichotomy is always there. Otherwise, both sides suffer," he said.

The artist reflects on the importance of remembering the Holocaust at a time that the world is trying to put the Shoah behind.

"They're trying to disengage from the moral responsibility to be cognizant of the lessons of the Holocaust. They think it's an old story," he said.

For many years, Oretsky refused to travel to Germany. However, after his mother died, he decided to visit Auschwitz in order to pray *Shacharit*, the morning services. While there, he shot two rolls of film. Once he got home, he realized there were 10 photos, a minyan, which could be transformed into paintings. Two of those shots, *Chaim* and *The Children's Case*, are already complete. Oretsky is hoping to find a patron who will buy the complete minyan before it is finished so that he can work on the rest uninterrupted.

In the meantime, Oretsky's technique continues to evolve so that his command of colour and stroke allow him the freedom to capture imagery that prompted him to stop and pause as he walked the streets of Paris and Rome.

Oretsky's "Observations" runs to June 29 at Gallery One, 121 Scollard St., Toronto.

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Arts & Travel

Documentaries focus on the Jews of Iraq and Iran

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Political instability and rabid nationalism have had devastating consequences on the venerable Jewish communities of Iraq and Iran. Two thoughtful documentaries screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, *The Last Jews of Baghdad* and *Jews of Iran*, underscore that theme.

Carole Basri's vivid film on Iraq – the third in a trilogy about its former Jewish inhabitants – charts the decline and dissolution of the ancient Jewish community from the 1930s onward. It ends on the eve of the 2003 allied invasion of Iraq, when Baghdad was home to only about 50 Jews.

Her overarching point is that Jews prospered under British colonial rule and sustained a loss of confidence and influence after Iraq nominally achieved its independence in 1932. Iraq had technically liberated itself from the shackles of colonial domination, but behind the scenes, Britain pulled the strings.

Jews, nevertheless, were dismissed from government jobs and limits were placed on the number of Jewish university students. It was a far cry from the days when many banks and shops in Baghdad were closed on the sabbath.

A clique of pro-Nazi Iraqi army officers, backed by German aircraft, staged a coup in the late spring of 1941. The plotters were crushed and fled in disarray. But after the failure of their revolt, there was a momentary power vacuum during which Arab mobs attacked Baghdadi Jews in a pogrom known as the *farhud*. Saddam Hussein's uncle was one of the perpetrators.

The British looked on impassively as approximately 200 Jews were murdered and 2,000 were wounded. Jewish women were raped and the homes of Jews were looted and destroyed. But as Basri hastens to add, some Iraqis came to the aid of Jews.

The *farhud* shattered the poise of Iraqi Jewry and prompted several thousand Jews to emigrate. There was a period of calm, but it was broken by the 1947 United Nations Palestine partition plan. Within a year, Iraq unveiled a series of draconian anti-Jewish measures.

Jewish-owned banks were forbidden to hold foreign currency, Jewish newspapers were shut, Jews were forced to pay a special tax for Palestinian losses in the Arab-Israeli war, Jews were barred from some jobs and a prominent Jewish businessman was hanged, accused of being a Zionist.

Although emigration was illegal, Jews began leaving in droves, aided by smugglers. By 1949, 12,000 had left. In 1950, the Iraqi government passed legislation allowing Jews to leave on condition they relinquished their citizenship. The upshot of it all was that 120,000 Jews immigrated to Israel. Iraq proceeded to nationalize their property.

This Iranian-Jewish student was maligned by her teacher who called her "impure."

Ten thousand Jews remained in Iraq. They were economically better off than their struggling cousins in Israel. According to Basri, Iraqi Jews enjoyed a good life, even after the violent overthrow of the monarchy in 1958.

Almost 5,000 Jews lived in Iraq when the 1967 Six Day War broke out. They were subjected to harsh restrictions. "Wherever we went, we were watched," says one Jew.

Worse was yet to come. In January 1969, nine Jews who had been charged with being Israeli spies were hanged in central Baghdad. A national holiday was declared as 700,000 Iraqis filed passed the dangling corpses. "They were traitors, like the Rosenbergs," claims Iraqi government flack Tariq Aziz.

In the aftermath of this tragic event, two more Jews were executed and the son of Iraq's chief rabbi was imprisoned and tortured. The rabbi himself was trotted into a television studio and compelled to issue a statement attesting to the good treatment of Jews in Iraq.

With the help of Kurdish smugglers, an additional 3,500 Jews escaped from Iraq in the intervening years. There were 1,000 Jews in Iraq when Saddam Hussein – the orchestrator of the 1969 hangings – assumed the presidency in place of Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr in 1979. They, too, eventually fled. And now, there are practically none left.

The Last Jews of Baghdad, supplemented by interviews with former Iraqi Jews in Canada, Israel and the United States, chills the blood.

***

Ramin Farahani's *Jews of Iran* is disturbing as well. Filmed with the permission of the Islamic authorities "under the usual restrictions," it was shot in Teheran, Isfahan and Shiraz.

The first scene unfolds in a Jewish school, where a teacher instructs pupils to light sabbath candles and chant prayers. Farahani interviews a Jewish teenager. She complains that "religious minorities" are denied entry to some universities in Teheran.

In her wake, a Jewish girl tells a horror story. She left a fine private school because an Islamic studies teacher maligned her by claiming she was "impure" and "untouchable."

Morris Motahed, the sole Jew in parliament, says that "religious minorities" have not had access to civil service jobs since the 1979 Islamic revolution. And Jews in Teheran are apparently not permitted to use Muslim bathhouses either.

Farahani's camera pans on an old Jewish woman in a hospital bed. She is in a state of despair, bewailing her loneliness. She is alone in the world, her children having immigrated to Israel.

The implicit anti-Semitism that permeates some circles in Iran is revealed as a Muslim student talks about her esteemed Jewish teacher, a Mr. Sasson. With a beatific smile, she expresses affection and respect for him, but admits she does not care for Jews because of Israel's existence.

Iranian Jews are under stress to conform to national norms, and in line with this pressure, a Jewish doctor exhorts Jews at a meeting to be Iranians first.

All is not black, however, in *Jews of Iran*. We're offered a glimpse of what seems like a genuine friendship between a Jewish and a Muslim woman. And in a jewelry shop whose proprietor is a Jew, a Muslim customer speaks well of Iranian Jews. If only Israel did not make trouble, she adds.

As befits a film about Iran's Jewish dimension, there is a reference to the 13 Jews arrested in 1998 on charges of being Israeli spies.

Jews have lived in Iran for more than 2,000 years, but since 1979, their presence has diminished as Iran's overall population has doubled. Twenty thousand Jews remain, compared to 100,000 a generation ago, and what the future holds in store for them is a great mystery.

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500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
Real Estate Inc. Realtor

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

27 RIDGE HILL DR $1,800,000
2 side by side building lots in Upper Forest Hill Village 90 x 120 ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

PRIME LOWER FOREST HILL $1,695,000
Renovated centre hall, 5 bedroom, 5 baths, large family room, 50 x 130 ft. Faithe Sverksy** 416-488-2875

11 PORTSMITH ROAD - YORKMILLS/LESLIE
Spectacular West facing lot, pool cabana 4+1 bedroom. Steve Wagman* 416-785-1500

1ST AD! 482 LYTTON BLVD! $1,499K!
Alexandra Wood Area! Incredible 6+1Bth! Rare Mn Flr Mbr Retreat! Fab 67.5 x 135'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

39 PRUE AVENUE! STUNNING 5+1BR $999K!
Bathurst/Glencairn! 4Bth! Mn Fam+2Pce! Nanny Ste! Fab 50 x 125'! Walk To Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

PRIME UPPER VILLAGE STONE HOME SOLD
Gorgeous curb appeal, large principal rooms, 5 bdrms, 3 baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CASA LOMA INCOME PROPERTY
2-3 bdrm, 1-2 bdrm location, superb 186' deep lot! Make an offer. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

26 HILLMOUNT AVENUE! MOTIVATED!
$879K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Grand 5+2Br, 4Bth! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+ 2Pce! Nanny Ste! 50x135'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

GORGEOUS RENO'D 4BDRM $798,000
Designer decor, spacious beauty, family room, high, ceilings, Bayview/Eglinton. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

22 MODEL AVENUE! NEW 4+1BR 4 BTH! SOLD
$689,900! Bathurst N/Wilson! Unbelievable! Nanny Ste! W/O Bsmt! Fab 32 x 170'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

78 ALEXIS BLVD! 4+1BR! 4BTH! $679,000!
Bathurst S/Sheppard! Value Packed! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! Nanny Ste! Gorg'us 40x161'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

3 BAYHAMPTON COURT! 4+1BR, 3BTH! SOLD
$629K! "Bathurst Manor"! Incredible B/S! Reno Kit! Updated Mechanics! 60 x 125'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CENTRAL PROPERTIES CONT'D

ARMOUR HEIGHTS! FAB CLASSIC CENTRE HALL $575,000
3 bdrm, 4 bath, large principle rooms, great finished basement, prof landscaped lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

UPPER FOREST HILL/FAIRLEIGH CRES.
$549,000, 4 bdrm, 1.5 storey, 2 baths, hardwood floors, garage, immaculate. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

5A HEATHDALE ROAD! 3STRY, 3BR 4BTH!
$515K! Bathurst N/St. Clair! Care Free City Living! Fab Semi! B/I Grge! Gorg'us Deck! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-488-2875

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

11 THORNBANK ROAD! LUX 6+1BR, 11BTHS!
$2,380K! "Old Thornhill"! Man Fam+Lib+2Pce! Indoor Spa! 3 Car Grge! Sensational 100x281'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

67 DENLOW BLVD! EUROPEAN FLAIR!
$1,980K! Leslie/York Mills! Total Reno 4+1Br, 4Bth! Indoor Spa! Lush 60 x 110'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

239 CRESTWOOD ROAD! FAB 73 X 151'!
$429K! Bathurst N/Steeles! Prime Local On Cul-De-Sac! Build Your Dream Home! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

AMAZING NORTH RICHMOND HILL HOME
This $539,900, 4bd, 4bth home features breathtaking treed ravine lot. Many upgrades. P. Fegelman* 416-226-1987

2200 SQ FT TOWNHOME FREEHOLD YONGE/CLARK
7 apls fixs pts frpl. Huge kitchen pantry, w/o deck + park! Rare fin. Don't miss. R. Trachter* 416-226-1987

EAST PROPERTIES

GORGEOUS TRENDY FILM DISTRICT – SOUTH RIVERDALE SOLD
Victorian open living/dining rm, hardwood private patio, garden with water fall + fish pond. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

3000 BATHURST – WOW - 3 BDRM – LOW FLOOR!!
N/E corner eat-in kit, w/window, ens, lndry sol, spacious, mod reno in bldng, lobby –value plus. L. Cooper* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

YONGE LAWRENCE 4 BDRM + DEN $2500
Newly Renovated Over $2000 sq ft, backing on ravine, 2 pkg. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

AVENUE /WILSON GORGEOUS 3 BDRM FAMILY HOME
$2500 updated kit, 3bths, finished basement w/rec, hardwood, near schools, etc, M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/ST. CLAIR EXECUTIVE UPPER DUPLEX
$2300, 4bedroom, 2 baths. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN CONDO $1250/MO.
Up to 5 year lease term, 1bd + den, 1.5 bths, ensuite lndry, 6 appliances, prkg, locker. K. Silverberg* 416-488-2875

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

DAVID EICHORN
REALTY LIMITED REALTOR

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AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
AFFORDABLE LUXURY IN HOT AREA! Custom built, upgraded detailing throughout! 4 bdrms., 4 baths, granite counters & floors, hrdwd. floors on both levels, coffered ceilings, crown mouldings, marble fireplace ++. **ALL THIS FOR ONLY $849,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

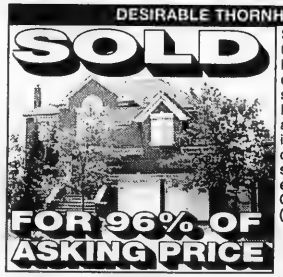
* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — LOWEST PRICE IN AREA!
A real charmer on generous deep lot! Renovated & decorated 2 + 2 bdrm., gleaming hardwood floors, spacious modern kitchen, separate entry to in-law suite, close to TTC, shops ++. **ONLY $379,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / VIEWMOUNT
Spectacular brand new custom home loaded with upgrades, on 50 x 140 ft. lot and surrounded by million $ homes. 5 + 2 bdrms., sep. entry to 2 in-law suites, 10 ft. ceilings, fam. room + library on main floor, dream kit., hrdwd. flrs. on 2 levels. Asking $1.479 million. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

DESIRABLE THORNHILL



Spectacular custom 6,000 sq. ft. exec. home (was builder's own) on premium pie-shaped lot, close to Bayt Shul. Architectural gem! Cathedral ceilings, oak plank floors, dramatic library with sitting room, built-in entertainment centre. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

*BROKER

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

BATHURST-CENTRE ON _ ACRE LOT!
Exquisite 5 bedroom home, finished basement, glass block, circular interlock drive, custom kitchen, fabulous finishings throughout. Must see!! *Ted Waxman

• • •

YONGE-WELDRICK $1,450,000
Absolutely outstanding 5 bedroom custom home with meticulous care to every detail! Impressive stone façade with attractive high pitched roofline, arched entrance, 4 car garage, stunning glass & hand wrought iron double door entry – this is unforgetable luxury!! Thousands spent on custom moldings, artistic paint finish, mirage strip hardwood firs, curved archways, marbelized designer columns. Too many upgrades to list. To view this outstanding home, call *Lucy Melamud

• • •

CENTRE-BATHURST – KING HIGH DR. $929,000
Elegant custom built 5 bdrm, 5 bathroom home. Circular staircase leads to superb lower level with office & nanny suite. Absolutely perfect and ready to move in. *Albert Burke.

• • •

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Custom 2 storey home to be built on a quiet private court. 10 ft ceilings on main floor, 9 ft on 2nd floor, wood floors, 4 baths. Too many extras to mention. Call *Carey Rosenzweig

• • •

BATHURST-HIGHWAY 7 "THORNHILL WOODS"
Exquisite 4 bdrm, main floor family room & library. Fabulous finishes throughout! Thousands $ in upgrades. Basement partly divided. Must see! *Ted Waxman

• • •

AVENUE ROAD – EGLINTON 33' X 130'
Fab duplex, one 2 bdrm, one 3 bdrm, finished bsmt with sep. entrances. New roof. Shows well! $639,000. *Ted Waxman
SOLD

• • •

CENTRE-DUFERIN
Large upgraded 4 bdrm home, 9 ft ceilings, stainless steel appliances. On quiet cul-de-sac. $569,000. **Mark Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-HWY 7 – JUST LISTED!
3 bedroom townhome, main floor family room, hardwood floors, appliances, air, central vac & security. Shows well. Must be seen! **Mark Waxman

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Fab 2 split bedroom layout, new appliances & window coverings, renovated bathroom, locker. Shows great! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-DREWRY $279,900
3 Bdrm end unit Townhome, finished basement, new windows & doors, hardwood floors, appls, central air, attached only by approx. 5 feet! Feels like a detached house! *Ted Waxman

• • •

CLARK-HILDA "THE CONSERVATORY" $249,900
Spacious 2 bdrm, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen. Open House Sunday June 18th from 2-4 p.m. at 333 Clark #112. *Sarah Rovet

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES - $239,000
Large 3 bdrm corner suite with solarium, newer appliances, ensuite locker, close to all amenities! Shows well! *Ted Waxman

• • •

STEELES-BATHURST "THE COURTLAND"
Spacious & sunny 1 bdrm in demand building, great view, east facing balcony, 2 parking spots, beautiful grounds. *Helen Gould

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

905-764-7200

BEAUTIFUL 111 HEDGE ROAD
Terrific open concept three bedroom bungalow backing onto the first tee of the Briars. Gorgeous double lot, lake access, detached two car garage. Wood burning fireplace. Call to view.

JIM BRENNAN, Associate Broker, Sutton Group Future Realty Inc.
Tel.: 416-229-4835 or E-mail: jbrennan@trebnet.com

HARVEY KALLES REAL ESTATE LIMITED

MICHELLE KAHN, MBA
416.441.2888 x 612
TOP PRODUCER.
CHAIRMAN'S CLUB AWARD WINNER

$1,598,000 ARNOLD AVENUE. 5+1 bdrms, 7 baths, hrdwd flrs, granite, 3 f/plcs, huge fam rm, fnshd bsmnt/nannys ste, sauna, poolside cabana/bar + 3pc bath, 3 walk/outs to grdn/pool, hot tub, gazebo, 4 **CAR GAR,** electr. gates, prof lndscpd, u/grnd sprinkler sys, 100'x180'

$1,366,000 ARNOLD AREA SOLD IN TWO DAYS , 7 baths, sep ent to w/out finsd bsmt, 2 kitchens. This EXCLUSIVE LISTING.

$879,000 Thornhill Woods, Magnificent 5 bdrm, all ensuite baths, custom home, prem. lot backing onto green forest. State of art kit, heated granite flr, maple flrs, 10's of 1,000's in extras! SOLD IN 1 WEEK

$519,000 Bathurst/Clark 5+2 bdrms, 4 baths, LR/DR comb, mn flr fam rm f/plc, office, eat-in kit, walkout to fncd grdn, fnshd bsmt, entry frm dbl gar., almost 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. SOLD 96.5% OF ASKING

$439,900 Bayview/Greenlane 4+1 bdrms, 4 baths, eat-in kitchen, walkout from family room to deck, nanny's suite, cvac, cac, circuit breakers, main floor laundry, double garage. SOLD IN ONE DAY

$429,000 Bathurst/Clark 4+ baths, entry frm dbl gar, mn flr lndry, w/out frm mn flr fam rm to grdn, fnshd bsmt, walk to shuls. SOLD 96% OF ASKING

$298,000 Hilda/Steeles, 3 bdrms, 3 baths, fin. bsmnt, entry frm gar, interlock drv. **NEW:** roof (May 25/05), windws, furnace, c/air, frdge, dryer.

$229,000 Bathurst/Antibes condo CORNER STE, 18th flr 2 bdrms, 2 full baths, master ste walk-in clst, jacuzzi, hrdwd flrs, eat-in kit/ wndws, **N/E** views, balc. pkng. **FOR SALE/FOR RENT @ $1,500/mo.**

THE CONSERVATORY, LOW RISE BLDG. 333 CLARK AVE. W. $599,000 CORNER SUITE, 1800 sqft, 2bdrms, 2baths, 2 jacuzzis, inste sauna, **GRANITE, MARBLE, HRDWD,** eat-in kit prem. applncs wndws, balcony, NW views, pkng, guest suites, gatehouse security.

TOP 8TH FLOOR. PENTHOUSE 2,700 sqft + 1,000 sqft TERRACE, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, **LR/DR** comb + fireplace, **SOLARIUM,** EAT-IN KITCHEN, LAUNDRY ROOM, 6 APPLIANCES, C/VAC, 6 **W/OUTS, N.S.W. & EAST VIEWS. 5 PARKING. $879,000**

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

ATKINSON/CENTER
4 + bdrms, 4 baths, liv & din comb, walkout to yard from kitchen & fam rm, rec rm, maids quarters, double garage, move-in condition, A-1 location, steps to all.

WILMINGTON/SHEPPARD
3 bdrm bungalow, 2 baths, L-shaped living & dining, family sized kitchen, finished basement, double drive garage, Don't Miss.

ALLEN RD/WILSON HEIGHTS
Large custom built 3 bdrm, 3 baths, good size living & dining rm, fin basement, 2 car garage, large lot.

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BAYVIEW VILLAGE RAVINE
Spectacular multilevel property on exclusive court. 3,500 sq. ft. on over 100 ft. frontage. Inground pool. A little bit of country in the city.
Call **MICHAEL ADELSON**
Sales Representative
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416-229-6090

SALLY ROSEN
905-764-7111
STEELES & DOVE HAWKWAY
Elegant 3 bd townhome, 1,850 sq. ft., move-in condition, 3 baths, hrdwd flrs, 9-ft. ceilings, gar. New kitchen. $309,000.
CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Centre/Westminster, spacious, bright, 3 bdrm, townhome, deck, 5 appl., shuls. 905-881-9179.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Brooke, 1 block from Bathurst, 3 bdrms., backyard, fin. bsmt., eat-in kit., 5 appls., pkg. & gar. Avail. immed. Days, 416-783-0179, evenings, 905-886-5515.

Bathurst/S. of 401 Townhouse, large executive. 3 bed., 5 appl., 1 1/2 bath, CAC, newly reno'd. $1600/mo+. Call 416-918-5391.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Hamilton, 2 bdrm., Euro kitch., 5 appl near Univer., shuls, bus. No agents. 905-628-6265. $110,000.

Yonge/Clark, spacious 2 bdrm., 2nd floor, 1646 sq. ft., close to bus. Call 905-762-0186.

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003 or 822-4003

SKYMARK DON MILLS & FINCH
Skymark II: renovated throughout. SW corner, 2 bedroom + family + balcony.
Skymark I: open concept, 2 bedroom with large living room + solarium.
SANTEE LEUNG, F.R.I., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

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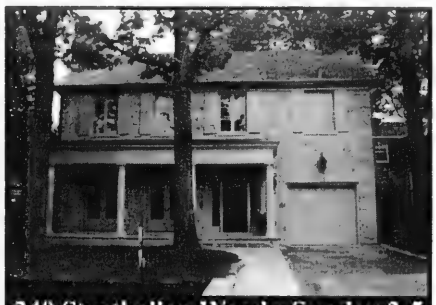
THE CONSERVATORY - 333 CLARK AVENUE - NEW PRICE
$679,900. Over 2100 sq. ft., spacious corner sub-penthouse, open concept, two bedrooms, two ensuite baths + powder room, family room, four walkouts, new hardwood floors, two parking & two lockers. View at www.virtualproperties.ca/g4518

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE



240 Strathallan Wood • Sunday 3-5

$3,295,000. Exceptional custom residence built by one of Toronto's finest builders. Hand crafted Kitchen, large Dining Room, main floor Library & Family Room. 6 Bedrooms and a second Kitchen in Lower Level. July possession.

To view, please call **Ethel Sapera**, Sales Representative at **416-489-2121**
Royal LePage R. E. S. Ltd./JOHNSTON & DANIEL DIVISION

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles - Furn. or unfurn. Primrose, lrg lux penthouse, fully renov. very bright eat-in kitchen, 2 bdrm., 2 full bath. parking. avail. July 1. Call 416-665-4121.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Male/female, any age, very flexible, all incl., nr. TTC. Call 905-882-5323 in a.m. (lve. msg.).

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Allen/Lawr., 3 bdrms. in 7-plex, 2 baths, balc., pkg. $1350. 416-783-0179 / 905-886-5515.

Bath./Lawrence, 1 bdr. apt., nr. TTC, lndry. facil., newly painted, suits 1-2 people. 416-785-5686.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl.
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or **416-631-0388** - Super

BATHURST BRIAR HILL
Spacious, oversized 1 & 2 bedroom, available in well maintained building. Newly painted and modern. 2 bathrooms, 3 appliances. Walk to TTC/Shopping/ Restaurants
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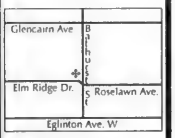
Bathurst/Sheppard, country feel in the city, spacious, bright, clean boutique apts., quiet ravine setting off main sts., newly reno, TTC, 2 bdrm. avail. imm. Call 905-474-3600, 416-633-1484.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Luxury Apartments for Rent

The Eldorado
2500 Bathurst St.

Few Remaining Call Today!



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- New Kitchens and Bathrooms
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- 2 Bedroom: 1,600 sq. ft.
- 2 Bedroom + Den: 1,700 sq. ft.
- 3 Bedroom: 2,300 sq. ft.
- 3 Bedroom + Den: 2,500 sq. ft.
- Shabbat Elevators

For more information or to schedule a viewing, please call:
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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Golfer's dream! Lake Simcoe, 3 bdrm. cozy cottage. Backs onto 1st fairway of Briar's Golf Course. Hot tub & lake access w/dock. Brett, 647-988-6945.

Lake Muskoka, spacious 4 bdrm., 2 baths, fully equipped cottage, close to Gravenhurst, lakefront with sandy beach, avail. July 1-25. 905-889-9146 (lve msg)

Serene, Lake of Bays, on quiet priv. lake, newly blt. cozy 3 bdr., avail. yr. round. 416-873-4660.

Trent Severn (Sparrow Lake area), 3 bdr. cottage, screened gazebo, great fishing, casino, golf, shopping avail. in nearby area, all amen., no pets, booking now: weekly & full season rates avail., can e-mail photos. Please call 1-705-325-5238.

Kosher Adirondacks country cottage. Rental www.loonlakejewishcenter.com

Lake Simcoe lkfrnt., Beaverton, lux 4 bd., priv. 1 acre sandy beach, tennis, dock, full amens. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

Belle Ewart, 4 bdrms., private lot, short walk to shul, steps to lake. Available June-July 17. Please call 416-995-9630.

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Mt. Tremblant, 5 bed., 2 bath, sleeps up to 12. Pool, close to skiing. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Short term or seas. Also avail. for sale. Call 1-866-955-9961.

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245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED

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Sponsoring from abroad
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240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Sales & Marketing Position in the Health Care Industry
Results-oriented person well-connected in the community. Salary plus. Fax 416-398-3909.

SENIOR BOOKKEEPER REQUIRED FOR LARGE REFORM TEMPLE

This position requires an individual with:
- ✡ Excellent organizational & accounting skills
- ✡ Working knowledge of Accounting procedures, AccPac, Excel spreadsheets
- ✡ Ability to handle multiple tasks

Duties will include:
- ✡ Work with assistant bookkeeper
- ✡ Cash flow, bank reconciliations, journal entries to G.L., payroll

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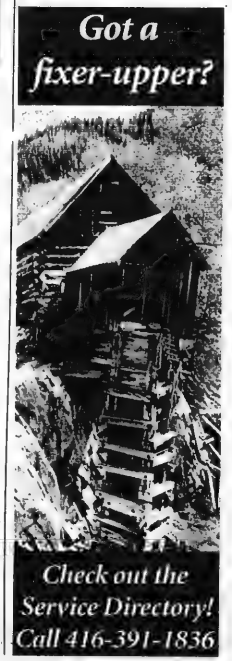

Health & Lifestyles

Advice books help survive life's challenges

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Going through something for the first time can be difficult and even scary.

But experiences such as entering university, getting married, getting divorced or having a baby can also teach us valuable life lessons.

That's the idea behind the "How to survive..." series of self-help guides created by venture capitalist Yadin Kaufman and Mark Bernstein, a former senior vice-president of CNN.

A year-and-a-half ago, Kaufman, a native New Yorker who now lives in Israel, and Bernstein, who lives in California, formed a company called Hundreds of Heads. It employs 10 "head hunters" in Israel, the United States and Canada who interview people about how they've dealt with major life transitions.

The idea behind the name and the business is that it's better to get advice from lots of people – "hundreds of heads" – than from just one.

"One expert can't give a whole lot of people with completely different personalities and needs individual advice," said Toronto's Andrea Syrtash, the series' Canadian "head hunter."

Because the people interviewed bring different life experiences to bear on each topic, she said, the books contain a lot of contradictory advice.

But canvassing many opinions has helped the books appeal to a wider audience, she added.

So far, six titles have been written in the "How to survive…" series, which Syrtash describes as "Dummies guides meets Chicken Soup for the Soul meets Zagats," and 100,000 copies have been sold in total.

How to Survive Your Freshman Fear was first – Kaufman came up with the idea for the series when his son was applying for university – and it's already in its fourth printing. It's now the number 1 selling college guide of its kind.

"College students would rather hear from other college students about ways to get through their first year," Syrtash said.

Other titles include *How to Survive Baby's First Year*, *How to Survive Your Teenager* and *How to Survive Your Marriage*.

Topics on the horizon include pregnancy, weddings, diets and in-laws.

Though it's not specifically Jewish, Syrtash said the series has a Jewish flavour. Many of the people interviewed are Jews, and Syrtash said the books fit the Jewish community ethos of helping to guide fellow Jews through challenges.

Canadian readers who are interested in contributing to future titles can contact Syrtash at andrea_Syrtash@yahoo.com.

ENVIRONMENTAL HONOURS: The Toronto Heschel School was a runner up for the grand prize in the junior division of Canadian Geographic's Canadian Environment Awards Green Team Challenge 2005 on June 6. Pictured are Ellen Kessler, Heschel's director of environmental studies; Grade 4 student Max Esser; author and activist David Suzuki, recipient of a lifetime achievement award; and Grade 1 student Danielle Hack. The Green Team Challenge encourages innovative school- and community-based initiatives that help preserve or restore the local environment.

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Fantasy becoming reality for Jesse Levine, tennis phenom

By IAN SADINSKY
Special to The CJN

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Jesse Levine is seeing his fantasy of being a tennis professional quickly becoming a reality.

After being enrolled in some of the best tennis schools in South Florida, Levine quickly made his mark on the U.S. tennis landscape, compiling a 37-0 record in 2002, and finishing as the number 1 ranked player in the country in the 14 and under category.

The spotless record in 2002 does not tell the whole story of this young phenom's character. In the final U.S. Championship match in Fort Lauderdale, Levine was down 5-0 in the deciding third set facing double match point at 15-40. He then reeled off an amazing 27 consecutive points, winning the set 7-5 and the championship.

Levine is currently ranked 23rd in the world by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in the under-18 category and 16th in the United States by the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

He continues to make strides in the competitive world of elite tennis, but the 17-year-old recently had to withdraw from his first ATP (professional) tournament in Tampa against a player formally ranked 200th in the world. In the third set, Levine pulled out because of recurring abdominal pains.

In April, however, he advanced to the semi-finals in the Easter Bowl in Palm Springs, Calif., and earlier that month he was again a semi-finalist at the International Spring Champs tournament in Carson, Calif. Levine and his partner, Michael Shabaz, advanced to the finals in doubles action at the Carson event.

In January at the Australian Open, Levine had three match points over the number 1 seed, Sun Yong Kim of Korea. Unfortunately, Kim fought back to win, but Levine had given notice that he would be a force to be reckoned with internationally.

In the Australian Open doubles, Levine and Shabaz took Kim and his partner to the limit before eventually succumbing to the top-ranked duo.

Having grown up in Ottawa, Levine holds dual U.S-Canadian citizenship. His family moved to Florida four years ago because of his younger brother Daniel's health requirements.

The five-foot-eight, 145-pound lefty knows what he has to do to move up to the next level: "I have to get a lot stronger to compete with the big players. But I am working on both my strength and my speed every day."

Levine plays out of the fabled Bolletierri Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Fla., where he gets both excellent coaching and a chance to "hit some" with some of the big-time pros like Tommy Haas.

Levine's tennis role model is Sebastian Grosjean of France. "We play a very similar game and he is a very class act who doesn't let himself get caught up or distracted by the crowd," Levine said.

Another favourite is Switzerland's Roger Federer. "He is a mental rock," said Levine. "Tennis is 85 per cent mental."

Aside from his obvious maturity and skill, Levine brings blazing quickness to the courts. "I just did a 20-yard dash in 2.93 seconds," said a beaming Levine. That type of speed may counter his lack of size and vault him into the professional ranks.

His arsenal includes a big forehand, a deadly two-hand backhand, and clever, calculated volleys that eventually wear down opponents.

Levine's first coach was his dad, Nate, who played varsity tennis at Penn State before moving to Canada where he married Shelli Kimmel of Ottawa. Levine recalls paying tennis when he was about seven or eight "with my parents and little brother in our driveway."

Detecting his son's obvious ability, Nate took him to the Ottawa Athletic Club where he began his climb up the tennis ladder. In his first tournament for players 12 and under, Levine reached the finals, although he was only 10.

He also enjoys playing basketball and soccer. "Basketball is my favourite sport, but I knew because of my size I was going to always have additional challenges. So, I chose tennis."

Levine, who is in Grade 12 and studies every day through the University of Miami's On-Line High School program, is also "a tremendous big brother," Nate says. "When he comes home for a weekend, instead of hanging with his friends, Jesse will take his little brother to the movies. Daniel is his biggest fan and followed Jesse's performance at the Australian Open on the Internet. He gave us point by point updates on how Jesse was doing."

Levine will soon have to choose between staying as an amateur or going professional. He is already playing in qualifiers for regional ATP tournaments but he will likely hold off accepting any prize money for the moment.

"I'm living my dream playing tennis," Jesse said. "Thanks to tennis, I've been to Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Aruba and the Dominican Republic.

"My advice to other young players," he continued, "is never give up on your dreams, because anything can happen."

Wheelchair athlete makes national junior basketball team

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

As a young boy, Shayne Smith used to love watching hockey and basketball. Playing the games was another matter. He never thought he would be able to participate in those sports because, among other things, he has only half a hand.

Smith's life forever changed the day he entered Variety Village, a Scarborough sports training and fitness centre, nearly nine years ago. That's where he learned he could do whatever he set his heart on. This summer, the 16-year-old wheelchair basketball player will represent Canada at the World Junior Championships in Birmingham, England.

A multiple amputee who lost both legs, part of one arm and part of his other hand to a rare childhood disease called meningococcal septicemia, Smith was only given a two per cent chance of survival. He defied the odds and is now thriving in a sport few figured he could ever play.

"[The key to my success] is keeping an open mind," he said prior to leaving for a five-day training camp in Edmonton with the national team. "When I first started playing basketball, people told my coach he was setting me up for failure.

"I'm determined and that's what it's about. Being able to prove everyone wrong is what kept me going."

While Smith won't score 40 or 50 points a game for the Variety Village Rolling Rebels, his main role on the court is to set screens to help get the better shooters into the key for open shots.

He says his next goal is to compete in the Paralympic Games. While he doesn't know when that will be, Smith guarantees that one day, he will make the team.

He's been invited to an elite basketball camp at the University of Illinois in July in which the world's top 20 players will participate. Smith, the youngest player on Team Canada, will then fly back to Toronto to continue preparing for the World Juniors that begin on Aug. 4. He hopes to return to the Chicago school in a few years on a scholarship.

Smith practises twice a week, but goes through a daily training regimen after returning home from his Grade 11 classes at Don Mills Collegiate.

"I push the length of the apartment building hallway back and forth 50 times, come inside, have some water, and then do 100 push-ups and 100 sit-ups," he says of his 1½- to two-hour routine.

Away from the basketball court, Smith is also involved with Variety Village. Last year, he co-hosted its Sunshine Games with wrestling superstar Trish Stratus.

He has also done some public speaking on their behalf, but says the opportunities have been limited as of late.

Smith hopes to get into public speaking when he's older, and recently became a Ready, Willing & Able (RWA) ambassador for Paralympics Ontario. That involves visiting schools and rehab centres to teach kids – with and without disabilities – about wheelchair basketball.

He no longer golfs, but continues to play sledge hockey for the Mississauga Cruisers as their first-line right-winger. A special attachment fits on to his right hand when he plays.

Smith remains grateful for everything Variety Village has done for him over the years.

"If it wasn't for Variety Village, I wouldn't even be playing basketball, let alone playing basketball for Team Canada," he said. "Variety Village has absolutely changed my life and given me so much opportunity."

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Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman, C.A.

Providing employment for the needy – and most people would be needy if not for their jobs – is considered to be the highest form of "charity," as it enables a person to have a sense of dignity and self-worth. It should thus be no surprise that firing workers may only be done within carefully prescribed boundaries.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein takes it as given that no worker can be dismissed without cause and explanation. Even after the expiry of a contract, an employer must rehire the original worker, provided work is still available. Only a clear declaration that a person is being hired for a specific job and time period would allow for dismissal at will.

Thus, most employees who in today's business environment are hired without contract and for an indefinite time period may not be fired without due cause. And the only truly justifiable cause for a firing – as opposed to layoffs due to economic necessity – is incompetence. A competent worker may not be fired even in order to hire someone who is more talented – the latter would have to be an additional hire. An employee should not have to worry that their job is always in danger.

In reality, explains Rabbi Feinstein, an employer can't fire someone as punishment for past incompetence, but because past incompetence usually indicates a future with more of the same. However, if the employee can offer a good explanation as to why things will be different going forward, they should be given the benefit of the doubt. Of course, the key – and not too simple – issue is how to define incompetence. At a bare minimum, it means that employees must be told and warned about any potential deficiencies, so that the necessary adjustments can be made.

Nonetheless, workers in the public sector are held to an exacting standard, due to the potential harm that can arise from their mistakes. Thus, the Talmud rules that ritual slaughterers, teachers, doctors and scribes are to be fired immediately, and without warning, for their incompetence, which would include teaching improper material or missing an obvious diagnosis. The seriousness of their failures – which can cause irreparable harm to others' physical or spiritual well-being – are warning enough. Nevertheless, even in these cases, a pattern of incompetence must be established.

However, behaviour that an employer considers repugnant is not grounds for dismissal – only religious leaders are evaluated based on their personal life.

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1 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
3 tbisp extra-virgin olive oil
1 firm-ripe mango, peeled, cut in 1/2" cubes
1 large tomato, cut into 1/2" cubes
1 small red onion, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced crosswise
1/3 cup fresh cilantro leaves

Whisk together vinegar, lemon juice, sugar, salt, and pepper until sugar is dissolved, then add oil, whisking until emulsified. Add remaining ingredients and toss until coated.

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JEWS, MUSLIMS BUILD FOR HUMANITY: Volunteer members of the Canadian Association of Jews & Muslims grabbed tools on a Sunday last month to put the finishing touches on 40 townhouses in Scarborough, the largest project ever undertaken by Habitat for Humanity in Canada. From left are Fredelle Brief, Barbara Heller, Issa Azraq, Karen Rosenstein and David Rosenstein. Volunteers represented Reform, Reconstructionist and Orthodox synagogues in and around Toronto. Building at a rate of one home every 24 minutes, Habitat for Humanity is slated to construct more than 200,000 homes for low-income families in more than 100 countries this year. The Scarborough homes will be sold for a little more than half their real market value, with 25-year interest-free mortgages. Over half the homes' value is derived from volunteer labour. Jews and Muslims have not had too many opportunities to work together for the common good, Heller said. "It's not about talking but about doing something we both believe in."

[Ron Csillag photo]

A holy, but impossible, job

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Rabbis are fascinating characters.

Imagine holding a position where 50 or 1,000 families expect you to be constantly accessible for a simchah, or on call should sorrow occur. Consider that this expectation means a rabbi who may have finally found some holiday time is frequently called back if a shul member passes away.

My father was a rabbi, and I recall this scenario occurring on a regular basis while he and my mother were vacationing. I also remember feeling so badly for them, and especially for my mother, as my dad had an inherent acceptance of this aspect of the job.

Rabbis are generally strong. They are, because their job description requires that they always have empathy for their congregants and that they consistently behave in a righteous manner – acting almost like a surrogate holy man for the rest of us.

Rabbis are like zebras – to some their stripes are black, to others white. I have heard lofty testimonies from members of one synagogue about how their rabbi has spent nights sitting and praying by their bedside, or that of a family member, while they ailed in the hospital. Then there are others in the same congregation who complain angrily about the rabbi's emotional distance and the need for the shul to "replace him with someone who understands the human condition."

I am frequently boggled by the enormous energy rabbis must exert to ensure they are liked, or at least respected, by their congregants, and I marvel at how tenuous this relationship can be.

A few years ago, a well-respected rabbi told a long-standing member family in his congregation that he would be unable to officiate at the funeral of their father, who had passed away the day before. The rabbi's reasons were legitimate. He was booked up with a bar mitzvah and another funeral, after which he would have to leave town to tend to a family crisis. The rabbi added that he would find a worthy replacement.

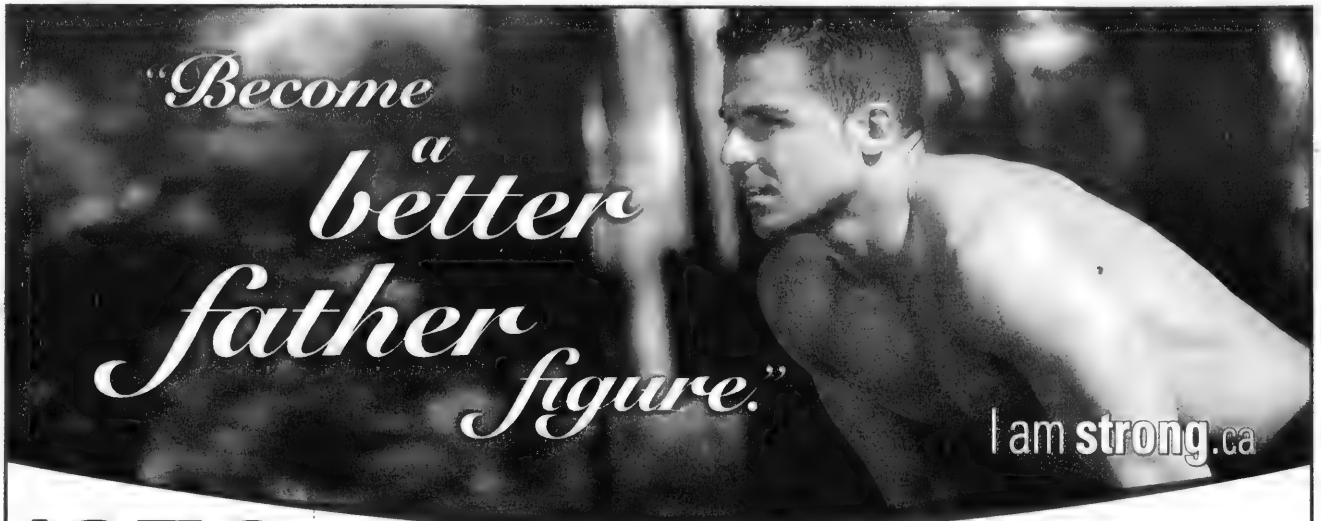
The family was disgusted, aghast and appalled. They quit the shul, levied public criticism against the rabbi, and went on diatribes about his unsympathetic disposition for years afterward. I am tempering my words, but suffice it to say that their disparagement and condemnation of a person whom they had previously considered to be almost angelic is generally reserved for folks who defraud the elderly or abscond with the savings of a pauper.

In my library is a tongue-in-cheek article that my father left me about the impossible balance a rabbi must achieve in his life. Paraphrasing, I recall its content here: A rabbi is expected to be the consummate talmudic scholar, yet have the ability to shmooze about the weakest link in the Raptors' lineup or a problem with the pilot light on the shul's stove. He or she must embrace every individual who pays dues as if they are family, but must also be a role model as a parent, raising the synagogue's children and his or her own with great mastery. A rabbi must be painfully truthful, yet a seasoned peacemaker. He or she must influence his or her followers about the poetry found within Torah, but never preach about the importance of learning it.

Rabbis. We all have opinions about them, often ones that are not so glorious, but as the sun sets and our life is in turmoil, the first number we call is that of our rabbi.

It takes an exceptional human being to pursue a rabbinical ordination and retain a pulpit for an extended period of time. Being a rabbi is not a job for me, but kudos to those who choose it as a profession and perform their obligations with a reasonable amount of finesse and grace.

Avrum@veahavta.org.SUDAN?



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National

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Federation plans for the future in York Region. *Page 6*

Is it time to leave expensive clothing behind for summer camp? *Page 18*

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Israeli society a source of inspiration. *Section B*

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CLC motion seeks to end settlements, fence

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A resolution demanding that Canada pressure Israel to dismantle its security barrier and end its "illegal" settlement of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem was presented at the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) triennial convention last week, but did not make it to the floor for a vote.

Proposal referred to executive council

Like other resolutions that the approximately 2,000 delegates did not have time to deal with, the resolution was referred to the CLC's executive council, which is scheduled to meet in the fall. If adopted, the resolution will become CLC policy.

The resolution cites the July 2, 2004, International Court of Justice decision that the barrier, which the CLC refers to as "a separation wall," is contrary to international law. It also says the occupation and settlements violate United Nations resolutions 224 and 338. It notes that the UN General Assembly on July 21, 2004, voted 150-6, with 10 abstentions including Canada's, to endorse the International Court ruling.

The resolution also states that the CLC will "develop and distribute educational resource materials on the situation in Palestine/Israel from unions and solidarity organizations."

The resolution is a composite of six resolutions submitted by CLC affiliates concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They came from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and its locals, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the British Columbia Federation of Labour, and district labour councils in Calgary, Kamloops and Vancouver.

Continued on page 27

Israelis germinate 2,000-year-old seeds

JERUSALEM — Israeli researchers have germinated a sapling date palm from 2,000-year-old seeds in a bid to find new medicines that will benefit future generations.

Sarah Sallon, of the Louis Borick Natural Medicine Research Center in Jerusalem, in collaboration with botanist Elaine Solowey of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz Ketura, used seeds found in archeological excavations at the ancient mountain fortress of Masada, where ancient Jewish rebels chose suicide over capture by Roman legions in 73 CE.

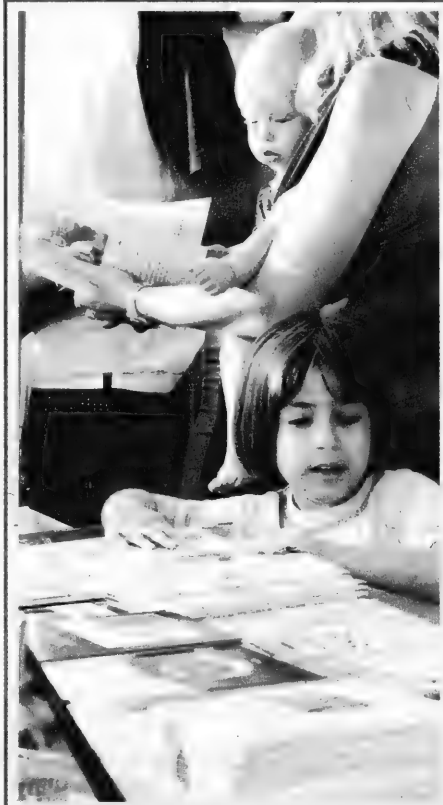
Sallon said they were the oldest seeds ever brought back to life.

"A lotus seed was germinated [in China] after 1,200 years, but nothing has been germinated coming from this far back, not to 2,000 years," she said.

Carbon dating of a fragment from the Masada seeds put their age at between 1,940 and 2,040 years.

The palm plant, which is now about 30 centimetres tall, is nicknamed Methusaleh after the biblical figure said to have lived for 969 years.

Continued on page 33



Young People of the Books

The annual Hebrew Book Week opened last week in Israel. Throughout the country, Hebrew-language books were put on display and offered for sale to buyers young and old, such as the young girl examining these new books in Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park. Last year, more than Hebrew-language 5,000 books were published in Israel. *[Israel photo]*

Shlach
Candlelighting: 8:44
Havdallah: 9:49
Greater Toronto Area

Anglican Church mulls divesting from Israel — see page 30

The News in Brief

Canada

Call to Protest Award

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada urged 43 new Order of Canada recipients to protest the refusal to revoke the award from Saskatchewan native leader David Ahenakew, who is on trial for an anti-Semitic tirade. To protest the fact Ahenakew still holds the award, the group called on new Order members to put a strip of black tape over their pins at the June 10 induction ceremony. Ahenakew is awaiting the verdict, expected June 30, of a hate-crimes trial for an anti-Semitic tirade in 2002. Nearly a dozen prominent award holders published letters in the *National Post* against Ahenakew, but none of the new recipients reportedly heeded B'nai Brith's call.

World

AJC Fetes Canadian

NEW YORK — The American Jewish Committee last week gave its Imaging Division Human Relations Award to Joel Seigel, founder and head of Markham, Ont.-based electronics importer Gentec International, for his "professional achievements and devotion to philanthropy and communal responsibility," the rights group said. Among his philanthropic pursuits, Seigel is active in the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada and fundraising for Mount Sinai Hospital.

Chief Rabbi Knighted

LONDON — Britain's chief rabbi was knighted earlier this month. Queen Elizabeth, marking her 79th birthday, bestowed the vaunted "Sir" title on Rabbi Jonathan Sacks for service to the Jewish community and interfaith relations. "This is an honour not just for me but for the Jewish community and its contributions to British life, as well as for the continuing inspiration of Jewish teachings," said Rabbi Sacks, chief rabbi since 1991. Also knighted was Iqbal Sacranie, head of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Beatification Delayed

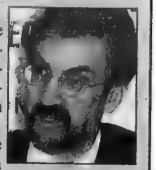
ROME — The beatification of a French priest has been postponed due to concerns over his anti-Semitic writings. Leon Dehon's beatification was approved by the late Pope John Paul II, but in a rare move, his successor Benedict XVI is having the file re-examined. Dehon, who died in 1925, founded the order of priests of Sacre Cœur. Among his anti-Semitic statements: Jews should wear a special garment identifying them as Jews and be consigned to ghettos. Dehon also said "anti-Semitism is a sign of hope." Benedict's move might be unique in Catholic history, since once a candidate's "miracles" are recognized, only a papal death can stop the beatification process.

Cemeteries Desecrated

LONDON — Two U.K Jewish cemeteries were desecrated within 72 hours of each other. In the latest incident last week, some 100 gravestones were pushed over and damaged in London's West Ham Jewish Cemetery. Two inverted swastikas were drawn on four stones, the door of the Rothschild family's mausoleum was smashed and anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi slogans were daubed at its entrance. The attack follows damage to some 80 stones in a Manchester cemetery. Meanwhile, more than 100 graves were vandalized in Budapest's main Jewish cemetery, but it's unclear when, as the cemetery was closed to visitors June 12 to 15 for Shavuot.

Muslim Group Apologizes for Hitler Slur

TORONTO — The Canadian Islamic Congress apologized last week for an article it distributed that said controversial U.S. commentator Daniel Pipes and others "follow Hitler's propaganda techniques flawlessly" with their "anti-Islam and anti-Muslim propaganda."



Daniel Pipes

In the April 29 edition of its online Friday Bulletin, the congress re-published a 2003 article by its vice-president Wahida Valiante titled "Worth Repeating: Media Propaganda: Hitler, Bush and the 'Big Lie.'"

In it, Valiante said, "It would not be going too far to compare the North American media's fear-mongering disinformation tactics about Islam and Muslim 'terrorism' and Bush's 'Us' versus 'Them' stance to those practised so successfully, and with such terrible results, by Hitler on the citizens of Germany's Weimer [sic] republic." The article also criticized scholars Bernard Lewis and Samuel Huntington. The congress has since removed it from its website.

"The Canadian Islamic Congress and Ms Valiante apologize without reservation and retract remarks in the column that suggest that Dr. Daniel Pipes is a follower of Hitler or that he uses the tactics of Hitler or that he wants to ethnically cleanse America of its Muslim presence," the group said.

Pipes, an academic and columnist, heads the Middle East Forum think-tank, as well as Campus Watch, which says it monitors "the often erroneous and biased teachings and writings of U.S. professors specializing in the Middle East."

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Citizenship of war crimes suspects may be revoked

Minister to ask cabinet to move on the issue

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Joe Volpe announced last week he would ask the federal cabinet to revoke the citizenship of five Nazi war crime suspects.

Volpe will ask cabinet to strip the citizenship of Helmut Oberlander, Vladimir Katriuk, Jacob Fast, Michael Baumgartner and Wasyl Odynsky. Some of their cases have been languishing in the legal system for up to six years, ever since Federal Court judges found they had obtained Canadian citizenship by lying about their participation in the Nazi killing machinery.

Volpe's announcement came a few days after a parliamentary committee recommended major changes to Canada's citizenship laws – steps critics contend would make bringing Nazi war criminals to justice even more difficult than it already is.

The committee, chaired by Kitchener-Waterloo MP Andrew Telegdi, recommended that the standard of proof needed to strip a suspect of citizenship should be raised from a civil proceeding's "balance of probabilities" to a criminal court's "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The committee also urged that the entire citizenship revocation process be shifted to the courts and that trial judges be given several penalty options, including revocation, jail or a fine.

Currently, the Federal Court determines whether a suspect obtained citizenship by fraud, but it's up to the federal cabinet to actually revoke citizenship.

Volpe reportedly will seek to revoke the citizenship of all five Nazi collaborators "within weeks."

The government's new-found vigour was applauded by Jewish organizations.

"I'm glad these cases in the pipeline are proceeding," said Ed Morgan, president of Canadian Jewish Congress. "These cases have been on [the minister's] plate for some time," and even before that, on his predecessors'.

"It's high time" these cases were addressed, said David Matas, a spokesperson for B'nai Brith Canada.

Matas said the cases have been tied up thanks to "a one-person crusade to stop this process" led by Telegdi.

Telegdi, who immigrated to Canada from Hungary as a child, "has bamboozled people and paralyzed the system," Matas said.

The MP has said Oberlander has done nothing wrong, but the court record shows Oberlander was an interpreter in a mobile Nazi killing unit.

"They went into a place and said, 'Where are the Jews,' and they'd round up the Jews and kill them," Matas said.

German Einsatzgruppen units relied on local populations for information to find Jews. That's where interpreters came in.

Telegdi "should approach [the issue] from the perspective of bringing Nazi war criminals to justice. His approach is from the wrong end of the telescope," Matas added.

Telegdi, meanwhile, told *The CJN* that the committee operated on the assumption that any changes to immigration legislation must comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"Essentially, what we're saying is that the same rights should apply to a citizen [in a citizenship case] as to a shoplifter… We feel the loss of citizenship was equal or much greater in terms of consequences than shoplifting."

The committee also felt the process should be taken out of the hands of cabinet, which is subject to political considerations, and handed to the courts, he added.

Telegdi said that under the current system, no court has pronounced any suspects to be war criminals, merely that on the balance of probabilities, they misrepresented facts when they came to Canada.

Continued on page 25

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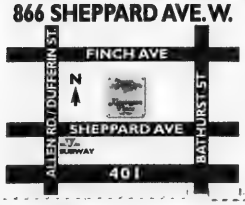

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Greater Toronto Area

They are changing the world

It would be singularly difficult to overstate the importance of the event that unfolded last week at the Empire Club of Canada luncheon in Toronto.

Tony Comper, the president and chief executive officer of BMO Financial Group, was given the dais at the Empire Club to speak to a broad Canadian audience about FAST, a coalition of corporate citizens and business leaders he and his wife, Elizabeth, recently founded to join in, if not spearhead, the fight against anti-Semitism.

From the editor's desk

An acronym for Fighting AntiSemitism Together, FAST has attracted to its membership some of the top echelon of Canada's corporate community, people such as Courtney Pratt, president and chief executive officer of Stelco Inc., Michael J. Sabia, president and chief executive officer of Bell Canada Enterprises and Dominic D'Allesandro, president and chief executive officer of Manulife Financial. They are all representative of the high-level achievement of the members of the coalition.

They are also all representative of the fact that the founding members, at least, of FAST are not Jewish.

And that was purposefully one of the key aspects of the organization's design and one of the key messages delivered by Comper last week.

"I am here," Comper told the hundreds assembled at the Empire Club, "because my wife, Elizabeth, and I believe that in the end, this is a crisis [the rise of anti-Semitism] that must be resolved by non-Jews.

"That is why we founded FAST… as one way of crying, 'Enough!' And why we recruited an all-star cast of non-Jewish Canadian business leaders… to the cause."

The resolve that stirred their hearts has now been transformed into an utterly unique, first-of-its-kind plan of action that now inspires and stirs the hearts of others. That is why it would be hard to exaggerate the significance of the luncheon address last week at the Empire Club.

That the initiative is from private citizens, that the citizens embody the highest levels of the Canadian "establishment" and that they publicly proclaimed the program in a forum that symbolizes the historic white Anglo-Saxon Protestant majority elite of Canadian society, is without precedent.

The promoters of all forms of hatred – not simply the anti-Semitic variety – will now have to take notice that there will be no shelter for their prejudices and hatred within Canadian society. The alleyways, coffee houses, schoolyards and the boardrooms will now be closed to them. Their only recourse will be to slither at night like the roaches beneath the rocks, cowering from the light of day.

"We realize that this initiative – and for that matter, any others that FAST may undertake – is unlikely to touch the hearts and minds of the real hard-core crowd, the ones who most likely learned their hatred at the parental knee," Comper said.

"But it could serve to further marginalize them, which sometimes is the best you can do when dealing with bullies and bigots… First, by stripping them of their potential power base, the people who really don't know any better; and who, for whatever reasons, haven't sought out the truth for themselves.

"Second, by going one step further and helping to encourage active opposition to the Jew-haters and racists and assorted other bigots and bullies the moment they start telling their despicable lies or making their ugly, pathetic 'jokes.' We believe if the truth can make us free, it should also make us bold."

As was widely reported last month in this and other newspapers, when FAST was launched, the group's first educational project, which it hopes to begin in the fall, is a curriculum-based learning program called Choose Your Voice that it is developing in close partnership with the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, for use initially in Ontario schools.

Comper spoke movingly of his and his wife's resolve in their campaign against anti-Semitism.

He concluded his remarks by invoking the famous articulation by the late scholar, philosopher Emil Fackenheim, of a 614th commandment that Jews are forbidden to give Hitler posthumous victories.

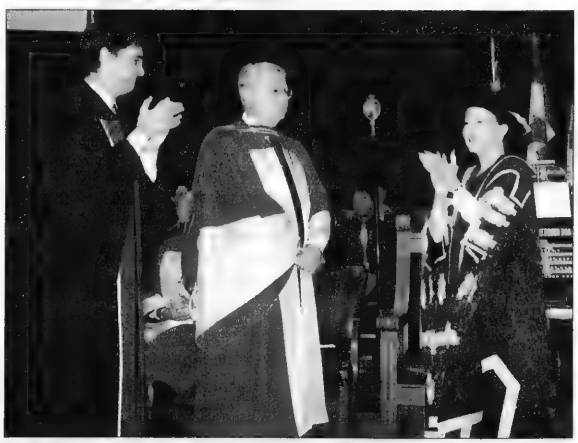
"I am here today," Comper told the hushed and utterly attentive audience, "because I believe that this should not be a lonely battle – as it has so often been, for so many, for so long. And because I believe that this 614th commandment is something we all should be living by."

Last week in *The CJN*, we wrote about the new phenomenon of social, as opposed to corporate, entrepreneurs who respond to the call of conscience by marshalling their managerial skills and corporate talents to try to make a positive difference in the world.

Tony Comper at the Empire Club

Corporate entrepreneurs at the elite level, Tony and Elizabeth Comper, are social entrepreneurs, too, now also changing our world for the better. — ***MBD***

SeeJN



DR. BARAK: Aharon Barak, centre, the president of Israel's Supreme Court, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree at last week's convocation of the University of Toronto's law school. Joining him were university chancellor Vivienne Poy, right, and former law school dean Ron Daniels. A child survivor of the Kovno Ghetto, Barak told graduates that the Holocaust imbued in him not hatred or hopelessness, but a belief in "the centrality of the human being" and a zeal to uphold human rights. He praised Canada's Charter of Rights as a model, and called Canada's Supreme Court "one of the best in the world." Human rights are needed most, he said, in times of war and in the fight against terrorism. [Ron Csillag photo]

Urban retreat planned for Jewish women

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Empowering Jewish women is the goal of Sara's Tent, an urban retreat taking place in Thornhill and Forest Hill this summer.

According to the program's mission, the retreat, running from July 4 to 15, exists "in order to bring all Jewish women together to strengthen their connection to mind, body and soul through a series of fun and stimulating classes in the areas of Jewish learning, creativity and art making, health and wellness, and exercise."

> ***Designed to strengthen connection to mind, body and soul***

Program co-organizer Kinneret Feuer said that "Jewish women very seldom have the time to not only nurture themselves but also to come together with other Jewish women to laugh, to play, to learn and to unwind".

Feuer is a certified yoga instructor and creative arts therapist who has, for many years, been running classes within the Toronto Jewish community. Her co-organizer, Susan Zehavi, is trained in traditional Chinese medicine, lymph drainage, cranial sacral therapy and nutrition. Zehavi has a private health and wellness practice in Toronto.

These two active Jewish women are working in conjunction with the Jewish Family Institute, which promotes positive relationships between parents, children and spouses, and offers the retreat at which women can "exist cohesively in order to discover the beauty and power of being a Jew and being a woman."

In the past, Feuer and Zehavi have offered three-day summer retreats to Collingwood, but this year the two-week city retreat is being introduced, allowing women who cannot leave home for three days the opportunity to take part.

From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every morning, the program will centre around "personal growth and development – workshops from a Jewish perspective," while 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. will see the women participating in arts, exercise and health and wellness classes.

Feuer says the name of the program is important in understanding its aim. Sara refers to Abraham's wife, and the tent is a place of warmth and a protective environment. Holding the program in different parts of the city gives Jewish women the chance to create a protective environment no matter where they are.

"Within Jewish observance, there is endless opportunity to bring together our identities of being traditional Jewish women with the beauty of all the things the world has to offer us," said Feuer.

Much of the program will focus on integrating Jewish tradition with self-nurturing.

In light of the Jewish tradition that the Messiah will be ushered in by women, Feuer felt it was important for all women to take part in the program. "Women have gathered together throughout time and every time. They create a very powerful energy," she said.

For more information, call Kinneret Feuer at 416-784-3355 or Susan Zehavi at 416-787-4934.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED: Beit Rayim Synagogue recently gave out its sixth annual Judy Stein Volunteer of the Year awards. Co-recipients Chuck Ticker, front left, and Stephen Reisch, front right, were honoured at a special Kabbalat Shabbat service June 10 that also recognized all the shul's volunteers. Pictured with the honorees are, from left, shul members Billy Stein, Cheryl Green-Ockrant, Esther Salve-Hindel, Isabel Siegel, Cheryl Levick and Sandra Solomon.

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Federation eyes future with Vaughan development

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's planned Vaughan campus is a prime example of community members working together to take responsibility for their children's future, the organization's annual general meeting heard earlier this month.

As the federation's leadership changed hands at the end of board chair Leslie Gales' two-year tenure, federation president Ted Sokolsky said that over the past two years, board members took "reasonable risks and planned carefully, but were never scared to act boldly."

Looking forward, Sokolsky said, the community must plan for the sake of its children, as federation is doing through its Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) project, which includes the development of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus at Bathurst Street and Weldrick Avenue in Richmond Hill.

Delegates were shown a short video illustrating the planned 50-acre, $125-million campus, which broke ground in May and is scheduled to open in stages from 2006 through 2009.

It will house a range of family and social services, as well as cultural agencies and fitness, child care and conference facilities. It will also include up to four Jewish day schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's northern branch.

The campus, which is meant to serve York Region's 60,000 Jews, is part of a $250-million fundraising campaign that will finance the renovation of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue and the rebuilding of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre just north of Sheppard Avenue.

UJA Federation is governed by community members and every Jew in the Toronto area who supports its aims and objectives is entitled to be an individual member. At the meeting, members elected 120 individual representatives to two-year terms on the federation's council, along with representatives from community groups and organizations, who sit the council for one year.

Delivering a dvar Torah, Rabbi David Seed, assistant rabbi of Adath Israel Congregation, said that just as Jews count Sfirat Haomer one day at a time, the community is strong because of individuals who come together one by one to be included in events and projects.

Using federation's recent Walk with Israel as an example, Rabbi Seed said he was impressed by the number of people who came together in a show of community solidarity.

In her farewell address, Gales said it was an honour to serve "one of the world's most impressive Jewish organizations."

Most inspiring, she said, was the passion, commitment and time that volunteers put into it.

Immediate past board chair Ralph Shedletsky announced the appointment of David Engel and David Koschitzky, as the federation's new chair and vice-chair of the board, respectively, and he offered his personal thanks to Gales for her service.

In his address, Engel said he is a product of Jewish values and a traditional upbringing, noting that he was educated at a Jewish day school, went on trips to Israel, was a member of B'nai Brith Youth Organization and was part of a community that encourages volunteerism.

He said his goals for the next two years involve making Jewish education as accessible as possible to all community members, as well as raising levels of community engagement, continuing the JTT project, developing a plan to care for the growing number of elderly Jews in the city and strengthening ties with Israel.

DEEP IN PRAYER: Grade 1 students at the Toronto Heschel School received siddurim at their recent Kabbalat Ha-Siddur Ceremony attended by their parents and grandparents.

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'It's all about demography,' ex-Israeli envoy warns

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A ticking demographic time bomb threatens Israel's future as a democratic Jewish state, former Israeli diplomat Alon Pinkas warns.

"It's all about demography," Pinkas told UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual general meeting at Adath Israel Synagogue recently.

Israel will not be able to function as a Jewish democracy if it continues controlling the lives of 3.5 million Palestinian Arabs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, said Pinkas, a third generation Israeli who was consul general in New York City until last year.

Anyone who thinks otherwise is "delusional," he declared.

Alon Pinkas

Calling Israel's forthcoming withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank as a "step in the right direction," Pinkas said, "We need to disengage and get out of Gaza."

Although he did not explicitly call for a similar pullout from all of the West Bank, this appeared to be his implicit message.

About Israel's current prime minister, Ariel Sharon, Pinkas observed: "Sharon understands what it means to be in Gaza. No one understands reality better than Sharon."

Israel's disengagement from the Palestinians is not a question of partisan politics but of practical necessity, Pinkas suggested in a brief, hard-hitting speech.

Pinkas said the separation fence Israel is currently building through the West Bank and along the Green Line dovetails with its disengagement strategy.

Providing hard numbers about Mideast demographics, he said there are currently 5.2 million Jews, 4.8 million Palestinians and 1.3 million Israeli Arabs living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

By 2011 or 2012, Arabs there will outnumber Jews by even a greater margin, imperilling the basic moral imperative of Zionism, Pinkas observed.

When that demographic point is reached, he predicted, Palestinians will reject a two-state solution as impractical and impossible, and demand "one state for two peoples," the antithesis of the Zionist dream.

Under ideal circumstances, Israel could circumvent the growing demographic problem with mass aliyah from North America or much higher Jewish birthrates.

But given the unlikelihood of these scenarios, Israel must do "the right thing" and disengage from the Palestinians, Pinkas said.

He had sharp words for right-wing and left-wing Israelis.

He attacked the right for believing Palestinians in the territories can be controlled without dire consequences to Israel's viability as a democratic Jewish state.

He chastised the left for thinking the Palestinians will negotiate with Israel in good faith. They will not become Swedes or Canadians, he said in a reference to their capacity for coexistence.

Pinkas also had "good news" for his audience.

Despite its problems, deficiencies and inadequacies, Israel has fared well in its 57 years of existence, he said.

Strategically, in fact, Israel has never had it better, he added.

Militarily, Israel is stronger than any foreseeable Arab coalition, though Iran could pose an existential threat should it acquire nuclear weapons.

Economically, Israel enjoys a huge advantage over the oil-rich Arab world. Israel's per capita gross domestic product is $17,000 (US), while the Arab nations are stuck at $3,200.

Politically, Israel's democracy is a unique phenomenon in the region, notwithstanding the fact its founders came from undemocratic countries.

And technologically, Israel is an international leader.

But in a stinging critique of Israeli capitalism, Pinkas said the gap between the wealthiest 10 per cent of Israelis and the poorest 10 per cent was the widest in the industrialized West, and should be remedied.

AT THE MOVIES: Film critic Eric Goldman, third from left, came to United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst branch recently to discuss films about the Shoah. Seen with Goldman are, from left, are Daniel Axelrod, Russell Budd, Eve Tiechman, Karli Feldman and Jen Marcus. [Michael G. Goldfarb photo]

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Envoy visits and so does death, again

The pattern by now has been quite well-established and we have commented on it in this space often in the past. With every visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories by a U.S. envoy to help facilitate the delicate process of accommodation between Israelis and Palestinians, Palestinian terrorists – the gunmen and thugs of the army of hate – draw blood.

Their aims are as transparent as they are many: to kill Jews (this still remains their foremost aim), to visibly defy American policy, to humiliate the Palestinian Authority, to enrage the Israeli public and to confound the process of accommodation.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last weekend visited Israel and the Palestinian Authority. She was in the region to push the Israelis and the Palestinians to co-operate on the upcoming withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank. She met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Sunday and PA President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday. "Both parties will have to do their part if this is indeed to be a peaceful and orderly withdrawal," Rice said during a joint press conference with Abbas in Ramallah. She undoubtedly also imparted her views to both leaders concerning the agenda and manner of meeting between Sharon and Abbas that was scheduled for Tuesday, June 21.

While Rice was still making her rounds through the various offices of the Israeli government, Palestinian terrorists belonging to Islamic Jihad and to the Abu Rish Brigades of Fatah attacked an IDF unit in Gaza killing one soldier and wounding two.

As reported in *The Jerusalem Post*, "the Sunday attack came after multiple attempts over the weekend by Palestinian terrorist organizations to mount a successful attack in advance of Condoleezza Rice's visit to the region. All were thwarted by the IDF."

Also on Sunday, a 15-year-old Palestinian boy was arrested at the Hawara checkpoint in the West Bank with five pipe bombs. It was the 21st incident in the past three months and the 30th attempt this year in which children have been prevented by the IDF from attempting to smuggle ammunition and weapons for terrorist attacks on civilians.

Palestinian terrorist groups are still fully functional despite Abbas' promise to halt the violence against Israel. And worse: the terrorists' recruitment of young teenagers to perpetrate violence against Israel continues unabated.

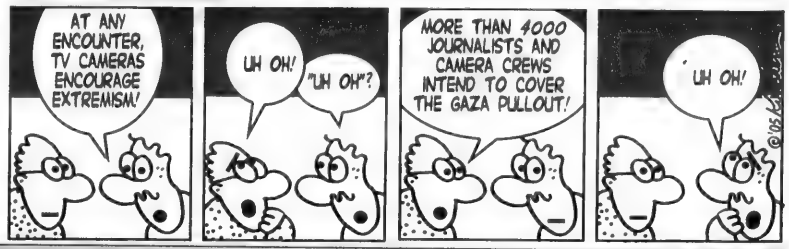
The United States and Israel are trying to prop up Abbas to ensure as smooth a disengagement as possible. But like the weak-kneed addict who flounders amid his own irresolution and harping self-delusion, he refuses to take the ultimately necessary steps for true liberation.

Abbas is effectively a captive of the terror groups. Despite his occasional remonstrations, they know he will take no steps against them. They operate with effective impunity. And he operates, therefore, without credibility. The "authority" in Palestinian Authority is more fictional than it is real. More to the shame of Mahmoud Abbas and to the ultimate detriment of his people.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Dry Bones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Response to Wolle

Howard Wolle ("Wants to hear the settlers' side," letter, *CJN*, June 9) should reread Paul Michaels' May 26 column, "Some truths are hard to hear." Wolle talks about "the settlers" generally and castigates Michaels as one of many who are "attacking settlers from the comfort of their North American homes."

But Michaels' piece was precise and based on reports by and conversations with Israeli journalists from *Ma'ariv*, *Ha'aretz* and the *Jerusalem Report*. He was clear that "a very small number of settlers are involved in the attacks and intimidation" of Palestinians. As he said, the evidence that this group has been operating way outside legal boundaries is significant and growing.

The June 6 issue of *Ha'aretz* reported: "The most extreme zealots keep coming up with ever more malicious and destructive ideas – arson, plowing cultivated fields, bringing herds to seeded fields, poisoning sheep, poisoning water wells and more." Zvi Bar Hai, head of South Hebron Hills regional council is quoted: "Things have happened in the past months that are unacceptable. I have asked the police and Shin Bet to find the culprits."

Thank goodness Michaels has the courage to call a spade a spade, while Wolle would have him bury the truth irresponsibly.

Bernard Katz
Toronto

* * *

NIF backs gov't. disengagement decision

Your story "New Israel Fund backs Gaza disengagement" (June 9) contains a headline that may mislead *CJN* readers, as well as a factual error.

The New Israel Fund backs the government of Israel's right, as the legitimate government of a democratic state, to make the disengagement decision and have it followed peacefully. What concerns NIF are threats from within Israel that call into question the government's legitimacy and encourage Israeli citizens to disrupt the implementation of this decision through violence and encouraging sedition within the Israel Defence Forces. Thus, as the article points out, we are working with, among others, settler groups who are opposed to the decision but are committed to demonstrating peacefully. Indeed, one of NIF's grantees, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, has gone on record to defend the free speech right in Israel of anyone opposed to the disengagement.

In addition, the article mentions the sum of $300,000 (US) in discussing our total funding in Israel promoting democracy, pluralism, social and economic justice and civil rights. In fact, in 2004, NIF globally sent more than $15 million (US) to Israel for these purposes. The former figure is what is being spent this year on disengagement issues alone.

Isser Dubinsky,
President, New Israel Fund of Canada

The definition of 'simple mischief'

An adult and two young offenders destroyed and defaced UJA Federation billboards, smeared graffiti on a Jewish school, overturned headstones in a Jewish cemetery and smashed synagogue windows. They were convicted of "simple mischief," instead of the more serious – and more appropriate – offence involving defacement of religious institutions ("Plea bargain accepted in vandalism case," *CJN*, June 9).

When they were young, my children changed the time on the clock to give themselves an extra hour or so before going to bed, they occasionally lied about doing their homework and they hid their report cards for a few days. This is "simple mischief" and they were punished. What the adult and young offenders did here is more than "simple mischief" and they ought to be punished accordingly.

Marion Levinter
Bolton, Ont.

* * *

USDS Richmond Hill campus moving?

I am a parent from the Richmond Hill campus of United Synagogue Day School. I was at the recent annual general meeting and while almost all of the facts in "USDS to consolidate its three campuses" (*CJN*, June 9) are correct, there are some things that were missed.

Upon receipt of a letter from the school's board on May 24, 2005, a group of Richmond Hill parents immediately met with board members and representatives from the school to find out what specifics had led to the decision to merge the Richmond Hill campus with the Bayview campus and house both at Beth Tikvah for the 2006-07 school year. That meeting took place on May 25. At the end of the meeting, a committee of parents was formed, with the full endorsement and co-operation of the board, to pursue other viable solutions. A meeting was then held on May 26 with all Richmond Hill parents and they were informed of the goal of our committee.

When Brian Goldberg said the board will meet with Richmond Hill parents to discuss ideas to make the transition as smooth as possible, he was not entirely correct. The board has met with us, continues to meet with us, and is working toward a solution with us that hopefully will not involve moving down to the Bayview campus. But in the event that it does require a move, they will meet with us – and we will make sure we are heard – regarding ways of making that move as easy as possible.

We have created a website, www.PreserveOurPresence.com, to keep the community involved and informed.

Richard Dlin
Richmond Hill, Ont.

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We celebrate as one people!

The following is excerpted from the address delivered by Rabbi Moshe Shulman on Yom Ha'atzmaut this year. We publish it at this time to emotionally and substantively "launch" readers toward the "Tribute to Israel" that appears elsewhere in this edition of the paper and because its central message is so very vital to these times.

The editor

By RABBI MOSHE SHULMAN

In the mid-1960s at the Mizrachi convention, Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik, of blessed memory, was asked whether the flag of Israel carried any intrinsic or inherent sanctity.

He answered: "I do not hold at all with the magical attraction of a flag or of similar symbolic ceremonies. Judaism negates ritual connected with physical things. Nonetheless, we must not lose sight of a law in the Shulchan Aruch to the effect that: 'one who has been killed by non-Jews is buried in his clothes…' In other words, the clothes of the Jew acquire a certain sanctity when spattered with his blood as a martyr. How much more is this so of the blue and white flag, which has been immersed in the blood of thousands of young Jews who fell in the War of Independence defending the country and the population? It has a spark of sanctity that flows from devotion and self-sacrifice."

In these beautiful words Rabbi Soloveitchik expressed our profound understanding that the flag of Israel tells the Jewish story: it reminds us of the tragedies we have lived through, and the pain we have had to endure as a people to survive, and at the same time it speaks of the hope that we can make a difference in the world, that our struggle is not in vain, and that our sacrifices for peace – in the past, present, and future – will bring about a better tomorrow for our children.

On Yom Ha'atzmaut, 1967, weeks before the start of the Six Day War, Rav Zvi Yehuda Kook, of blessed memory, gave a profound – almost prophetic – talk in the study hall of Yeshivat Mercaz Harav in Jerusalem.

He spoke about the early years of the State, and how, on Yom Ha'atzmaut evening, every year, as the students in the yeshiva would celebrate, he used to excuse himself for a few hours – and stroll down the streets of Jaffa Road.

Why?

Because the people were celebrating in the streets. Because Jews, young and old, boys and girls, were dancing there, and he felt *be'toch ami anochi yoshevet,* I dwell amidst my people. (II Kings 4:13). He felt he wanted to celebrate with his people, not locked up in the ivory towers of the beth midrash. And R' Zvi Yehuda bemoaned the fact that more of his colleagues did not walk with him. What a kiddush HaShem it would have been?

But he went on to say, there was one night he did not feel like dancing in the streets with the people. That was the night after the UN vote on the partition of Palestine. All of Israel was celebrating, and he felt his heart was broken. And then Rav Zvi Yehuda began to cry:

"And where is our Hebron? And where is our Sh'chem? Or Jericho? Have we forgotten them? As the prophet Yoel proclaims: *ve'et artzi chileiku* (Yoel 4:2) – they have divided my land. And how can one celebrate with such a heavy heart?" he cried.

The next day, Rav Zvi Yehuda was visited by Rav Ya'akov Moshe Charlop. They spoke together, for a while, comforted each other, and then realized that whatever the challenges, whatever the setbacks, they must look at what had been accomplished. They must look at what Israel had achieved. Look at what the Almighty had blessed us with, and continues to bless us with. And so they proclaimed: *zeh hayom asah HaShem, nagila ve'nismecha bo* – this is the day God has made. Let us rejoice in it… (Psalms 118:24)

None of us has a monopoly on what God wants from us. None can speak on behalf of the Almighty. But I think one thing we can know for certain, and that is what God does not want from us.

He doesn't want our people divided and splintered, fighting amongst ourselves. God cares far more about *ahavat Yisrael* (love for every Jew) and *achdut Yisrael* (unity of the Jewish people) than He does about the Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel). And the proof is that ultimately it was *sin'at chinam* (hatred and strife amongst Jews) that lost us the land in the first place. (Talmud, Yuma 9b)

That's what Rav Zvi Yehuda Kook and Rav Charlop recognized so profoundly that morning after the vote on partition.

And that's what we have to recognize today.

When I hear of some spiritual leaders calling on religious Jews today to "sit out" the celebrations of Yom Ha'atzmaut this year, or not to recite *Hallel* this year because of the disengagement plan, my heart falls, and I cry. Have we forgotten what it's all about?

It's about klal Yisrael (the totality of the Jewish people). It's about the people of Israel. It's about standing together, shoulder to shoulder as one people: lay and rabbi, right and left, religious and secular, Orthodox or non-Orthodox, Israeli or *chutznik*… religious Zionist and haredi… about celebrating our differences, as much as we work together to build our future.

I will never forget the image of Rav Zvi Yehuda Kook walking down the streets of Jaffa Road on Yom Ha'atzmaut evening, celebrating with the throngs of Jews.

That's the story reflected in the Israeli flag: that blue and white tallit with a Star of David in the middle, which we wave so proudly, which sheds tears over her sons and daughters, parents and grandparents who have given their lives on the battlefronts of our nation, the battlefronts of buses and cafés of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Kfar Darom and so many more places. And which yet waves with such joy, inspiration, faith in God and hope over the great potential and glorious future that this gift of God called the State of Israel holds for our people.

We celebrate as one people!

We dance with our one flag of Israel!

We sing with our hearts together – filled with song and joy!

We know and we have faith that God will protect our Jewish state, that it should remain – now and forever – the eternal homeland of our people, and Jerusalem – the political, spiritual and cultural capital of our nation.

Today, we are filled with hope.

This is the day God has made. Let us sing and rejoice in it!

Rabbi Moshe Shulman is the spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.

Street celebrations from Yom Ha'atzmaut in 1948 (above) and in 2005 (left). ***[Israel Sun and WIZO archival photo]***

Opinions

I've seen it all, but...

For a rabbi, experience is an issue. In my "youth," I often heard the remark "You're a rabbi? But you're so young!" Indeed, a prominent synagogue once rejected my CV due to inexperience. A rabbi is supposed to look like Charlton Heston in *The Ten Commandments*.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Now, after 15 years as a rabbi, I have a new problem: too much experience.

I first encountered it at a funeral. After a meeting with the deceased's daughter, I said, with my rabbinic face of earnest concern, how sorry I was for her loss. The woman, a pulpit rabbi's secretary and familiar with the spiel, replied: "Come on Rabbi! You've seen this all before, haven't you?"

I realized then I that had too much experience.

With experience, lessons of humiliating mistakes and proud triumphs get seared into your memory. Unfortunately, experience also burns out emotional nerve endings. The instinctive feelings I had at wedding and funeral number 1 have disappeared.

It's tempting to replace lost excitement with a bored cynicism. Seasoned veterans proudly adopt a world-weary, casual attitude to life's peak moments. When you've seen it all, life is all reruns, no?

Frankly, cynicism is merely a disguise for emotional impotence. Instead, I've found a different response, based on some talmudic wisdom.

Boredom during prayer is a common problem. Constant repetition can transform pristine prayers into pure monotony. To prevent this, the Talmud recommends three responses. First, lose the attitude. Never approach prayer with annoyance, thinking, "Oh no! I have to pray again!" Second, always use gentle and humble words. And finally, add a new insight to each day's prayers. Ultimately, what separates rote from real prayer is attitude, focus and creativity.

This insight is useful for any potentially numbing repetition. First of all, don't treat peak moments casually. No, it's not just another wedding, and a funeral is never something that threw your schedule off.

Language is also key. Even if you've been to 500 shiva houses, that doesn't mean they becomes places to tell jokes and talk about golf. Humble words pave the way for a sincere connection.

And finally, find something new. Often before a funeral, someone describes their mother as a "typical Jewish mother," assuming her story is boring. Yet despite the disclaimer, I search for what made her different. Yes, there may be many Jewish mothers, but isn't it nice to hear about the little things that made this woman unique?

Yes, I've seen it all before. Even so, each rerun still matters. As long as each Jewish mother has a different recipe for chicken soup, as long as each young couple has their own story about how they met, I refuse to allow peak moments to become a dreary routine.

An ode to Jewish educators

Figuring out the secret ingredient that has kept Judaism alive for 4,000 years has always been a great parlour game.

Some say the fact Jews have thrived – not simply survived – in so many places despite so many enemies proves God's special bond with the Jewish people. Others credit the continuing focal point of Israel and promise of a return to Zion, no matter where Jews were scattered. Still others emphasize that as "People of the Book," "the Book" and its ideas have proved to be uniquely transportable, adaptable and enduring.

Gil Troy in Montreal

No matter where you stand on this debate, the unsung heroes in maintaining this chain of transmission have been Jewish teachers. Parents and rabbis often grab the headlines – pro and con. But when you think about the hundreds of hours our children spend with their teachers each year, it is worth contemplating whether we appreciate Jewish educators sufficiently.

Considering the enormity of their task and the impact these teachers have in cultivating seeds of the Jewish future, the answer is "no." Even if Jewish teachers were not overworked and underpaid, there would be no way to repay the magnitude of the community's debt and a child's debt for great teaching.

How do you say "thanks" for transmitting the skill of forming legible letters, for sharing the magic of deciphering those letters, for honing the ability to think clearly and critically, let alone beginning to comprehend the ways of the world, the richness of Torah, the majesty of Jewish history, the relevance of Jewish ethics and the mysteries of spirituality? And let us confess, in most modern overworked and overstressed households, more and more of us farm out more and more obligations to schools, Jewish or otherwise, and expect teachers to compensate for too many of our parental shortcomings.

Of course, teachers in various educational venues perform these miracles daily, and they deserve more glory and gratitude than society offers. But the educator in a contemporary Jewish school faces an even more complex task. All the educators, teachers and administrators, "general" and Jewish studies teachers, Jews and non-Jews, have to add identity-building to their already overwhelming to-do lists.

Moreover, in non-Orthodox Jewish schools, educators often have to navigate around mixed messages, as many parents inject their own ambivalence about their Jewish identities into their children's classrooms. Too many parents, even after deciding to send their children to Jewish schools, warn teachers not to be "too Jewish." Too many parents forget that kids instinctively sense insincerity. To be effective, a Jewish school must clearly stand for something – not heavyhandedly, but also not ambiguously, ambivalently or apologetically.

As the school year winds down, those of us lucky enough to send our kids to Jewish schools should take time to thank these Jewish educators for their lifelong gifts. We should thank the visionary principals, the volunteer lay leaders, the support staff and administrators, the gym teachers and arts specialists, as well as the amazing teachers themselves who make each school community function. Certainly, we should not accept mediocrity and must demand change where improvements are needed, but we must practice "*hakarat hatov*" – recognizing good work – and make detailed "thank yous" up and down our school corridors.

And while we are at it, let's commit to making next year the "Year of the Jewish Educator," a year-long celebration of Jewish education and the everyday heroes who help shape the next generation. Let's try to improve their training, salaries, ongoing learning, and working conditions – including ensuring that all Jewish educators can afford to send their own children to the schools they teach at. Let's follow the examples of Boston, Chicago and Cleveland and start creating city-wide Jewish education "superfunds," investing in Jewish brains and Jewish souls instead of building new Jewish buildings.

Let's also try to find moments throughout the year to toast educators, support them, and help them help us. And let's all commit to some Jewish learning ourselves – a more educated parent body is one of the keys to building a successful Jewish school, and it's another one of those longstanding secrets to Jewish survival.

Dedicated especially to the miracle workers at Akiva School and Foundation School in Montreal.

A refresher course in political advocacy

The dust has settled on the ill-advised resolution of the British Association of University Teachers to boycott faculty members from two Israeli universities. Thanks to pressure both from within and outside the organization, the AUT rescinded the boycott before ever putting it into play. Good sense prevails, at least until someone kicks up dust again.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Recently, a journalist asked me what we've learned from the AUT debacle. We've learned – yet again – that activism matters. There may be historical moments characterized by absolute powerlessness, but this is not such a moment. We can shift the flow of events.

Some of us came of age in an era marked by political activism. Spurred by the youth-based groundswell of opposition to U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, my generation bit off a roster of social and political issues, and learned how to advocate for change.

On diverse issues that related to local, global and Jewish communities, we took on situations and systems that seemed intractable, but sometimes were not. Soviet Jewry and Soviet dissidents, feminism and Jewish feminism, Israel advocacy and Israeli social reform, urban hunger and homelessness, for example, engaged, and continue to engage, people's best efforts for tikkun olam – repairing the world.

When a group of baby boomer professors recently initiated actions designed to pressure the AUT to revoke the boycott, we were reminded of the political activism of our student years. For many of us, the years before career, mortgage and children were fraught with passions that allowed our ideals and idealism to shape our life commitments. The intervening years were often more placid, not only for some of us, but for North American society generally. When we turned our attention to taking on the AUT, we agreed that it felt good to be back in the saddle.

Sadly, the 21st century has not afforded us the luxury of retreating into private concerns. So, for boomers who need a refresher course, and for Gen-Xers who came after, a brief primer on political activism.

Become educated, and educate your children. The issues of concern to the Canadian Jewish community – issues such as anti-Semitism here and abroad; social justice at home, in Israel, and elsewhere; and commitment to Israel are complex. Each has a long history and intricately connected contemporary circumstances. Slogans are fine for placards and bumper stickers. But informed and nuanced arguments enable us to forge commitments we can live by, and they allow us to persuade others and find solutions. Not simply a matter of knowing facts – although that is important – it's a question of sharpening your skills of critical analysis and argumentation.

Speak out. Write to government leaders and others in a position to effect change. Draft opinion pieces for newspapers and letters to the editor. Be guided by the passion of commitment, but allow your intellect to shape a persuasive and cogent argument. When objectionable things are uttered in your presence, get past your embarrassment and put the issue on the table.

Most importantly, we cannot talk only to those who agree with us, however comfortable that may feel. It takes work to find the right language to claim common ground with a wide swathe of people. But it is essential to go beyond your circle of comfort. For example, we sought and found support against the AUT boycott among colleagues who were deeply ambivalent about Israel, but who saw the boycott as unconscionable ideological coercion. It is important to forge alliances.

Persistence pays off. One letter, one conversation, one argument won't do it. Some battles may be won quickly, and some problems rapidly resolved. But for the deep and abiding issues, there are no quick fixes.

My father, *alav hashalom*, taught in inner city schools. Although shy, he never refrained from advocating publicly on behalf of what he believed to be right. By the time I was eight years old, he encouraged me to write to my political representatives about things that bothered me, or to bring my ideas about school policy to my teachers and principal. Although I was only 16 when he died, I like to think that his teaching and commitments undergird my own life. Next week is his yahrzeit of his death. This column is in his memory. *Yehi zichrono baruch.*

The Kirshner File

Middle East Jews join Germany's community

Germany's Jewish community is a mosaic of various strands, and two of its threads are of Middle Eastern origin.

Parviz (Binyamin) Nambar, an Iranian, and Elie Levy, an Israeli, both from the northern city of Hamburg, personify this phenomenon.

Sheldon Kirshner in Hamburg

Nambar, 72, is a former rug wholesaler, and has lived in Germany for 50 years. Levy, 54, is a mime who has been here for more than two decades.

I have no precise figures as to the number of Iranian and Israeli Jewish residents in this country. But what is fairly clear is that Germany is home to roughly 200 Iranian Jews and probably a few thousand Israeli Jews. They form exotic sub-communities in a 100,000-strong Jewish community largely composed of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

A familiar figure in Hamburg's Jewish community, whose population is estimated at 4,000, Nambar is a member of a vanishing breed. By his reckoning, 300 Iranian Jews lived in this elegant port 15 years ago. But with the flight of young couples to Los Angeles, New York and Israel, the Iranian Jews of Hamburg have dwindled to 100. The rest can be found in Frankfurt, Pforzheim and Dusseldorf. The Iranians are traditional and insular, their breadwinners tending to be businessmen. They hail from Isfahan, Teheran and Meshad, where Nambar was born.

Meshad has a notorious niche in the annals of the Diaspora. In 1839, Muslim mobs, incited by a blood libel, ransacked the Jewish quarter and threatened to kill its inhabitants. Muslim leaders intervened after extracting a promise from Jews that they would convert to Islam en masse.

As Jadid al-Islam, or New Muslims, they lived as faithful Muslims and gave their children Muslim names. But in secret, they observed Judaism, much like the Marranos of Spain. Uncomfortable with their predicament, many Jadid al-Islam left Meshad, in a pattern of migration that culminated with their immigration to Israel in the mid-1950s.

Nambar, the ex-president of B'nai Brith, was uneasy talking about this incident. But he expressed empathy for the plight of his ancestors. "I think I would have done the same, realistically, had I been in that situation."

He emigrated in 1955 to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities, first in Turkey and Italy and then in Hamburg, where only five Jewish families lived when he turned up.

"It was not easy for me coming here," he acknowledged. "Even now, I sometimes think it was wrong," he said, referring to Germany's central role in the Holocaust.

Laying aside doubts about leaving his parents, Nambar had no compunctions regarding his departure. "Most Muslims in Iran hate Jews, and that's a fact," he claimed.

With bitterness, he still remembers having been told by an Iranian Muslim in 1944 that when the German army conquered the Caucasus and rolled into Iran, Jews would be killed.

Until the 1979 Islamic Revolution, he visited Iran twice a year. On one of his trips, he was introduced to his wife-to-be, Farideh Rebecca, whom he married in 1962.

They have two sons, one of whom works with him. For a long time, when Nambar was a wholesaler of Iranian carpets, he prospered. But when the market declined, he became an agent and an adviser to major buyers.

He enjoys living in Hamburg, his qualms about Germany's Nazi past notwithstanding. "I like the way of life, the cleanliness and the punctuality." He considered making aliyah, but shelved that plan because Israel's climate would not have suited his wife's health.

A German national who still maintains Iranian citizenship, Nambar has business ties with local Muslims from Iran. The two groups seldom mix after hours, but he has been to Muslim weddings and funerals.

He is not sanguine about the longevity of Hamburg's Iranian Jewish community. The young, including one of his sons, are emigrating, secure in the belief their children will have a better future outside Germany.

***

Elie Levy was born in Jaffa and raised in Holon, a Tel Aviv suburb. His parents, Central Asian Jews, immigrated to Israel in 1949. Levy's father cleaned trains in Israel, but his children acquired university degrees.

An animated man who studied mime in France, he did not intend to settle in Germany. "It was never my dream place. It was so far away and complicated."

A German woman he had met brought him here in the early 1980s. Since mimes were not as appreciated by Israelis as by Germans, he stayed on in Germany after his relationship with that woman ended.

Parviz Nambar

Nevertheless, Levy never really thought of Germany as home. "I lived from year to year, always thinking of returning to Israel. I didn't even want to speak German."

In Hamburg, he knows 20 Israelis by name and can recognize another 80.

Fifteen years ago, he met the love of his life, Maria Hofer, 17 years his junior. He was smitten, though their age difference seemed like an insurmountable obstacle.

"She was too young for me, but Maria was the first woman to want me."

Her first impression of him was hardly rapturous, he said, but she was drawn to his brash demeanour. "I fell in love with him at first sight. He was completely different. I just wanted to be with him."

Levy was the first Jew Maria – an industrial designer from Dresden – had ever met, though one of her ancestors, a musician five or six generations removed, was Jewish.

After meeting him, she started studying Hebrew, which she now speaks quite fluently. Wed in a civil marriage in 2000, they remarried in an Orthodox ceremony in 2002, following her formal conversion to Judaism.

"I couldn't imagine, 15 years ago, I would convert," she confessed. "But as I got to know Elie, I realized how important Judaism is to him."

They live in a crowded flat in Eppendorf – a pleasant and leafy neighbourhood in Hamburg – with their two rambunctious children, Yonatan, 2, and Rachel, 4.

To a Canadian visitor, the Levys seem like an odd couple. Elie is talkative and lively and always appears to be performing, while Maria is quiet, reserved and serious.

But if first impressions count, they are compatible and cherish each other's company. After passing a Sabbath wine goblet around the table, she kissed him on the lips in a fulsome display of affection.

To him, Germany is a "wonderful" country with "wonderful" people, all the more reason he cannot fathom what happened here with the rise of Nazism in 1933.

Maria's grandfathers, one of whom was a priest, were both Nazis. They died when she was still an adolescent. She has no idea whether they were anti-Semites, but she is certain her parents are not anti-Semitic.

She is ashamed of the Nazi era, but is honest enough to admit she does not know how she might have behaved as a German under Hitler. "I hope I would have done the right thing and helped Jews," she mused.

Despite his comfortable lifestyle, Levy intends to return to Israel so that his bilingual children can become true Israelis.

"I will go wherever he goes," said Maria, who has visited Israel on numerous occasions and taken stark photographs of its landscapes. "I can imagine living there, but in a place where I can breathe clean air and raise my children under good conditions."

Elie Levy and his wife, Maria, and their two children, Yonatan and Rachel **[Sheldon Kirshner photos]**

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CHAT principal retiring after 15 years

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Sheldon Friedman, who will retire this month from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, has always maintained an open-door policy as an administrator.

"That's one of the reasons I have the jelly beans," the 63-year-old educator said in an interview at his office, referring to the colourful candies in the red bubble gum dispenser on his desk.

CHAT's student council vice-president, Zack Belzberg, told Friedman at a student-organized assembly in his honour, "Your motto is that you respect and trust the kids, and they will give it to you back... Thank you for your trust and your respect."

Expanding on his philosophy in the interview, Friedman said treating staff with respect pays dividends. "That's the way they treated the kids, and I [also] tried to role model that aspect of treating kids with respect.

Sheldon Friedman
[Benji Feldman photo]

"I listen to [the students]. I acknowledge the fact they work hard. I admire the fact they're doing a double curriculum."

Friedman, who started as general studies principal at CHAT before becoming principal of the school's main Tanenbaum campus three years ago, admits to not having been a model student himself at Eitz Chaim's D'arcy Talmud Torah. "I have great respect for Jewish studies teachers. The kids are not as motivated in these courses on a percentage basis... If they have one student like [I was], boy, are they earning their money!"

A native of Tbilisi, whose parents, a tailor and a seamstress, moved the family back to their native Poland after World War II, Friedman arrived in Toronto in 1948 at age 7 via a displaced persons camp in Linz, Austria.

His first teaching job at Central High School of Commerce (now Central High School) appealed to him because he felt comfortable working with immigrant kids, he said.

He returned there as head of history and economics later in his career, and also worked at three other schools – Brockton High School, a technical/vocational school where he was assistant head of history; Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute; and West Toronto Secondary School, where he served as vice-principal – before taking a leave from the Toronto school board to become general studies principal of CHAT in Jan. 1990.

He had applied for the job at the suggestion of a colleague who thought he would be a good candidate. "I wanted to have another experience," he said. "I always liked new challenges."

At the time, Friedman, a father of three sons and a member of a Conservative synagogue, assumed that CHAT would have a student body that was largely Orthodox.

But he found that the students represented a variety of denominational backgrounds, and that there was also a multicultural aspect to the school. "I found the community aspect very attractive," he said. "There were kids from Persia, kids from Russia, even though all of them were Jewish. There was also the English as a second language component."

Friedman said he drew on his experience coaching basketball in the Toronto school system to bring the "team concept" to CHAT staff, promoting the idea that Jewish studies and general studies staff were working together on a common mission.

For Friedman, the biggest change at CHAT was the day school's relatively small size – about 400 or 450 students, compared to up to 2,300 at his previous schools. CHAT now has 850 students, however, and before it opened a second campus in Richmond Hill, there were 1,350 in one location.

Despite the school's longer hours, Friedman found his new job relaxing. He extended his leave twice, then decided to make the move official.

Now, he said, it's time to retire. "I feel comfortable with my decision," he told the students. Future plans include continuing his work as chair of the Committee For Yiddish of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and looking after his grandson on a regular basis, together with his wife.

To honour Friedman, the school is setting up a Holocaust education fund in his name and is holding a reception at the end of this month.

Foundation gives kids in shelters a birthday

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Kids living in emergency or temporary housing in the GTA have had happier birthdays lately, thanks to the Give Kids Foundation, a charity founded by a trio of local women.

Susy Goldstein, Alison Polan and Marlene Axler, who met while volunteering at their children's elementary school, say they established the charity about two years ago because they wanted to do something for the community, and their priority was to help kids.

After "brainstorming" with Axler's son, a youth worker, they realized that although kids in shelters get all the basics, "they get left behind on their birthdays," Axler says.

"Many of these kids are in crisis situations. Some are victims of broken homes, some of violence, some are new immigrants and many are suffering from extreme economic and social hardships," she says.

Since many have to carry around their belongings in a plastic bag, the women came up with the idea of giving the kids knapsacks filled with practical and fun gifts, as well as some necessities appropriate to each child's age and gender.

"We want to promote literacy, so we include an age-appropriate book, and we also include a tuque and some socks, because they often get misplaced. And each knapsack has the child's name on it," Goldstein says.

The women now provide five charities, including Red Door Shelters, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and Toronto Community Hostel, with about 40 knapsacks a month.

"We shop, pack, deliver and raise money ourselves, and although we've had to recruit people to help us out, everyone is a volunteer," Goldstein says. "We store all our merchandise and hold our meetings at home, so there is no overhead. We're very grassroots."

Money is raised by selling tribute cards and centrepieces, and donations in lieu of birthday party loot bags.

To maintain anonymity, the women have no interaction with shelter residents.

Call the Give Kids Foundation at 416-781-1727, or e-mail givekids@hotmail.com.

Caravan '05 plans in doubt

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A last-minute effort by Jewish community organizations to mount an Israel pavilion at International Caravan 2005 appears to have come to naught.

Earlier this week, Downsview Park said it was withdrawing as the venue for the international multicultural festival, leaving this year's event in doubt.

In a very brief interview, Kirk Jensen, the president of International Caravan, told *The CJN* the festival would go ahead, but he gave no details as to a replacement site.

The planned Israeli pavilion would have marked the first time in at least four years that the Jewish community mounted an exhibit at the annual event, which was to run from June 21 to July 4.

UJA Federation spokesperson Howard English said the Consulate General of Israel, the Israel Government Tourist Office, the federation, community centres, youth groups and Zionist organizations had agreed to partner in an Israel pavilion.

But Garth Hardie, a spokesperson for Downsview Park, said International Caravan organizers failed to comply with their contract, and Downsview was withdrawing from the event.

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ART DONATION: The senior kindergarten class at Leo Baeck Day School's Holy Blossom campus recently donated two paintings to Reena Foundation president Gary Sim, back row left. The paintings, inspired by famed artist Jackson Pollock, were a gift to the children of Reena by their peers. Standing beside Sim is campus director David Prashker.

TORAH INDUCTION: The Osiel family donated a sefer Torah to Petah Tikva Anshe Castilla Congregation last week in honour of the leaders of their family. Above, Isaac J. Osiel, left, and Leon Ben Ezrah hold two of Petah Tikva's sifrei Torah as part of celebrations welcoming the newest addition to the synagogue's collection. Right, Rabbi Yoseph Oziel, Petah Tikva's spiritual leader, holds the new sefer Torah. [Benji Feldman photos]

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WE WISH OUR GRADUATING CLASS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION

The example of Yoram Sheftel

By RABBI MICHAEL DOLGIN

This week's parshah testifies to the complexity of living a fully engaged life. In the wilderness, our ancestors had far fewer worries. While they faced some enemies and challenges, they clearly knew who their foes were and had clear direction about how to approach them. As soon as scouts were sent to investigate the land of milk and honey, the choices become much more complex. Moses provided the questions and they themselves were required to find the answers. In the Torah, we can clearly see that 10 find the wrong answer and two find the correct one. Life in the land of Israel is as complex as it has ever been.

Rabbinic Reflections

During the week of writing, the challenge of following one's principles in a complex world was exemplified for me by a single individual in Israel: Yoram Sheftel.

I read online of the Israeli Supreme Court decision clearing any major legal hurdles that lay before the disengagement from Gaza, planned for this August. Pictured expressing his disappointment in the court decision was Yoram Sheftel, the attorney who represented the settlers before the court.

Upon seeing his name and picture, I was transported back to the winter of 5758 (1987-88), when I sat in Binyanei HaUma in Jerusalem and witnessed the trial of John Demjanjuk, accused of being Ivan the Terrible, who tortured and killed our people in the death camps. I was there when Demjanjuk himself testified. The emotions stirred by the experience remain with me to this day. He was convicted, and then the conviction was later overturned and he was set free.

Sheftel was his attorney. I can't imagine what it was like to defend someone accused of such horrific crimes. At the time, Sheftel was called both "the most hated man in Israel" and "Israel's conscience."

Now, he represents the settlers of Gaza. It's likely that he will also be described in such opposing terms today.

In the most different situations imaginable, Sheftel has managed to follow his principles. He has looked beyond his personal feelings and past the likelihood of winning or losing to the principles of democracy, responsibility and justice. Each of us may have different feelings about the outcomes of the Demjanjuk trial or the settlers' appeal. Yet, each of us, like the scouts of old, should be inspired by Sheftel's example.

A Jewish life is one of principle and practice. We must seek justice and pursue it here in Canada and in Israel.

Rabbi Dolgin is spiritual leader of Temple Sinai Congregation in Toronto.

Letters from the future

The following personal reflection was written on Jan 14, 2003. The writer died this year on Shabbat, May 7, during the commemorations of the liberation of Auschwitz, where it is likely her entire family and that of her husband perished.

By ANN SZEDLECKI

Guest Voice

A few years ago, I attended a lecture in Toronto during Holocaust Week, and it made me realize how little had been said about the lives of the Jews who found refuge – myself one of them – in the former Soviet Union.

On the spur of the moment, I approached Anita Ekstein, a member of the Toronto Holocaust remembrance committee and expressed my thoughts. She was interested and directed me to Judy Cohen, then-chair of the speakers and survivors committee. We set up an appointment, and Judy Cohen listened to my story. She thought my story was important enough to tell to younger people, and that is how I came to be a speaker at the Holocaust centre.

Since I was a mere child of 14 and the youngest in the family when World War II broke out, I had just finished my elementary school education and was not prepared for the hardship that the future held for me. That's what my life's story is all about.

The main purpose of my involvement now is to convey this idea to the younger people who come to the centre to see the exhibits, watch in horror the videos of the experiments conducted by the Nazis at concentration camps on their inmates, and then listen to my story.

At first I thought that by the time I appeared in front of them to speak, they would be exhausted physically as well as mentally. As it turned out, I was wrong.

I was there in front of them to testify in person what happened to me and how I survived under terrible conditions. I am not claiming that I can compare my life with that of people in ghettos and death camps, but the story also had to be told of how I, at so young an age, all alone, had coped with great hardships.

But my note here is really not so much about my life as about the reaction of the young people who came to the museum, some of them not very well informed and with preconceived thoughts or even doubts, as some of their letters would later point out.

But my first thoughts about one group were quickly dispelled after their visit, and it was with great emotion that I read the letters from Grade 10 students from Peterborough to whom I spoke on Nov. 8, 2002.

Usually I am allotted 45 minutes to speak and another 15 minutes for questions for a total of one hour. However, strangely, this group filed out of the auditorium without asking a single question.

After they left, I felt frustrated. I asked myself if we had exhausted the topic and maybe it was time to get on with our own lives.

But I was in for a great surprise when I received 10 letters from students of that high school. Reading their reaction to my story, I felt exhilarated and delighted, with my trust restored. It seemed that these young people left silently, without asking a single question, not because they were bored or uninterested, but because they were overwhelmed. They must have put themselves in my position: we were the same age when my story began, and they were finding it hard to believe that evil people can do horrible deeds to innocent ones.

Every time I re-read these letters, tears run down my cheeks. They are not signs of sadness, but of hope that maybe, maybe with young people like these, we will face a better future.

I would like to add that I now have a granddaughter who is not much older than I was when my own tragedy began.

Perspectives on the truth

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

In the Torah readings at this time we read about the spies that Moses sent to Israel to report on the land, and shortly thereafter we will read about the rebellion against Moses lead by Korach. The two events are not unconnected.

When Moses charges the spies with their duties, he mentions that they need to observe both the people and the land. When they deliver their report, they state that the produce of the land is quite bountiful and large, but it is a land that devours its inhabitants. The commentaries discuss the meaning of this strange phrase, and there is a suggestion put forth that in order to distract the inhabitants and keep them busy, divine timing arranged that there would be many funerals during the days the spies are visiting.

In this way, the inhabitants would not pay attention to the spies, but at the same time the spies are, in fact, watching an unusual number of funerals. They therefore conclude that the land devours its inhabitants.

But according to this view, the spies have in fact reported the truth. If they witnessed an inordinate amount of funerals, then truly they watched a land eat its people. So why are they so condemned for these words?

The problem with the report of the spies is that it dictates a conclusion. Events are meaningful when they are interpreted. Historians spend relatively little time arguing known facts and much more time arguing meaning. The funerals could be seen as indicative of a poisonous land or indicative of divine timing. To report the former is to report with slanderous intent, even if the words themselves are true.

God teaches Israel this lesson when Korach leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. In response to the rebellion, the Torah states, the earth opened her mouth and swallowed Korach and his followers. In this instance, the land really did eat a group that was dwelling upon it. The words of the spies came true, but not with regard to the Land of Israel. Ironically, it was true of their current land – the wilderness.

Everything in the universe has both positive and negative aspects. Every event can be read in an infinite number of ways. The sin of the spies was in telling Israel how to "read" the land, thus robbing them of their own individual perspectives.

Rabbi Levi is cited in a midrash as commenting on the book of *Ecclesiastes*. He relates the parable of a bird that was kept in a cage. Another bird comes and lands on the cage and says to the captive bird, "How happy you must be that the food you require is provided for you." The bird in the cage responds, "All you see is the food. You do not see the bars."

Mezuzah lore

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at some of the intricate laws that go into creating a mezuzah and affixing it to the walls of your home. As you skim through the many mezuzot sites on the Internet, you realize that mezuzot also play a major role in ethical thought, remarkable tales, current affairs and even Jewish humour.

First, the ethical lesson. I like the way the Chabad.org site deals with the following question:

Q. We have young children. Can I place the mezuzah lower, so that they could reach it to kiss it?

A. Do not place the mezuzah lower than the mandated height. Instead, lift your children up to the mezuzah. You'll be instilling in them – and yourself —a valuable lesson: if an ideal is beyond your reach, strive upward toward it, instead of compromising the ideal just because it is beyond your reach. **[www.chabad.org/library/article.asp?AID=225405]**

That lesson seems to have worked for Belle Rosenbaum. When Rosenbaum was a child, her grandfather used to lift her to kiss the mezuzah. Years later, she began to began to collect mezuzot cases from around the world. Rosenbaum went on to write her doctorate about her collection and to publish a book, *Upon Thy Doorposts: The Law, the Lore, the Love of Mezuzot*. The next time you are in Jerusalem, make time to visit Jerusalem's Great Synagogue. Inside you'll find the Rosenbaum Mezuzah collection, which numbers 1,000 mezuzot. **[www.wzo.org.il/en/resources/view.asp?id=1234]**

The mezuzah has long been viewed as having protective qualities. The Jerusalem Talmud tells the story of the Persian king Artvon who sends Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi an expensive stone and requests that the rabbi send him back something of equal value. So the rabbi "wrote a mezuzah and sent it to him in return. When Artvon received the mezuzah, he was perplexed, and said, 'I sent you something of great value, and you send me a cheap piece of parchment in return.' Rabbi HaNasi answered, 'You sent me something for which I will have to hire a watchman to protect it, whereby I sent you something that will offer you protection.'" **[www.campsci.com/mezuzah/]**

Many remarkable stories have been told about people who have recovered from illnesses after a faulty mezuzah was replaced with a kosher one. In one case, someone suffering from eye problems discovered that the Hebrew words for "your eyes" (*aynaychem*) had been misspelled in his bedroom mezuzah. When the mezuzah was replaced, the medical problem reportedly disappeared. **[www.campsci.com/mezuzah/mzpart1.htm]**

It's not often that a mezuzah makes the news. But one did recently when Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon affixed a mezuzah to the doorway of Block 27 in the Auschwitz death camp. **[http://tinyurl.com/b5rb2]** Sharon's action incensed Michael Handelzalts. He wrote in *Ha'aretz* newspaper, "Places unfit for human presence should not carry a mezuzah… When the prime minister affixes a mezuzah to a doorpost in Auschwitz, he bluntly highlights the meaninglessness of this religious and cultural Jewish symbol." Handelzalts' comments have provoked wide-ranging debate on the website. **[http://tinyurl.com/9bwnd]**

The essence of the commandment is the parchment that goes inside the box and not the casing itself. However, the Esek website points out that the decorative container is important, too. "We live in human forms that react to esthetics. If something is attractive, we are more likely to give it honour or care." **[www.esek.com/sopher/mezinfo.html]**

And that brings us to this final story. A wealthy Jewish man buys a fabulous home in Beverly Hills, Calif. He brings in a local workman to decorate the place. When the job is finished, he goes out and buys 50 mezuzahs and asks the decorator to place them on the right hand side of each door except bathrooms and closets. He's worried that the decorator will chip the paintwork or won't put them up correctly. However, when he comes back a few hours later, he sees that the job has been carried out to his total satisfaction. He's so pleased that he gives the decorator a bonus.

As the decorator is walking out of the door he says, "Glad you're happy with the job…By the way, I took out all the warranties in the little boxes and left them on the table for you!" **[http://tinyurl.com/7vy2f]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Have summer camps become too materialistic?

By MAIA FILAR
Special to The CJN

For many young people, going to sleepover camp is the best part of their year – it's an extended vacation when they're allowed to get dirty, spend time with friends and experience some independence from their parents.

And most adults have an image of summer camp as a place where kids can rough it, leaving behind modern conveniences to get back to nature.

But times have changed.

Take a trip to a typical camp this summer and you're bound to see kids wearing expensive clothing, yakking on cellphones, and playing handheld video games. And instead of huddling under the covers with a flashlight and an *Archie* comic, campers today are more likely to be watching *X-Men* on a portable DVD player.

Counsellors and parents have begun to take notice of the problem, and some camps are starting to do something about it.

Mark Diamond, director and owner of Camp Manitou, an arts and sports camp in Muskoka, wants to stop the trend before it becomes part of camp culture.

This year, Manitou has sent out a friendly reminder to parents and kids to help them keep in mind what camp is supposed to be about.

It lists what the camp tries to promote – getting away from the city, not worrying about how you look, being social and interacting with others – and what it doesn't want to promote – putting on makeup, wearing expensive clothing or sunglasses, blow drying or straightening your hair, watching movies or playing video games, and using cellphones.

> ***Time to leave makeup, expensive clothing behind***

Diamond acknowledges that adolescence is a hard time, when insecurity may lead many kids to bring these items with them, but he said camp is designed to make kids forget the pressures of city life.

"Camp is a special place where people appreciate you for what really counts," Diamond says. "When [campers] realize, 'Wow! They really like me,' it increases their self-esteem."

But many campers have a hard time seeing past brand labels and the latest must-have gadgets.

One of the best ways to stop this before it takes root is with parental support, but Diamond says getting it isn't always easy.

Most parents are completely supportive of Manitou's efforts, he says, and all parents must sign a contract stating that any contraband items found will be taken away and given to charity.

But some parents let their anxiety get in the way of good judgment.

"Some parents feel insecure when their child leaves and are very concerned," Diamond says. "Therefore, they support their child's reasoning to bring a cellphone. This is a very natural response. What happens then is that children call their parents when they are not home, and [parents], in turn, call back in a panic."

But what's wrong with bringing a cellphone to camp? Or what about the newest in expensive yoga wear if that's what a camper is used to wearing at home?

Of course, there's a time and a place for everything.

Many camps have dances where makeup is permitted, and Shabbat is often a time to wear nicer clothing. There are also nights when an entire camp will watch films as a group, or use computers for a certain activity.

The difference, camp directors and counsellors stress, is that these are communal activities. It's when electronic gadgets or expensive clothing are used in anti-social rather than inclusive ways that they become a problem.

Counsellor Lia Boritz works at Camp Shomria, a casual, kibbutz-style camp near Perth, Ont., that's part of the socialist Hashomer Hatzair movement. She says that in recent years, she's been seeing more electronics and brand name clothing, as well as a greater emphasis on looks, than ever before.

This summer, she hopes to change that.

But because at Shomria, youth teach other youth and adults are not as present in day-to-day activities as they are at some camps, Boritz feels counsellors can't use the same approach that Diamond uses at Manitou.

She says that because she and her co-workers are role models, she's organizing discussion among them about what's appropriate to wear around campers.

Diamond agrees wholeheartedly that counsellors must set the tone, but he thinks role-modelling must also begin at home.

"Why teach your child that it's OK to spend $200 on a pair of sunglasses and have that pressure on them not to lose them?" he asks.

Some parents leave it up to their kids to learn from their own mistakes.

One Shomria mother thought it would be inappropriate for her daughter to bring her hair-straightener to camp, but she couldn't convince the 13-year-old.

It was only once the teen was swimming and playing sports at camp that she noticed she wasn't thinking twice about her hair.

"She went to camp and realized how stupid it was [to bring the hair-straightener]," her mother says.

Most parents say the materialism connected to summer camp has become a sore spot – and a struggle with their children over basic values.

Diamond and Boritz agree that parents need to stand firm when it comes to a camp's and their own rules, as well as make sure that what kids bring to camp accords with its activities.

"At Manitou we start with the staff," Diamond says.

That means he makes sure his counsellors follow all the rules set out for the campers, and he expects parents to do the same.

"They are the kids' role models, and kids always follow their mentors."

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Any interested parties may contact the Mount Sinai Cemetery Association office for information, or to make copies.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, *Cemeteries Act (Revised)*.

Greater Toronto Area

CHEQUE PRESENTED: To honour the memory of fellow student Michael Zuk, who died of cancer in October, students at Or Haemet Sephardic School spent almost five months learning a total of 1,045 Mishnayot, 1,608 lines of Gemarah and 467 chapters of Tehillim. Students who learned the most in their grade presented a cheque for $3,000 to Randy Cohen, left, representing Ezer Mizion, the Israel Health Support Organization. Seen with the students are school principals Sarah Wasserman, left, and Sara Cohen.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER: Grade 7 and 8 students from Shaar Shalom Religious School said their goodbyes at a graduation ceremony held at the synagogue.

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Ron & Liana Sandberg joyfully announce the birth of Adam Gilad on April 23. Grandchild of Sol & Brenda Sandberg, Hersh & Bibi Golberg.

Mazel tov Betty & David Tkatch on your 50th anniversary. Love, Nelson, Cherise, Melaney, Elana, Sabrina & Sheldon, Taryn & Charles. Happy birthday Bubbie, June 3.

Mazel tov to Reesa, daughter of Leonard & Ruth Rosen of Montreal, and Corey Rose-Margolese, son of Allan & Arlene Margolese of Toronto, on their marriage in Tiberias.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, June 27, is the deadline for the July 7 issue and Wednesday, June 29, is the deadline for July 14 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 23

SOURCES AND THE LAW

Beth David Synagogue presents "Sources and the Law in the Conservative Movement," with **Rabbi Philip Scheim**. 7:30 p.m. 416-633-5500.

Friday, June 24

STROH SAYS GOODBYE

For the last time **Rabbi Michael Stroh** will lead the congregational Shabbat service as senior rabbi at Temple Har Zion. 8:30 p.m. Home-baked Oneg Shabbat to follow. 905-889-2252.

Saturday, June 25

BAYSVILLE SHUL

Bnai Isaac Synagogue of Baysville in Muskoka opens for the 2005 season with Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m., followed by the best kiddush north of Highway 7. For information, call 416-219-1533 or 416-767-3084.

Sunday, June 26

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh group meets at 7 p.m. for videos and discussion on Jewish life. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942.

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women will sell new and used items at their garage sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 4700 Bathurst St.

LEGION BREAKFAST

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 256, invites all its members to a breakfast meeting. 9:15 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave.

WALKING GROUP

Join "Walk, Talk, Etc." a walking group for Jewish singles 50-70 for a walk in Maria Payne Park. Meet in front of Montana's Restaurant, Dufferin and Steeles, at 9:30 a.m. For info, e-mail walkandtalk@hotmail.com.

BREAKFAST MEETING

The Aryeh Baraf Chesed Network for Jewish Singles is holding a breakfast meeting at Adath Israel Congregation. 10:30 a.m. $5. 416-488-0441.

LAUGH OUT LOUD

The Aliyah chapter of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is hosting "Laugh Out Loud" at the Pride of Israel Synagogue. This annual event features two comedians, a silent auction, balloon burst and refreshments and more. Money raised at this event will support children in Canada and Israel who require social and educational assistance. 7:30 p.m. Tickets $30 or $55/pair. Tickets available at the door or reserve at 416-630-8373 or e-mail laughoutloud18@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, June 28

SAR-EL INFO SESSION

Find out about Sar-El, an opportunity to volunteer on an Israeli supply/maintenance base. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or visit ww.serve.com/CVI.

Wednesday, June 29

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

Bring the family to the Bernard Betel Centre and celebrate Canada Day with a farmers market, white elephant sale, craft and book sale, entertainment, musical presentation and BBQ lunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-252-2112.

HOLLYWOOD & THE JEWS

Sy Langer speaks on "Hollywood and the Jews," a look at Hollywood's history, big names, Jewish movie stars and how Hollywood deals with issues important to Jews. At the mature adults get-together of Kehillat Shaarei Torah. 8 p.m. 416-229-2600.

Continued on page 21

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What's New

Continued from page 20

Other news

ART EXHIBITS

"Worlds," new works by artist **Judy Singer**, runs at the Moore Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 404, through July 16. The show opens Thursday, June 23, 6-8 p.m.

Melanie Siegel exhibits contemporary textile art Sunday, June 26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Mill Pond Gallery, 314 Mill St., Richmond Hill.

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

Shabbat morning services resume at the Orillia Country Shul for the months of July and August. Join Shabbat service with the following; July 2, **Rabbi Michael Dolgin**; July 9, **Elliott Melamed**; July 16, **Lionel Sharp**; July 23, **Cantor Tom Schwartz**; July 30, **Stuart Hytman**; August 6, **Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb**; August 13, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**; August 20, **Rabbi Aaron Hoch**; and August 27, **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. at 151 Creighton St. S. 705-327-7069.

GIANT BAZAAR &SALE

Soleil chapter of Jewish Women International is holding a sale of odds and ends for the whole family. Sunday, July 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Sr. Proceeds to charity.

SINGLES BALL

Dance the night away at the Singles Ball (30+) at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Sunday, July 10, 7:30 p.m. 2 Simonston Blvd. $12. 905-889-4975.

OR HADASH GOLF DAY

Or Hadash Temple charity golf tournament takes place at the Glenway Country Club in Newmarket, Thursday, July 14. Proceeds support the Safe-Haven Residential Centre. $150 per player. Call 905-898-2220 or e-mail info@orhadash.org for information and registration.

READY SET GO NURSERY

This September Adath Israel Synagogue offers "Ready Set Go," a pre-nursery program for children who are 2½ years old. Call **Rachel** at 416-635-5340.

BETH SHALOM NURSERY

Beth Shalom Playtime Nursery, a casually structured program for toddlers and preschoolers, is accepting registration for 2005-06 for "Mommie and Me," Bubbie and Me" and "Shabbat and Me," Play groups are also offered for 1 to 2-year-olds and 2 to 3-year-olds. For information and registration, call 416-783-6103.

FALL LECTURE SERIES

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Emanu-El presents lectures on four different topics Mondays, 2-4 p.m.: November 7, "Recent Canadian-American Relations" with **Prof. Robert Bothwell**, University of Toronto; November 14, "International Spies," with **Prof. John Twomey**, of Ryerson University; November 21, "Arthritis in the Era of Genetic Medicine," with **Dr. Katherine Siminovitch**, of the University of Toronto; and November 28, "The Swing Era," with **Mike Daley**, department of music, York University. $27. To register, call 416-449-3880.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants are held every Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to join a JIAS Conversation Café. Practise your English in a casual and friendly environment with other newcomers and JIAS volunteers. For a location, call **Jodi** at ext. 30.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

How To Talk To Your "Ex": A two-session workshop to help individuals develop effective communication and listening skills in order to better deal with their former spouses and issues around parenting and children. Begins Tuesday July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Choices: A six-week group for young women, 16 to 18 years old, who would like to explore and understand how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Begins Tuesday, July 5, 4-5:30 p.m.

Both at the Lipa Green Bldg.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 29. Bridge Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1-3 p.m. Bingo, Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m. Call 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

Beth Emeth Chai Shalom presents its annual anniversary dance, Thursday, June 30, 7:30 p.m., with the music of **Boris Naiman**. For tickets, contact **Helen Schwartz**, 416-633-4111 or **Mildred Persofsky**, 416-633-2436.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Strawberry Social, fun and enjoyment and entertainment by **Marie Go Go** on Thursday, June 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4. Register at the service desk or call ext. 2272.

Trip to Edwards Gardens, Sunday, June 26, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy a picnic. Members $5, non-members $8. Register at service desk, ext. 2267.

"Lunch and Learn" with **Lois Kamenitz**, Tuesday, June 28, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. $7. Reserve at service desk or call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, September 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** for information at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. June 28, movie.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Ongoing six-week weight management program includes lifestyle management, behaviour modification and moderate physical activity. Call 416-885-0375.

The Koffler School of Music presents music classes for all ages. Register at ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Registration for summer camp still open. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Extended hours, 8-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Call ext. 500.

LILY SILVER REMEMBERED: Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital recently honoured the late Lily Silver with a special evening that raised $500,000 for the Lily Silver Educational Centre at the hospital. Dr. Geoff Caine, director general of Herzog Hospital, left, presents Silver's son, Shaul, with a plaque honouring his mother.

BIBLE CONTEST WINNERS: Josh Gutenberg and Sarah Shainhouse, left, both students at Bnei Akiva Schools, and Sara Bordan, centre, a student at Hebrew Academy of Montreal, represented Canada at the International Bible Contest held in Jerusalem on Yom Ha'atzmaut. Shainhouse placed fifth and Gutenberg placed eighth. In the Diaspora contest, Gutenberg placed second.

ISRAEL UPDATE: Na'amat Toronto held its annual tribute-to-donors event recently at the Borochov Centre. David Goldberg, of the Canada Israel Committee, spoke to the gathering about recent events in Israel. From left are Judy Ross, tribute chair; Goldberg; and Orit Nusbaum, president Na'amat Toronto. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

TELLER-SILVERMAN, Judith Gail ז"ל

Suddenly on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 in her 70th year; survived by her children Mark and Jennifer her brother Peter Silverman and her many friends.

Funeral services were held on Friday, June 10, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home & Chapel, 21 First St., Orangeville.

A Memorial Service will be held at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto on Wednesday, July 6th, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (416-789-3291)

Grosman, Roman	June 3/05	Private
Pilc, Bertha	June 4/05	7 Townsgate Dr.
Swartz, Sonia	June 4/05	640 Sheppard Ave. E.
Dean, Freda	June 4/05	5935 Bathurst St.
Krotman, Ronislava	June 5/05	625 Finch Ave. W.
Cohen, Paul Irwin	June 5/05	Private
Solomon, Queenie	June 6/05	3560 Bathurst St.
Wasserman, Brenda	June 6/05	166 Bantoak Cres.
Krane, Bella	June 6/05	Private
Gold, Harold	June 6/05	889 Frederick St.
Brass, Sarah Reva	June 6/05	165 Kennard Ave.
Mirlin, Anne	June 7/05	Private
Robinson, Phillip	June 8/05	3303 Don Mills Rd.
Zimmerman, Ziga	June 8/05	38 Wigan Cres.
Wiener, Sam	June 9/05	10 Brill Cres.
Mizrachi, Hermina	June 9/05	80 Antibes Dr.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Don Levine	Jun 3/05	141 Lyon Court,
Jerry Stone	Jun 1/05	80 Antibes Drive,
Louis Dennis	Jun 4/05	921 Grandview Dr.
Roger Davidson	Jun 2/05	1 Benvenuto Place,
Carol Menkis	Jun 5/05	1 Falcon Ridge Drive
Helen Baltman	Jun 8/05	8 Croydon Road
Estelle Morris	Jun 6/05	66 Collier Street,
Anne Damin	Jun 9/05	3560 Bathurst Street,
Alex Flomen	Jun 10/05	57 Old Forest Hill Road
Fanny Pesses	Jun 10/05	1121 Steeles Ave.W.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTHER WEITZNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FAY BARLOW ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Jewish War Veterans Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EUGENE SCHONBERGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Clanton Park Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEA WOLFF ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th at noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
B'nai Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of
JAMES ISAAC WASSERMAN ז"ל

Wish to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to our family and friends, for their thoughtfulness, wonderful support, comfort, kindness, and heartfelt love, following the recent loss of their dearly beloved son and brother. James is also sorely missed by his aunts, uncle, cousins and friends.

Sarah and Howard, Michael and Jody

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOSEPH J. KATES ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Grand Order of Israel Section,
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
WILLIAM KROSSEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 3rd, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Yavneh Zion #17 Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SUNNY PRICE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LORRAINE SHANKMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 1:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

KOLLEK, Paul – It is with heartbreak that we announce the death, on May 24th, (15th of Iyar), of Paul Kollek, husband to Vitty, father to Daniel & Jonathan, father-in-law to Julia & Tessa and grandfather to Talia, Amiel, Benjamin, Emma & Adam.

Burial and Shiva took place in Jerusalem. The family would like to thank the Hamilton Chevre Kadisha and all those friends who have stood by us during this painful time. Your support has provided us comfort and eased our grief. We have lost a family member who was always full of love for others.

Donations in his memory can be made to Kehila Jewish Community Day School (905-529-7725) or to the charity of your choice.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GORDON CLARFIELD ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 10:45 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section, Phase II
Section EE, Row K
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MILDRED OKSENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 26th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Maldova Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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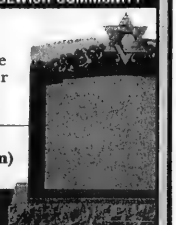

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QUALITY MONUMENTS... FACTORY PRICES

Greater Toronto Area

High conflict families symposium a first

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A recent symposium about high conflict families with separation and divorce was one of the first of its kind in Canada, says Howard Hurwitz, conference chair and director of children's services at Jewish Family and Child Service.

The focus of the symposium, sponsored by JF&CS in conjunction with Children's Services Network, North Quadrant, was to bring together professionals to raise awareness about high conflict families, says Hurwitz.

These families have been involved in unresolved litigation for a number of years, and have been seen by a multitude of communal agencies or professionals.

Existing research indicates that about 10 per cent of separating or divorcing families in North America become involved in the legal system regarding child custody, he says, but there is limited empirical data for Toronto and Ontario that identifies the prevalence of high conflict families.

"The parents [involved] are typically at [war with each other] and have often called the police. [In other instances] one parent or another has made allegations of abuse," he says.

"These allegations are often unsubstantiated, but they may call our agency because they are trying to position themselves for upcoming litigation. As a children's aid society, we have to investigate each complaint."

A constant in each family, says Hurwitz, is that the children experience emotional and psychological difficulties while the parents are in conflict.

"They could have behavioural problems at school, or they could be depressed, socially isolated or withdrawn. In extreme cases kids run away from home. We [worry about] children who are put in the middle of warring parents."

These cases demand a lot of professional time, he says, "and we are concerned about poor outcomes. We think that things can be done better."

The two-day symposium was attended by lawyers, mental health professionals, child welfare workers, teachers, police and judges, and was limited to 150 people.

"Our objective was to provide training, to identify best-practice approaches – what works and what does not, and to stay focused on the needs of the children," Hurwitz says.

Among the recommendations that arose from the symposium, he says, was to try to identify high risk families, and intervene as soon as possible.

"Those working with these families need support and education, and the professionals need to collaborate and share information.

"Legal issues should also be resolved quickly, and there must be clear, structured parenting plans and court orders with regards to custody, access and treatment with clear consequences for noncompliance.

"We also talked about a comprehensive treatment model that provides service and help for all family members, and about advocating for more treatment resources for families of limited income," he says.

A follow-up symposium is planned for next year, says Hurwitz, and a group of professionals has committed to developing a "best practice" document.

"Our objective is to assist parents throughout the separation and divorce period without having the children become casualties to the break-up of marital relations."

CORRECTION

In "Little Miss success story for henna artist" (*CJN Party Planner*, June 9), the name of the owner of Little Miss Henna Inc. was spelled incorrectly. She is Melanie Marcus. We regret the error.

Coast to Coast

Bridge teacher to celebrate 90th birthday

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Fanny (Babe) Smith, who will be 90 in August, teaches bridge and lives an active and productive life.

She is an avid Scrabble player, loves to read, creates wall hangings, photo montages, knits and crochets, and she has put together a comprehensive family tree. She says her only complaint is that she doesn't have enough time to do all the things that she wants to do.

"I am a big optimist and I am lucky to have good health. And what can be nicer than playing with great-grandchildren and hearing them laugh?"

To answer questions from her grandchildren about her childhood in South Africa, Smith wrote a 128-page life story. She begins her memoirs in 1883, with her parents who were born in Zhager, Lithuania, which was then part of Russia.

Her father, Jacob Schlom Cohen, immigrated to South Africa in 1903 at the age of 20, leaving his entire family behind in Lithuania. He entered a partnership in a general store in Edenvale, now part of Johannesburg, and sent for his wife, Paulina, the following year. Smith was the fifth child of a family of six.

"I told my grandchildren what it was like for us when I was a child – no electric lights, no running water, no motor cars, and we travelled by horse and cart," she says. But as the years passed, the family came to live a life of leisure.

In 1939, at the age of 24, she married Alec Smith, who was a legal bookie.

"Although my husband died at the age of 48, I was lucky to have married such a wonderful, kind man." This is the kind of half-full, not half-empty, philosophy Smith has about everything.

"I never cooked a meal until I came to Canada," she says. "We had four full-time help and my maid brought me breakfast in bed." She describes her days in South Africa as filled with golf, badminton, exercise, country clubs, travelling and a rich family life.

She recalls watching adults playing bridge when she was a child and from time to time, they invited her to join them. Not until after her husband died did she begin playing in competitive bridge tournaments, and winning prizes and trophies.

In 1965, she began teaching bridge in Durban and Johannesburg. Now, 40 years later, at Babe's Bridge School, she still teaches individuals and small groups.

With the political upheavals in South Africa, her daughter, Glenda David, was the first of her three children to come to Canada in 1982 with her husband and daughters. They were followed by son Stephen Smith and daughter Hazel Broker and their families.

After several visits to her children and grandchildren in Toronto, Smith decided to leave her life of comfort behind and to begin a new life, in 1986, at the age of 70. "I never regretted it," she said at an interview in her apartment in a seniors' residence. Her walls are covered with memorabilia and her tables with meticulously organized scrapbooks.

Although she now cooks, bakes and does housework, she says, "Canada has been so wonderful to me. Here, I have peace of mind."

David, the office manager of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, says, "I want the world to know about my amazing mother. Having lived the easy life in South Africa, she made the transition to having to do all the mundane things that throughout her adult life she had never taken care of." David adds that her mother does them with joy.

"Mother is perhaps a candidate for the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the oldest bridge teacher. She has cognizant ability and abounding patience. I treasure the time we have together – my mother lives in the 21st century. She is an amazing role model."

Smith's greatest happiness comes from her family – eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. "I'm so lucky that we are all here," she says.

Looking back, Smith says the "most awesome thing" to her is computers. "A cellphone is as far as I got."

But knowing Smith, she might soon be playing competitive bridge on computer.

Young Jewish Kenyan makes his home in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Although John Ngindiru grew up in his native Kenya with a love of Judaism, he hesitated to attend synagogue in Winnipeg during the first few months he was here.

"I was worried that I wouldn't be able to convince anyone here that I am Jewish," said Ngindiru (the N is silent).

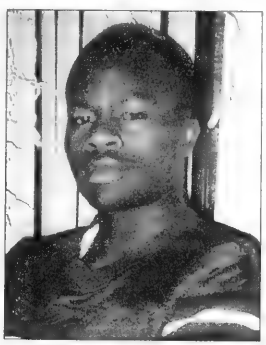
"I spoke to my rabbi about getting a letter from another rabbi in Kenya, but I didn't have time to do that before I left."

For Sukkot in 2003, he got up the courage to try the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, a Conservative shul and Winnipeg's largest congregation.

"I was amazed at the welcome I received," he said.

Since then, he has tried to attend shul on Shabbat as often as he can.

In recent weeks, he has been going to the Orthodox Chavurat Tefila Shul in the city's north end, because it's a couple of blocks from his home.



John Ngindiru

The 23-year-old Ngindiru came to Winnipeg in December 2002 mainly to escape having to join a government-supported gang of thugs that he compares to the Mau Mau, the Kenyan rebel group of the 1950s.

It was the kind of situation where if you join, you can never leave, and if you don't join, you could be murdered, he said.

Family and friends helped him leave the country and he came to Winnipeg under the auspices of the University of Manitoba. He applied to the university and was accepted, but he can't afford the tuition to continue.

He's now working for a biotechnology company and sending whatever money he can spare back home to help pay for school for his nine younger brothers and sisters.

Ngindiru was born in Nakuru, a town in Kenya's Rift Valley to a subsistence farming family that later moved to nearby Kericho. (His father grows coffee, bananas, maize and tomatoes.)

In the early 1960s, several thousand members of the Agikuyu, a people in Western Kenya, became Jewish. His parents converted in the early 1980s, when he was two years old.

The group takes its Judaism very seriously, he said. According to Ngindiru, his people keep kosher – they eat only meat that is ritually slaughtered and won't eat the meat of animals that die of natural or other causes – and they don't marry outside the group.

They spend most of Shabbat in their wooden synagogues.

"The children come at 8:00 a.m. to learn the basics, with the adults coming at 9:00 a.m.," he said.

They live in their sukkahs for all of Sukkot and celebrate all the holidays. They receive Torah lessons from Israel. While they don't know Hebrew, they conduct their services in English and their native Kikuyu language.

"We are proud of our faith," Ngindiru says. "We put Stars of David and menorahs on our cars. And we are always excited to have Jewish visitors."

Ngindiru has even faced discrimination because he is Jewish. A school he was attending, which was run by Catholics, tried to expel him because he wouldn't attend classes on Shabbat, but the director of education wouldn't allow the school to expel him because of his religious beliefs.

He said he phones his family frequently. "My parents are really happy that I'm here. They think this is the opportunity of a lifetime. Maybe it's God's will that I don't go to school but instead help my sisters and brothers to get their education. As long as I can go to synagogue, I feel great."

A Father's Day Tribute for
J. EDWARD BRESLIN (1910-1995)
10 years have past.
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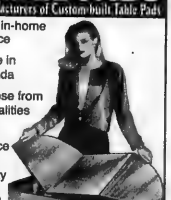
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RCMP, CSIS to investigate alleged Hamas front group

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Anne McLellan, the minister of public safety and emergency preparedness, has asked the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to look into an Islamic charity that is suspected of being a fund-raising front for the banned terrorist organization Hamas.

Anne McLellan

McLellan recently asked the two security agencies to investigate allegations that IRFAN, the International Relief Fund for the Afflicted and Needy, is merely continuing the operations of the banned Jerusalem Fund for Human Services. The Jerusalem Fund is allegedly one of four "fronts" for terror groups named in a secret Privy Council Office memo that was sent to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on May 23, 2000.

Last November, the Canadian Coalition for Democracies (CCD), Conservative MP Stockwell Day and Israeli researcher David Bedein held a news conference in which they alleged IRFAN was the old Jerusalem Fund dressed in new garb. They relied on information published by the Israel-based Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies, which reported that IRFAN was "a Hamas front organization operating in Canada to enlist financial support for Hamas institutions in the Palestinian Authority-administered territories."

The CCD has been urging federal authorities since that time to crack down on IRFAN. In a letter to CCD president Alastair Gordon on June 8, which was provided to *The CJN*, McLellan, who also serves as deputy prime minster, wrote that she had turned over the file to the RCMP and CSIS.

"It is a matter of grave concern to me that those who engage in terrorist activities may seek to take advantage of Canada's laws, including the law relating to registered charitable organizations, to facilitate fund raising and other activities in support of terrorism. It is important that we retain the integrity of Canada's laws," McLellan stated.

> ***'It is important that we retain the integrity of Canada's laws'***

McLellan added that she had forwarded CCD correspondence concerning IRFAN to the RCMP and CSIS "for their review and to take action as deemed appropriate."

According to the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, IRFAN "enlists contributions and transfers the funds to Hamas' civilian infrastructure in the Palestinian Authority-administered territories. The infrastructure, financed by the donations from Canada and other countries, helps Hamas establish itself as an alternative to the PA and to maintain its terrorism-supporting apparatus."

At the time of the November news conference, IRFAN spokesperson Rasem Abdel-Majid denied the organization was connected to the Jerusalem Fund or was a supporter of Hamas.

However, a quick Internet search revealed that IRFAN maintains the same fax number and mailing address as the Jerusalem Fund.

The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center also reported that IRFAN operates from the same address as did the Jerusalem Fund and uses the same telephone number at its east Jerusalem office while employing the same person in the office.

Documents filed with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), Canada's tax authority, revealed that in 2003, IRFAN allocated about $5.6 million "on programs outside Canada."

IRFAN reported that it received nothing in tax-receipted gifts but raised $2.5 million "from other registered charities" and $2 million from fundraising. It also held $1.5 million in cash or short term bank accounts.

In 2002, IRFAN disbursed $2.9 million to recipients outside Canada. It raised $3.1 million in tax-receipted gifts and $1.5 million in other gifts.

In 2000, the first year for which there are CRA documents on IRFAN, the organization raised only $21,385 and disbursed $13.

Thornhill MP calls committee report 'backward step'

Continued from page 3

Meanwhile, the German Canadian Congress (Ontario), the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canadian Islamic Congress all endorsed the committee's recommendations.

In a statement, the UCC said, "Canada's war crimes program has abused the citizenship revocation process for political purposes, which has led to fundamental breaches of individual rights and freedoms and has brought Canada's justice system into disrepute."

Commenting on the report, Volpe said the current system is fair. "Somebody doesn't just say, 'You've lied, so therefore you've lost.' Everything is responsible and accountable," the *Ottawa Sun* quoted him as saying.

Hedy Fry, a member of the parliamentary committee, wrote a dissenting opinion, saying "revocation is not prosecution of a crime" and the standard should remain the civil "balance of probabilities" test. She also rejected penalties other than citizenship revocation in cases of misrepresentation.

A government source confirmed that Fry's view closely mirrors that of the minister.

Thornhill MP Susan Kadis called the committee report "a backward step in many areas."

Echoing Fry's dissenting view, she said the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the balance of probabilities is an appropriate standard in revocation cases.

"This report is fundamentally flawed and very seriously puts at risk the whole objective of ensuring that we do not provide a safe haven to those persons involved or complicit in war crimes, genocide or crimes against humanity," Kadis stated.

Morgan noted the current system usually works in a suspect's favour. If the court rules against them, they can appeal to cabinet, but if the Crown loses, it has no recourse for appeal.

He said immigrants don't have a right to live in Canada, but are given permission to do so.

If they defraud the system, that permission can be revoked, he added.

Morgan suggested that any changes to the legislation should only affect future cases, while cases already in the system should be dealt with under current rules.

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Coast to Coast

Campaign launched for Tegegne's transplant

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – An Israeli hospital has agreed to perform a life-saving kidney transplant for Baruch Tegegne of Montreal using an organ donated – free of charge – by an Indian man.

That's the good news. The bad news is that $120,000 (US) must be raised to cover the total costs, says Simcha Jacobovici, the Toronto-based filmmaker who has been advocating on behalf of Tegegne, an Ethiopian Jew.

The hospital, Rambam Medical Centre in Haifa, has agreed in writing to do the surgery for a fee of $70,000, which Jacobovici calls "very discounted… It normally charges $100,000. That's because of Baruch's role in helping Ethiopian Jewry."

However, when travel costs, dialysis for Tegegne, and accommodations, care and other expenses are factored in, at least another $50,000 is needed, Jacobovici said.

In March, the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) said it would not do the transplant for Tegegne, 61, because the prospective live donor is not related to him, and is, in fact, a stranger. There is no way of verifying whether or not payment would change hands, and buying and selling organs is illegal in Canada.

Thirty-year-old Shree Dhar said he will accept no compensation for the donation, other than covering his expenses and the time he loses from making a living.

The RVH said it has never performed a transplant using an "altruistic" donation and, moreover, it has concerns because Dhar was found through the Internet and is from a Third World country.

Jacobovici has been unable so far to find another Canadian hospital willing to do the transplant. He found Dhar by placing an ad on Tegegne's behalf on www.matchingdonors.com, a site that matches persons willing to give an organ without personal benefit to those in need.

Tegegne, who is hailed as a hero of the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry, has advanced kidney disease as a complication of diabetes. He has been on the RVH's kidney transplant waiting list for a year and undergoes dialysis four times a week at the Jewish General Hospital.

Jacobovici believes Quebec medicare should at least pay for Tegegne's post-operative care on the grounds that he was forced to go elsewhere for a procedure not available here.

Although Tegegne has Israeli citizenship, he is not eligible for the national health program because he has not been paying into it, Jacobovici said.

A number of American hospitals are also willing to do the transplant using Dhar's kidney, but they asked from $200,000 to $300,000 for the operation alone, Jacobovici said. Having the operation in Israel is preferable, in any case, because Tegegne has a support system of friends and family there.

"Time is of the essence," he stressed. "I'm very worried about him. He has better weeks and worse weeks, but this campaign has given him hope. He feels he's not alone."

Rambam, founded in 1938 as a British military hospital, is one of Israel's five major hospitals. Today it is a teaching hospital affiliated with the Technion, and treats many non-Israelis including thousands of citizens of southern Lebanon and United Nations peacekeeping forces.

The Toronto-based Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre has set up a fund specifically to collect donations to enable Tegegne to have the transplant, and tax receipts will be issued, Jacobovici said.

The Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel has so far raised $20,000, Jacobovici said, which is remarkable given they are generally "low on the economic totem pole."

Another $20,000 approximately, has been pledged in the United States through the Sha'arei Dayah Foundation of St. Paul, Minn., much of it coming from those who are aware of Tegegne's role in the Ethiopian Jewish struggle.

The foundation has created a website (www.TransplantNow.org) to publicize Tegegne's plight. His dramatic story was told in Jacobovici's 1983 documentary *Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews*.

For information on the Tegegne fund of the Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre, call Nicole at 416-504-6662, ext. 229, or e-mail: naustin@apltd.ca.

The search for small-town Jews

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Owen Sound, which has a population of 21,000, is Canada's smallest community with an active synagogue.

The synagogue, Beth Ezekiel, and Grey Roots, a heritage and visitor centre, are joining forces to create an exhibit to showcase the town's 100-year Jewish history.

Currently, the exhibit is in the research and information-gathering phase and Karin Foster, the Grey County archivist, is calling on members of the community and Jews abroad who may have had grandparents and great-grandparents from the area to donate pictures and artifacts to the exhibit.

"We're interviewing people in the community to find out what they can tell us about Owen Sound history. We're trying to fill out the timeline," Foster said.

The panels will display everything from thriving local Jewish businesses to Jewish war veterans who fought and died in battle. But Foster says the organizers are having problems finding people from the early 1900s.

Jeff Elie, Beth Ezekiel president, emphasized how essential it is to find out about the first 30 years of the 20th century, about the Jewish pioneers. He said he has reason to believe that a man named Goldblat, who once owned an Owen Sound furniture store in the late 1800s, might have been a pioneer. Unfortunately, Goldblat is a common name, making it difficult to track down his living family.

"We find it fascinating," said Elie. "Who are the Jews that first came to the area? How did they maintain their Jewishness, considering the problems we face today when attempting to raise our children in the 21st century?"

Both Foster and Elie hope that when the exhibit does open to the public in the fall of 2006, it will offer the community general information that people, Jews and non-Jews alike, may not know about the religion and culture.

Foster said she expects the exhibit to be as successful as a black history exhibit that Grey County put together a few years ago.

Elie is also optimistic that the project will be well-received as "the community at large has taken a positive interest in Jewish causes."

Despite the town's positive response to the exhibit, he believes the community still has a lot to learn about Judaism.

"Owen Sound has very little knowledge of the Jewish community, however this has been changing over the years. Jewish people used to keep a low profile. This exhibit will be an education for people in Owen Sound," Elie said.

"It's surprising how little people know about Judaism if they haven't been exposed."

Elie recalled leading a trip with boy scouts and when he asked the boys if they knew what a Jew was, he was surprised by their response.

"Most of them had no idea what it meant to be a Jew."

Foster said this exhibit is ideal for people, like her, who want to stay informed, aware and "learn new things about what you thought you already knew.

"Jewish people know that the Torah is the first five books of the Bible. Christians may not know that. It's important to know about the similarities and the differences."

She also described an attempt to outline the cultural and traditional differences between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews. She says while they do practise different customs, the bottom line is that they are all Jewish first.

There is also an attempt being made to highlight parts of Judaism that have little to do with religion, such as Jewish humour and food.

"The exhibit will do a lot to raise consciousness in the wider community," Elie said. "Once ignorance goes away, so should anti-Semitism."

He quickly added that while he has yet to experience anti-Semitism in his town, he does not doubt that it is still a problem that should be addressed.

"We need to dispel the myths and ignorance that people are bound to have, although I have never experienced it in this city."

Elie said that four years ago, the shul was struggling with a congregation of only 13 families. Today, the membership has tripled to more than 50 families, including people from outlying areas, cottage owners and retirees who moved to Owen Sound.

To contact the organizers with information about the town's Jewish history, call 519-376-5140, ext. 113, or toll-free, 1-877-473-9766.

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Coast to Coast

CLC seeks end to Israel's security fence and settlements

Continued from page 1

The final form dropped a clause calling for the CLC to "work to end all acts of violence that take the lives of innocent Israeli and Palestinian peoples," that came from CUPE, as well one calling for "an immediate cessation of the the Israeli armed attacks on civilian people and the ending of the siege on villages, towns and cities," which came from the B.C. federation.

It does include a general wish that the peace process be based on "equality between Israelis and Palestinians."

During the plenary session on international affairs, only one delegate spoke briefly about the need to support the end of Israel's occupation and the creation of an independent "secular and democratic" Palestinian state. "Palestine" was also featured in a video as one of the countries where the CLC is active.

The proposed resolution is far more temperate than the two-page statement on the conflict issued by the CLC executive committee and council at the last convention in 2002 in Vancouver.

That statement, which was an addendum to a more moderately worded resolution calling for a cessation of violence, compared the situation in Israel to apartheid South Africa and denounced "aggressive" Israeli military actions in Palestinian areas that Israel "justifies as 'hunting down terrorists.'"

"The Palestinians have about the same rights, freedoms and power as Africans living in Bantustans and segregated townships once had," the statement read. It continued that "an occupied people have the right to fight for their freedom" and Palestinian refugees should be compensated for property "lost in Israel."

Unions' triennial convention

While it also condemned the killing of Israeli civilians and the "gross incompetence" of the late Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat and the PA leadership, the statement sparked outrage in the Jewish community, with condemnations from Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada. Former CLC president Dennis McDermott, since deceased, called it "Israel-bashing."

Paul Purrit, the CLC's international department program director, told *The CJN* he did not understand the uproar the statement caused in the Jewish community, because it was "quite well-balanced" and, in terms of policy, if not language, not much different from the position of Israel's Labor Party.

Purrit, who is Jewish, has been to Israel and the Palestinian territories frequently since 1985, and as recently as last year. He has been involved with a CLC educational project in the West Bank on occupational health and safety.

In the months that followed, CLC president Ken Georgetti met with then CJC president Keith Landy and then Israeli ambassador to Canada Haim Divon, and Georgetti, along with the heads of CUPE and the Public Service Alliance of Canada, visited Israel and the PA.

Purrit described the trip as "an eye-opener" for the Canadian labour leaders.

The CLC has more than three million members through its affiliated labour federations, unions and district councils. (Its membership does not include the historically anti-Israel Quebec federations, the Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux or the Centrale des Syndicats Démocratiques, but the less-political Féderation des Travailleurs du Québec is an affiliate.)

Israelis, Palestinians share lunch at labour conference

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Two executive committee members of the Histadrut, Israel's General Federation of Labour, Shula Cohen and Jihad Akel, who is Arab, were among the international guests at this year's Canadian Labour Congress convention.

The CLC has historic ties with Histadrut, which has sent observers to many conventions since the CLC's founding in 1956, but has not been present since 1996, said Paul Purrit, the CLC's international department program director.

Histadrut has always been invited, but its non-acceptance was due to the former chair placing less priority on international relations than current chair, Amir Peretz, said Cohen, who is chair of the Karmiel Regional Labour Council.

Cohen was not aware of the CLC's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that it adopted in 2002, but she was taken aback when informed that it had used apartheid as a comparison. She thinks Histadrut should be "speaking more loudly" internationally about Israel's position.

Histadrut's new direction has led to renewed relations with the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) since April, which were forged in a 1995 agreement but had been suspended since the start of the intifadah in 2000, she said.

The PGFTU, which represents 80,000 workers on the West Bank and Gaza, has been attending CLC conventions since 1992, and was represented this year by Sami Younis, treasurer of the health workers union in Nablus.

Younis welcomed the CLC's desire to find a peaceful solution to "a problem between two nations."

The two Israelis and Younis, who had not met previously, quickly became friendly at the CLC convention. "You see we have lunch together, we can laugh together," said Cohen. Their common language was Arabic.

"We are workers, we are unionists," said Younis, indicating that their common concerns in this area come before politics.

"If speaking about peace makes us politicians, we are politicians," said Akel, chair of Histadrut's "situation room" in Tel Aviv.

The three said they would welcome CLC support for joint activities between Israeli and Palestinian workers. Purrit responded: "The day they ask, we will be there tomorrow."

The three sat down for an interview with *The CJN*, with Younis acting as interpreter because Akel does not speak English and Cohen's is rudimentary.

Akel and Younis spoke briefly to the convention, with Younis acting as interpreter, expressing a desire to "stop the suffering and see smiles on the faces of Palestinian and Israeli children."

Today, Histadrut represents about 40 per cent of Israeli workers, down from a peak of 85 per cent. About 10 per cent of its membership is Arab, Cohen said.

Both Cohen and Akel were struck at how similar the domestic issues discussed at the CLC convention are to those that preoccupy Israeli workers, such as privatization and globalization.

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What Hamas really means by 'occupation'

During the worst years of the second intafadah (2000-2004), each Palestinian attack against Israeli civilians would invariably be followed by an interview with a spokesperson for a "militant" group, such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad, whose organization "took credit" for the violence.

The militants' comments were always the same: "We are fighting the occupation."

Rarely did reporters ask for a definition of "occupation." To most Westerners (at least those who accept a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians), it means Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza.

But Hamas and Islamic Jihad believe that all of historic Palestine, and especially Israel, is occupied. They consider the land a sacred Islamic trust that must be "liberated" from Jewish sovereignty.

Recently, some analysts have argued that Hamas may be prepared to accept a long-term, although impermanent, *hudna* or ceasefire with Israel.

Others warn that such a deal, even if offered, would be a dangerous chimera.

It's interesting that Stewart Bell's front-page *National Post* story, "Hamas Vows Terror" (June 13), tackles this subject head on. In an interview with Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zahri in Gaza City, Bell repeatedly asks what Hamas really means by "occupation."

Bell writes that, according to Zahri, "Hamas had no intention of stopping its killings [of Israelis], despite Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza this summer, adding that violence would continue until Palestinians controlled 'all' of Israel's land mass."

Asks Bell: "The Hamas vision has always been one Palestine, from the Jordan River to the sea. Is that still the case, or has Hamas modified its position?"

Answers Zahri: "There is no problem [with a] step-by-step solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict. We can now accept Gaza and West Bank; in the future, all [of] Palestine."

According to Reports

By **PAUL MICHAELS**

Bell did get an admission that by "occupation," Zahri means that Israel itself is occupied land. Zahri also added that if Israelis want to live under the Palestinian Authority, they are welcome to do so.

Referring to Hamas' recent success in Palestinian municipal elections (widely viewed as the reason Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is postponing national elections originally scheduled for July 17), Bell wrote about Hamas' call for an end to its designation as a terrorist organization by western countries, including Canada, the United States and the European Union.

This is a call for legitimacy, despite the fact Hamas insists on continuing its attacks on Israeli civilians, and despite the fact the Palestinian Authority is unwilling or unable to disarm Hamas (and Islamic Jihad), as required by the internationally backed "road map" peace plan – in short, despite the fact Hamas may not be willing, as some Western analysts argue, to transform itself from a terrorist organization with one overarching aim: the elimination of Israel.

* * *

Peter Bergen, author of *Holy War, Inc.: Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden*, has been a familiar face on CNN as the network's terrorism analyst since 2001. He is famous for his 1997 CNN interview with bin Laden.

Bergen has a well-established reputation for clear, factual analyses about Al Qaeda and the terrorist threat it continues to pose to the West.

All the more strange then to read Bergen's positive review of *The Power of Nightmares*, a three-hour BBC documentary about the war on terrorism, in *The Nation* magazine (June 20).

Bergen explains that the documentary argues that "much of the [terrorism] threat is a fantasy," a fabrication of U.S. political interests, especially neo-conservatives who have allegedly been front and centre in promoting the "war on terrorism." He says the BBC "blows it when [it] concludes that Al Qaeda is a phastasmagorical construct of U.S. officials," but he nonetheless insists *The Power of Nightmares* is intellectually and historically "probing."

Although Bergen strongly disagrees with most of the ideas presented in the documentary – he writes that it sometimes has "the feel of a Noam Chomsky lecture channeled by Monty Python" – he concludes "it is a richly rewarding film."

The only reason Bergen offers to justify a conclusion that flies in the face of his criticisms is that the documentary "treats its audience as adults capable of following complex arguments" – even, apparently, arguments that are flat-out wrong.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Jewish Canadian studies program launched at U of O

Sara and Zeev Vered donate $1 million to university

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

OTTAWA — University students interested in delving into the world of Jewish education can now acquire a distinctively Canadian flavour of that knowledge, in the nation's capital, thanks to one man's vision and a generous grant.

Prominent Ottawa family Sara and Zeev Vered donated $1 million to the University of Ottawa to create the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program. It's an interdisciplinary program that will be the first post-secondary education Jewish education curriculum in Canada that focuses on the history, culture and literature of the Jewish Diaspora in Canada.

There are other Jewish education programs at Canadian universities – McGill, York and Concordia – but this one will be the first that doesn't centre on Judaism and Middle East politics.

"This will focus on Jewish people in Canada and how they contributed to Canadian society and the various difficulties they had," U of O President Gilles Patry told *The CJN*, adding that there is the potential to offer some of the 12 to 15 courses in Hebrew. "We are meeting the need that exists to focus on Jews in Canada."

The U of O was founded by Catholic priests and is now trying to position itself as "Canada's University." The new program will have students from all backgrounds, according to the brains behind the program, U of O Institute of Canadian studies director Pierre Anctil.

"The planned program will be open to students from all interests and disciplines who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Jewish community and its contribution to the development of Canada," Anctil said.

Anctil is not Jewish, but is well-known among the French-speaking Jewish community. He writes and speaks Yiddish, English and French fluently. The Canadian Jewish Congress honoured him in 1998 with the Ezekiel Hart Award, which the CJC gives every three years to a person not from the Jewish community who has contributed in an outstanding way to inter-cultural relations. He has authored many historical studies on the Montreal Jewish community and multi-ethnic context.

According to Patry, a Jewish program was in the works since the late 1990s, however, it wasn't until Anctil joined the U of O last year that the program took on a distinctively Canadian flavour.

For their part, the Vereds, who are intensely private people, spoke at an afternoon unveiling at the U of O, June 16.

"We are pleased to be able to support this exciting new program," said Sara Vered. "We strongly believe in the University of Ottawa's plans to build a sustainable program of scholarship in Jewish Canadian Studies on a national scale."

Renowned scholar, writer and historian Irving Abella delivered an address on the importance of Jewish Canadian studies at the afternoon unveiling.

The planned program, according to the U of O, will initially offer undergraduate and graduate courses, exploring topics such as contemporary Canadian Jewry; English and French language Jewish literature and culture; Canadian Yiddish literature and culture; relations of the Jewish-Canadian community with its non-Jewish environment; social, economic and ethical contributions of Canadian Jews to Canada; and major east European migrations of the early 20th century.

It will be housed under the Institute of Canadian Studies and is expected to start admitting students for the fall of 2006.

Zeev and Sara Vered, the million dollar donors behind the program at the University of Ottawa. **[University of Ottawa photo]**

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On Campus

Kulanu: 'Serving kosher fruit since 2002'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Heimish, with a twist. That's how the University of Toronto student who founded Kulanu Toronto in 2002 would describe the events run by the gay Jewish campus group.

"All of our events are kosher and have a Jewish feel, with the extra twist of being queer," Dan Heller, 21, explains. (The term "queer" is often used by those in the gay community as an umbrella term for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, transsexual, intersex, queer and questioning – a group sometimes referred to as LGBTTIQQ.)

Kulanu, which runs under the auspices of Hillel of Greater Toronto, will take part in the Pride Parade this Sunday and have an information table at the event. They'll be recognizable by their t-shirts bearing the slogan, "Serving Kosher Fruit Since 2002." The parade is part of the annual week-long Pride Toronto event.

But Kulanu members kicked off their Pride celebrations early with a Shabbat dinner June 9 that attracted 31 people. The dinner, held at the Wellesley Community Centre, marks their first Friday night dinner this year not held at Hillel's Wolfond Centre.

An alumnus of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Heller, Kulanu's student co-ordinator, said Kulanu was created to meet a need for "a place where we could be both Jewish and LGBT."

The group's website says its programming is apolitical, however, in accordance with Hillel's mandate – and in contrast to a significant number of non-Jewish gay groups that have taken up the left-wing's pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel stance – Kulanu is supportive of Israel and its right to existence. "That doesn't mean that each member of the group will endorse all of Israel's policies," said Heller. "We are a diverse group."

Kulanu's immediate predecessor, JLGBT, which was also connected with Hillel, had folded. Other Jewish gay organizations in Toronto, dating back to 1975, had also folded, said Heller. Kulanu's membership – it has a listserv of 200 – ranges in age from 18 to early 30s, but most are in their 20s.

"I think it's very important that we have Kulanu," said Lisa Isen Baumal, director of Hillel's Wolfond Centre. "[Our] goal is to be able to offer a wide enough array of programs and opportunities that something speaks to everyone."

Kulanu's social, religious and educational events, all of which are supported and promoted by Hillel, include Shabbat dinners, Jewish holiday celebrations, and cultural events.

A third seder this year featured a specialized, more inclusive Haggadah. "Often, queer Jews feel invisible not only in the liturgy but in Jewish life," said Heller. Heterosexuals take for granted things like having an aliyah to acknowledge a special anniversary, he said.

"A lot of what Kulanu is about is bringing Jews who would feel excluded back to a positive self-image, both as Jews and as queers, and to give Judaism a positive image in their eyes as well."

Heller says he has struggled with stereotyping of gays. "What is so striking is that the Jewish community and the queer community both draw from such a diverse group of people."

For more information about Kulanu, go to www.kulanutoronto.ca

Students riding across Canada to fight cancer

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

While most university students toil away all summer to make money for the next year's tuition and rent, four students from Toronto are doing something much more exciting.

Shael Zelunka, Ryan Richards, Travis Buckley and Cyrus Salek are biking across Canada to raise money for the breast cancer centre at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre in honour of Ryan's mother Robbin, who has been battling breast cancer for 13 years.

The men, who are now following the Trans-Canada Highway across Northern Ontario, began their trek on May 5 when they dipped their tires in the Pacific Ocean in Victoria. They plan to reach the Atlantic before the end of July.

Richard's goal is to raise $100,000, but according to most recent calculations their total stands at $3,715. "The important thing is the money, but the hard thing is biking," says Zelunka, calling on a cellphone from their makeshift campsite, on a baseball diamond in Lake Chaplin, Sask.

Although all four are enthusiastic about cycling, only Zelunka has long-distance biking experience. The learning curve is steep, and the sheer size of the country can be daunting.

"You start to count every kilometre obsessively," says Richards. The group has set a goal of 100 kilometres a day, and has calculated that it should take about 90 days to cover Canada from coast to coast. They stop when they get a chance, to talk to locals and hand out flyers and cards about Robbin's Ride.

They travel in a caravan, with packs on their backs and trailers strapped to their bikes. Meals are peanut butter sandwiches or pasta with tuna fish. Vitamins, painkillers and winter woolies keep them going.

"Our legs are getting bigger and the pains aren't as bad," says Richards.

On the road, the wind is their enemy. They keep their eyes out for wild animals: black bears in the Rockies, and prairie dogs on the plains. At night, they camp in open fields, campgrounds, and along the side of the highway, but sometimes people open their homes and offer them warm beds to stay in. The CN trains always clack in the background. "We never really escape the trains," says Richards.

Richards came up with the idea in December. When he first approached his mother with the plan, she had an "emotional meltdown."

"I know my son has a deep emotional commitment to this, but I'm deeply impressed by the other boys," she says.

"They are all university students and they could all go out to make money for their final year of university. Instead, they chose to do this. I am so impressed."

Robbin Richards was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992. "All my children have lived with this all their lives," she says. She recently completed another round of chemotherapy and will undergo more testing in July.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian women. One in nine women is expected to develop it in her lifetime. This year, about 21,600 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 5,300 will die of it.

All money raised will go towards Sunnybrook and Women's hospital's campaign to build a new wing for breast cancer treatment. Donations to Robbin's Ride can be made online at www.robbinsride.ca.

U of Ottawa residence named for Soloway

OTTAWA — The University of Ottawa's newest residence has been named for the late Hyman Soloway. The $15.5 million building, which opened last September, houses 239 students. A member of the university's board of governors from 1990 to 2004 and an active member of Jewish communal organizations, Soloway was a lawyer who was born in Ukraine and educated in Canada. The university's Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law is also named for him.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון : אַלעק סילווער

נייע לידער־זאַמלונג פון דיכטער שמחה סימכאָוויטש

פון אַלעק סילווער

אין טאָראָנטאָ איז נאָר וואָס דערשינען (אין אַ באַגרענעצטער אויסגאַבע פון בלויז 100 עקזעמפּלאַרן) אַ נייער באַנד לידער פון שמחה סימכאָוויטש מיטן נאָמען „דאָס ליכט פון חסד". די זאַמלונג איז אַן אָפּקלייב פון לידער און פּאָעמעס פון זיינע ערשטע ביכער: „אַזוי איז אַ יוגנט פאַרגאַנגען" (מאָנטרעאָל, 1950) און „אין שעה פון תפילה" (מאָנטרעאָל, 1958). ביידע ביכער זיינען אַרויס אין קליינע אויפלאַגעס און שוין פון לאַנג נישט בנימצא.

אין דער נייער זאַמלונג זיינען אויך איינגעשלאָסן אַ צאָל שפּעטערדיקע שאַפונגען, וואָס זיינען נישט אַריין אין פריערדיקן באַנד געזאַמלטע לידער „דעם נצח אַנטקעגן" (טאָראָנטאָ, 2003). אַזוי אַרום זיינען ביידע ביכער אַ סומירונג פון זיינע דיכטערישע שאַפונגען פון זינט זיין קומען קיין קאַנאַדע ביז היינט צו טאָג.

קוקט מען אויף דער דאַטע ווען דאָס ערשטע בוך איז דערשינען – 1950 – ביז היינט ווען דאָס לעצטע, זעכצנטע בוך איז דערשינען – 2005 – איז עס אַ מהלך פון 55 יאָר. דאָס איז אַ לאַנגער גאַנג פאַר אַ ייִדישן דיכטער, וועלכער איז על־פּי־נס געראַטעוועט געוואָרן פון דעם שרעקלעכן חורבן אין די יאָרן פון נאַצישן טעראָר. לויט מיין אויסרעכענונג מיינט דאָס, אַז סימכאָוויטש האָט געשענקט דער ייִדישער און דער נישט־ייִדישער ליטעראַרישער וועלט אַ ניי בוך כמעט יעדע דריי און אַ האַלב יאָר. עס איז נישט קיין „רעקאָרד" אין דער ליטעראַטור, אָבער עס איז אַ גאָר גרויסע דערגרייכונג.

כאָטש אַ גרעסערע צאָל לידער זיינען נישט ניי, טאָר מען זיי נישט אָנרופן „אַלט". אַ בעסערע באַצייכענונג וואָלט געווען „באַנייטע לידער". ווייל גוטע לידער ווערן נישט אַלט. נאָכן לייענען לייגט מען זיי אַוועק אין אַ זייט, אָבער אַ סך מאָל קומט מען צו זיי צוריק, מען לייענט זיי ווידער אַמאָל און מען האָט־ווידער פאַרגעניגן. פּונקט ווי אַ גוט בוך, וואָס מען לייענט איבער נאָך און נאָך אַמאָל; פּונקט ווי אַ גוטן פילם, וואָס מען וויל ווידער זען. אַזוי איז אויך מיט אַ גוט ייִדיש ליד.

און אַז סימכאָוויטשעס ייִדישע לידער זיינען גוט איז דאָך קיין ספק נישט. דאָס איז שוין לאַנג באַשטעטיקט געוואָרן דורך פּרעזענטירן אים מיט דער „חיים זשיטלאָווסקי פּרעמיע"; צוויי מאָל מיט דער „י. י. סיגאַל פּרעמיע"; מיט אַ צאָל אויסצייכענונגען פון טאָראָנטער ייִדישן בוך קאָמיטעט. דאָס איז אויך באַוויזן געוואָרן פון די ליטעראַרישע לויב־אָפּרופן אין דער ייִדישער פּרעסע מצד אַ צאָל באַקאַנטע ייִדישע שרייבער און קריטיקער. און איבער אַלעם איז עס באַוויזן געוואָרן פון די ייִדיש־לייענער, וועלכע ווייזן אים אַרויס דעם פאַרדינטן כבוד און רעספּעקטירן אים, ווו נאָר ייִדיש ווערט געלערנט און דיסקוטירט.

אין זיין הקדמה שרייבט ש. סימכאָוויטש: „דאָס זעכצנטע בוך מיינס — דאָס ליכט פון חסד — וואָס דערשיינט אין מיין 85סטן געבוירן־יאָר, איז מיין אייפערדיקע תפילה, אַז דאָס ליכט פון חסד און רחמים זאָל זיך אויסשפּרייטן איבער די פעלקער פון דער וועלט און זיי אויסהיילן פון דער פאַרדאַרבנדיקער שינאה און גוואַלד, ווי עס האָבן געלערנט און פאָרויסגעזאָגט אונדזערע נביאים און אַלע גרויסע גייסטער פון דער וועלט".

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Health & Lifestyles

Summer weather tries skin to its limits

Skin is the largest organ in the human body. It serves many purposes, functioning as a barrier between the body and the outside world. It defends the body from harmful environmental elements, such as the weather and solar radiation. It prevents the entry of harmful bacteria and other germs. It helps regulate the body's temperature and helps maintain an appropriate fluid balance. In the summer months, especially in the camping environment, the skin is tried to its limits. Most damage to the skin is a result of inadequate planning and poor decision-making; however, prevention can be achieved by taking a few anticipatory measures.

By Dr. Orli Goldberg

Sunburns and skin cancer

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in Canada, according to the Canadian Cancer Society. In fact, there has been a 30 per cent increase in skin cancer in Canada over the past 10 years. Ninety percent of skin cancers can be prevented.

More than a half of a person's lifetime ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure occurs during childhood and adolescence. This early exposure plays a critical role in the future development of skin cancer. People with a history of more than one blistering sunburn during childhood or adolescence are twice as likely than unexposed individuals to develop melanoma, the most fatal form of skin cancer. Although children should not be discouraged from playing outdoors, it is important to take precautions.

The following are some tips from the Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA) to help stay safe in the sun:

- The first and best line of defence against the sun is covering up. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and light, long-sleeved clothing.
- Stay in the shade whenever possible, and avoid sun exposure during the peak intensity hours – between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or greater.
- Apply sunscreen generously 20 minutes before outdoor activity, and reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.
- Be on the lookout for moles that change colour or size, bleed, or have irregular borders – all potential signs of skin cancer.

Mosquito bites and West Nile Virus

Mosquito bites can be a nuisance in and of themselves, as they can be extremely itchy and can become infected if scratched. More recently, concern over West Nile Virus (WNV) has made protection against mosquito bites even more important. WNV is a potentially serious illness that can be transmitted by mosquito bites. Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall.

WNV affects the central nervous system, and symptoms vary from person to person. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 80 per cent of people who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all. Up to 20 per cent of the people who become infected will display milder symptoms, which can include fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back.

Only about 1 in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness, the majority being elderly or having a weakened immune system. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

The best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites. The following are some tips from the CDC:

- When outdoors, use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). The concentration of DEET in products may range from less than 10 per cent to over 30 per cent. The benefits of DEET reach a peak at a concentration of 30 per cent, the maximum concentration currently recommended for children.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools of water, uncovered foods, and gardens where flowers are in bloom.

Poison Ivy, Oak, or Sumac

Rashes from poison ivy, oak, or sumac are all caused by urushiol, a substance found in the sap of the plants. Rashes can be prevented by learning to identify these plants and avoiding them. A useful rule in recognizing poison ivy and oak is, "Leaves of three, beware of me," as these plants have three leaves per cluster (poison sumac has 7 to 13 leaves per branch). The rash is not contagious from person to person, but can be spread by urushiol remaining on clothes or objects.

If you do come in contact with these plants, take the following precautions:

- Wash skin with cool water to prevent the spread of urushiol.
- Take an oatmeal bath or apply calamine lotion to relieve itching.
- Do not pop blisters, as this can lead to infection and scarring of the skin.

By taking these precautions, you and your skin will enjoy a safe summer. If you have further questions regarding these topics, please consult your physician.

Dr. Orli Goldberg is a medical resident in the department of family and community medicine at the University of Toronto, currently training at North York General Hospital.

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New revelations in AIPAC case

By RON KAMPEAS and MATTHEW E. BERGER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — Two former staffers at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee facing indictment on espionage charges shared allegedly classified information at the crux of the case against them with AIPAC's executive director as soon as they received it, JTA has learned.

Howard Kohr had no idea that the information in the July 21, 2004 e-mail from Keith Weissman, then AIPAC's Iran analyst, was classified, multiple sources said, and the government has told AIPAC that Kohr is not the subject of any investigation. Kohr did not further disseminate the information, sources familiar with the events said.

A spokesperson for AIPAC categorically denied any wrongdoing.

"No current employee of AIPAC knew that classified information was obtained from Larry Franklin," the Pentagon analyst who allegedly gave Weissman the information, "or was involved in the dissemination of such information," spokesperson Patrick Dorton said. "AIPAC does not seek, use or request anything but legal and appropriate information as part of its work."

Weissman and Steve Rosen, AIPAC's former policy director, could be indicted this month or next for allegedly passing information to an Israeli Embassy official, Naor Gilon, the chief political officer. AIPAC fired Weissman and Rosen in March because of information it says arose out of the investigation.

The government is considering a public arrest of Rosen, sources say, a signal of the tough posture it plans to take on the case. Such hardball tactics – which included two public raids of AIPAC offices – have prompted new criticism and questions from Jewish leaders.

Some fear that the case will inhibit the functioning of Jewish organizations and others that deal with the executive branch.

"Not just Jewish organizations, but lobbyists in general," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "Lawyers will be telling their clients, 'Let's look at practices.' "

The revelation of the e-mail to Kohr raises questions about the intentions of Rosen and Weissman in obtaining and sharing the allegedly classified information. The FBI knows about the e-mail, sources told JTA, and its existence apparently was the subject of much scrutiny by a grand jury convened in January to consider the case.

The apparent rush by Weissman and Rosen to tell their boss the new information could reinforce the defence contention that they were not lone wolves bent on espionage – as sources close to the defence believe the government plans to argue – but lobbyists sharing inside information, as was their job. That is to be the crux of the two men's defence, sources said.

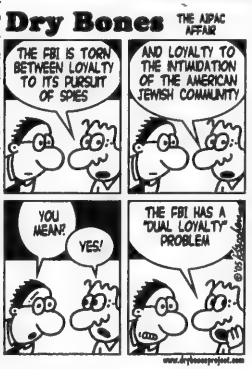
The revelation of the e-mail to Kohr also raises the question of why AIPAC fired Rosen and Weissman after months of defending their integrity. Some AIPAC donors and Jewish community leaders have asked whether it was appropriate for the organization to fire the two if the acts at the centre of the investigation were part of their daily routine as lobbyists.

However, a source close to AIPAC suggested that what the men did was far from routine.

"Rosen and Weissman were dismissed because they engaged in conduct that was not part of their job and was beneath the standards of what AIPAC expects of their employees," the source said.

Franklin, the Pentagon Iran analyst who allegedly told Weissman that Israeli agents supposedly in northern Iraq faced grave danger, pled not guilty June 13 to relaying classified information to Rosen, Weissman and Gilon at on earlier occasions.

Sources close to the defence say the U.S. attorney's office in northern Virginia plans an aggressive prosecution, especially of Rosen. Prosecutors have indicated they want Rosen arrested and "perp walked" – led into the courthouse in handcuffs – for the cameras, the sources say, and may object to bail.


Dry Bones
THE AIPAC AFFAIR
THE FBI IS TORN BETWEEN LOYALTY TO ITS PURSUIT OF SPIES
AND LOYALTY TO THE INTIMIDATION OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY
YOU MEAN?
YES!
THE FBI HAS A "DUAL LOYALTY" PROBLEM

Prosecutors let Franklin turn himself in, and they intend to make the same allowance for Weissman, the sources said.

A spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty would not comment, nor would lawyers for Rosen, Weissman or Franklin.

The notion that Iranian agents planned to kidnap, torture and kill Israelis and American agents in northern Iraq allegedly was fed to Weissman on July 21, 2004, by Franklin as part of an apparent FBI sting of Rosen and Weissman.

The crux of the government's case, defence sources say, is the conversation Rosen and Weissman allegedly had the same day with Gilon. Prosecutors are likely to say that conversation violated the 1917 Espionage Act, which could be interpreted as banning the relaying of classified information to a foreign power.

Rosen and Weissman will claim that they did not realize at the time that the information was classified, defence sources say.

AIPAC officials say they have been assured by the government that investigators aren't targeting the organization or any current staffer, including Kohr.

Franklin is accused of relaying classified information to Rosen, Weissman and Gilon in 2002 and 2003. By July 21, 2004, he was co-operating with the FBI.

He later suspended that co-operation, which led the FBI to reinstate its case against him. Defence sources say that if indictments against Rosen and Weissman come down, some of their other contacts with Franklin also will be raised, but the July 21 sting is the core of the government's case.

Weissman allegedly called Franklin early on the morning of July 21 after months of no contact between the two men, part of a routine that included cold-calling multiple sources inside government. Franklin allegedly said he had urgent information and asked to meet Weissman outside a department store at the Pentagon City mall in Arlington, Va., a subway stop away from the Pentagon.

Franklin allegedly told Weissman that intelligence agencies were suppressing the Iranian plot to kill the Israelis and Americans, and he asked Weissman to relay it to Elliott Abrams, then an assistant national security adviser at the White House. According to this reasoning, Abrams was likelier to listen to a premier lobbying groups than to a mid-level analyst at the Pentagon.

Franklin also allegedly told Weissman that U.S. intelligence had not shared the information with Israeli officials.

PM voices support for demolition

By GIDON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Monday expressed support for the demolition of settler homes slated for evacuation under the planned pullout from the Gaza Strip settlements of Gush Katif.

Attending a special Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee session on the disengagement, Sharon said in response to a question by Labor Knesset member Ephraim Sneh on whether Israel "could handle the danger in showing the difficult images of the demolition."

MK Sneh argued that by destroying homes, Israel would be shown in a negative light across the world, and would also have to cover the cost of the demolition. "Where is the wisdom?" he asked.

Sharon replied that the Palestinian Authority made a specific request to have the homes demolished since they had extensive plans for the rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip and the construction of highrises in evacuated settlements. The World Bank as well as the Americans have also turned to Israel in a similar request, Sharon said.

The prime minister also reiterated that "there will be no disengagement under fire. I mean by that that there won't be fire during the evacuation." Sharon added that the disengagement plan will be fully implemented on its planned date.

When asked by Yahad MK Ran Cohen for his opinion on recent attempts by Likud party members to hamper the pullout, Sharon said, "Don't be surprised if you hear of more attempts and tricks from different directions. But rest assured, the disengagement will be fully implemented as it's planned."

On the issue of the deployment of Egyptian troops along the Philadelphi route along Gaza's border with Egypt, Sharon said that it was made clear to the Egyptians that it would not entail the reopening of the Israel-Egypt agreement on the demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula, but only a substitution of untrained forces by trained forces along a 14 km-long area near Rafah.

As for the construction of the Gaza port, Sharon said Israel could not take on itself the responsibility for the welfare of the three million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, but that it should allow Palestinians contact with the world.

Sharon also said that 28 illegal outposts in the West Bank will be dismantled after the implementation of the disengagement plan.

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Anglicans consider divestment from Israel

By DANIELLA PELED
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — A move by the Anglican Church to discuss divestment from Israeli businesses supporting the "occupation of Palestinian territory" is causing grave concern among Britain's Jewish community.

Coming close on the heels of the motion by Britain's Association of University Teachers to sever ties with two Israeli universities – a decision subsequently overturned following an international outcry – the Anglican move has sparked fears of a new push for boycotts of the Jewish state.

Of added concern is that the Anglican move follows last year's decision by the Presbyterian Church (USA) to divest its holdings in Israel, with other denominations considering similar moves.

The proposals are scheduled be raised at this week's Nottingham conference of the Anglican Consultative Council, which represents an estimated 77 million members in 38 Anglican provinces around the world, from South America to Africa to Asia.

The proposals come in the form of a study by the Anglican Peace and Justice Network, a body some Christian and Jewish leaders describe as a radical fringe group, which also will be reporting on issues such as homosexuality and AIDS.

The network will present the findings of a 2004 trip delegates took to the region, during which they were "exposed to the draconian conditions of the continuing occupation under which so many Palestinians live," according to an official statement.

Particularly appalled by the "continuing policies of illegal home demolitions, detentions, checkpoints, identity card systems and the presence of the Israeli military that make any kind of normal life impossible," the network concluded there was "little will on behalf of the Israeli government to recognize the rights of the Palestinians to a sovereign state to be created in the West Bank."

"We are fearful that the Christian presence in the Holy Land is dwindling," adds a source within the Anglican Church. "Our constituency are the Palestinian Christians. They are losing ground every day, they can't go to work, can't go to church. So the well-off and educated are leaving Palestine and the community is drying up."

British Jewry, which long has enjoyed close relations with the country's Christian community, is preparing to lobby hard against the proposals, with community leaders planning to join with other groups to oppose the Anglican campaign, having learned valuable lessons from the success of their efforts to overturn the university teachers' motion.

A spokesperson for the Orthodox chief rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, confirmed that Rabbi Sacks was "making representations, along with other community organizations," to get the community's point of view across.

Sigmund Sternberg, a co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum, a body promoting dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims, said he has also been in talks with Christian leaders on the subject.

"It's not helpful to the peace process at all, and only a minority in the church support this, the same as with the [academic] boycott," Sternberg said.

> ***'It's not helpful to the peace process at all, and only a minority in the church support this'***

Condemnation also has come from within the church community. Geoffrey Smith, chairman of the Christian Friends of Israel lobby group, wrote to Rowan Williams, archbishop of Canterbury, the highest-ranking officer in the Church of England, to express his concerns about "a very one-sided report."

Rowan's predecessor, Lord Carey, strongly criticized the concept of sanctions.

"Israelis are already traumatized and feel that the world is against them," he said at the launch of a new human-rights initiative earlier this month. "This proposal, if it is agreed, would be another knife in the back. Christians who owe so much to the Hebrew Scriptures and to Israel itself should not be among those who attack Israel in such a way."

"The Anglican community takes very seriously its commitment to interfaith relations, and this is particularly true now when there is so much turmoil and trouble in the world," Anglican Communion spokesperson Jim Rosenthal said in response to communal criticism. "The church consistently calls for dialogue in the world and we hope this dialogue will be a force for healing and reconciliation."

The network will present its findings at the main council meeting, after which a number of outcomes are possible. The council may formally receive the report but take no action, or it could call for a specific resolution, appoint study groups or send a church delegation to further research the situation.

Those lobbying against the divestment report have an encouraging precedent. Last month, the Church of England's ethical investment advisory group rejected calls from pro-Palestinian activists to withdraw nearly $365,000 worth of shares in the Caterpillar group, which manufactures armored bulldozers the Israeli army uses to demolish the homes of suspected terrorists and uncover arms-smuggling tunnels.

The Nottingham conference "is of concern," says Jason Pearlman, spokesperson for the Board of Deputies, the representative body of British Jewry. "But we have gained assurances from some sections of the church that they will not divest."

Still, as Smith of the Christian Friends of Israel points out, the consultative council will be dominated by foreign delegates, including Riah Abu-Assal, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, who is expected to press forcefully for divestment.

"Out of 80 people at the conference, only eight are from Britain," Smith said. "The majority are from overseas, where we have very little leverage."

Pro-Israel campaigners can't afford to be complacent, and they are all too aware of the 2004 decision taken by the three-million member Presbyterian Church (USA), which has assets of some $7 billion (US), to begin divesting from companies that contribute to the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza. Similar moves are being discussed by the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

The 2.3-million member Episcopal Church, which is part of the Anglican Communion and has an investment portfolio of some $3.6 billion (US), is also considering whether to withdraw funds from Israel.

Sharon promotes pullout

Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza and northern West Bank will further Zionism, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said. "Leaving Gaza is the future of Zionism," Sharon told a conference on fostering development in the Galilee and other underpopulated areas of Israel. "The disengagement plan does not just entail withdrawing from Gaza; but also strengthening settlement in the Galilee, Negev and greater Jerusalem."

Rabbis rule on Gaza graves

In a letter to the Prime Minister's Office, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar said that removing 48 bodies from the Gush Katif cemetery is permissible once no Jews remain in Gaza, as leaving them would invite vandalism of the graves. Rabbi Amar said the Mount of Olives cemetery, the most sacred Jewish cemetery in Jerusalem, is the appropriate place for the bodies to be reinterred.

Neo-Nazis out of Israel?

A Knesset committee is seeking legal backing to deport Russian-speaking neo-Nazis living in Israel. The immigration and absorption committee met to address reports of neo-Nazi activity among small groups of non-Jewish immigrants, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. Israeli police are looking into two such immigrants, nabbed conducting neo-Nazi rituals while serving in the Israeli Army. One witness told the committee that such activity, which one legislator called "isolated and marginal" was not limited to young people, and that some adults in Israel run neo-Nazi websites, the *Post* reported.

Israel, France mend fences?

Jacques Chirac invited Ariel Sharon to visit France. The French president went public with a June 7 letter he wrote to the Israeli prime minister, in which Chirac wrote, "Our bilateral relations over the last three years have taken on a new lease of life as evidenced by the number of high-level visits... I would like to strengthen this partnership." Israeli political sources said Sharon accepted the invitation and proposed three possible dates for the visit. Israeli-French relations have been rocky in light of Paris' perceived pro-Palestinian tilt and mounting anti-Semitism in France, but Chirac has joined an international chorus in praise of Israel's plan to quit the Gaza Strip this summer.

Ukraine boosts Israeli satellite

Ukraine will help Israel with its communication satellite program. The former Soviet republic will participate in the AMOS satellite program, which aims to launch the AMOS-3 satellite in 2007.

More rockets fall on Sderot

Palestinians in Gaza fired rockets into the Negev town of Sderot last week. There were no casualties. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Israeli named to UN post

Dan Gillerman, Israel's UN envoy, was named a vice-president of the UN General Assembly. The appointment marked the first time in 50 years an Israeli envoy has filled the post, which is largely ceremonial but still wields influence on the UN agenda. His candidacy was submitted by the Western Europe and Others Group, which includes Israel, and went unopposed by Arab states and Iran.

Would-be bombers nabbed

Security forces cracked a Palestinian terrorist cell that recruited four teenagers for suicide bombings. Lifting a gag order on the case, the Shin Bet security service said four minors from the West Bank city of Nablus were arrested on suspicion of planning to carry out attacks. Also arrested were four terrorists from the Palestinians' ruling Fatah Party who recruited them. The cell is believed to have received instruction and funds from the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah. Israeli forces have foiled several attacks by minors from Nablus.

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Paris square named for Dreyfus defender

By BRETT KLINE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — A small square in Paris has been named in honour of Bernard Lazare, the radical turn-of-the-century French Jewish journalist and thinker who was among the first to defend Capt. Alfred Dreyfus.

Chief speakers at the June 15 dedication ceremony just south of Place de la République were Paris Mayor Bertrand Delano and Pierre Eidenbaum, mayor of the city's third district. About 200 people attended.

Lazare was born in 1865 in the southern city of Nimes into a well-established, assimilated Jewish family. A writer and literary critic, his first book, *Anti-Semitism, Its Causes and History*, published in 1894, was heavily critical of Jewish capitalists in Europe and called for total assimilation of the Jews.

The militant anarchist was the first journalist or intellectual in France to defend Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French army who was accused of spying for the enemy Germans. Others, such as Emile Zola, who wrote the famous article *J'Accuse*, followed.

Bernard Lazare

Beginning in 1894, the Dreyfus trial set off major anti-Jewish demonstrations and is considered one of the worst anti-Semitic incidents in French history. It led Lazare to become involved in the defence of oppressed Jews everywhere and to drop his assimilationist stand.

The trial was covered by a journalist from Vienna named Theodor Herzl, who deduced from it that anti-Semitism would never disappear from Europe. The trial was instrumental in helping Herzl formulate his vision of political Zionism.

Dreyfus was found guilty and spent several years on Devils Island, the French penal colony off the coast of South America. The verdict eventually was overturned, but Dreyfus returned to France a broken man.

Lazare was involved in the earliest stages of Zionism, but he never broke with his anarchist and class-struggle beliefs, and subsequently separated from the Zionists.

"I have great admiration for Bernard Lazare," said Jean-Louis Levy, Dreyfus' grandson, who attended the ceremony. "He was the first public figure to defend my grandfather. We never spoke about the affair at home, but we admired Lazare. He was a complex man and a defender of righteous causes."

Jean Michel Rosenfeld, vice-president of the Cercle Bernard Lazare, a left-leaning secular Jewish group in Paris with links to the Yahad party in Israel, said the ceremony was very powerful.

"Until now, Bernard Lazare has only existed in French history books and in our group. Now he will exist in daily Parisian life," said Rosenfeld, who is also an assistant mayor of Paris's 20th district. The plaque is at the exit of a Metro stop, "and hundreds of people pass by every day."

In addition to the Dreyfus and Lazare families, descendants of French writer Emile Zola, who was ruined after supporting Dreyfus, also attended the ceremony.

Worn out by his battles, Lazare died in 1903 at age 38. He and Dreyfus are both buried in the Montparnasse Cemetery in Paris.

Reform bloc saps Sharansky Agency bid

By CHARLOTTE HALLE
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In a surprise move, the Reform movement is nominating Ra'anana mayor Zeev Bielski as Jewish Agency chair, dramatically weakening former cabinet minister Natan Sharansky's chances of being elected to the post, which also carries the title of "prime minister of the Jewish People."

On Sunday night, representatives of Arzenu (the Reform movement), the Shinui Party and Hanoar Hatzioni Zionist youth met and concluded that although their decision to nominate Bielski contradicts normal procedures within the Zionist movement by not supporting the standing chair's party, their desire not to be led by Sharansky overrode such concerns.

Sharansky, who on Sunday night was elected as World Likud's candidate for the post in what was seen as an anti-disengagement statement, was to compete against Bielski, who has been nominated by the prime minister and is also a Likud member, at yesterday's meeting of the Zionist General Council to appoint a new chair. The post is held concurrently with the position of chair of the Jewish Agency.

Without being nominated by a specific faction within the Zionist General Council, Bielski had little chance of being elected to the Agency's top job, despite being widely supported and endorsed by the all-important advise and consent committee within the Jewish Agency.

"Over the years, [Sharansky] has never indicated any understanding of the fact that the majority of world Jewry is not Orthodox," Paula Edelstein, the Reform movement's representative on the WZO executive, said.

"It made no sense for the head of the Jewish Agency to have views at total variance with those of the prime minister," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish movement in North America.

2,000-year-old seeds come to life

Continued from page 1

In the event that the palm may reveal medicinal qualities that have disappeared from modern cultivated varieties, the researchers have sent one of its leaves for DNA analysis.

Date palms now grown in Israel were imported from California and are of a strain originating in Iraq, she said. The Judean date, prized in antiquity but extinct until Methusaleh's awakening, might have had very different properties to the modern variant.

Sallon said she and her colleagues hope the palm may hold promise for the future, such as the anti-malarial treatment, artemisinin, which was developed in China from plants, and a cancer medicine made from the bark of the Pacific yew tree.

"Dates were highly medicinal. They had an enormous amount of use in ancient times for infections, for tumours," she said. "We think that ancient medicines of the past can be the medicines of the future."

If the plant survives, it will take some 30 years to bear fruit, provided it turns out to be female. Sallon, however, said that even a male would provide food for thought.

"The genetics of this plant will be very interesting whatever sex it is," she said. "It's the females that produce the fruit… but the males are very valuable as well. They're no less valuable than the females."

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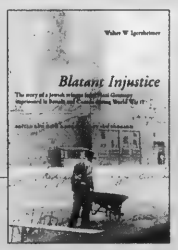

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An oral history of a Jewish family in Germany

***A Jewish Family in Germany Today: An Intimate Portrait* by Y. Michal Bodemann, Duke University Press.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Meet the Kalman family.

The Kalmans, a clan of Polish Jews whose children live primarily in Germany and Israel, are the subject of Y. Michal Bodemann's oral history.

In *A Jewish Family in Germany Today: An Intimate Portrait* (Duke University Press), he relates the story of four Holocaust survivors – the brothers Albert, Ignaz and Jurek and their sister, Gertrud – from the town of Slawkusz who found themselves in Germany after World War II.

Despite their intention to leave the country, they stayed on.

The Kalmans were not that unusual.

In the wake of World War II, some 20,000 Jewish survivors, mainly from Poland and Romania, remained in Germany, the "land of the murderers," as Bodemann, a University of Toronto sociologist, observes.

Like many Jews in their position, the Kalmans – the scions of tradespeople, butchers and store owners – sat on their proverbial suitcases, fully expecting to emigrate. But circumstances dictated otherwise.

Bodemann, a scholar whose specialty is Germany's postwar Jewish community, spent 15 years talking to the Kalmans. For the purposes of this volume, he changed their surname so that they could speak freely.

And in this timely book, which generally encapsulates the attitudes of many Jews living in Germany in the 21st century, they touch on a myriad of topics, from their Jewish identity to their thoughts on Israel.

Bodemann's account focuses primarily on the Kalman children, who were born between 1948 and 1964. But the spirit of their parents, especially Albert, infuses *A Jewish Family in Germany Today*.

To this reviewer, the most interesting members of the family are two of Albert's sons, Berthold and Ronnie, and Albert's and Jurek's daughters, Esther and Dina. By comparison, Jurek, Ignaz and Gertrud come off as ciphers.

The Kalman brothers were entrepreneurial to the core. Like a lot of others liberated after the war, they traded in goods. But soon their commercial ventures evolved into a major kitchen appliances retail chain, borne along by western Germany's economic boom.

Bodemann describes them as "sojourners" whose two basic goals were to earn as much money as possible, in the shortest period of time, and to nurture their respective families.

They succeeded on both counts, but as a family, they squabbled bitterly. Their conflicts brought about the downfall of a once lucrative business.

The dominant Kalman was Albert, the eldest of the four surviving siblings. According to Berthold, one of his sons, the family firm grew by leaps and bounds. At one point, they had 70 shops nation-wide, with about 750 employees.

Albert, who died in 1985, was a fervent Zionist, but like many Zionists, he never really considered aliyah as an option. However, as his widow, Eva, notes, he did not want to be buried in Germany.

Being extremely ambivalent about his relationship with Germany, Albert did not allow himself or his children to maintain social contacts with Germans over and above a certain limit.

As Berthold, a management consultant, puts it, "He drew boundaries…"

The most important things in Albert's life, apart from his thriving business, were his wife and children.

"He was a pure family person," Berthold comments.

Like his father, Berthold is torn by living in Germany. Due to the past, he does not feel German, but in his professional environment, he feels completely accepted and established.

Albert's other son, Ronnie, a dermatologist, is quite different.

Revolting against his father's injunction, he has German friends and gets along with them really well.

Conversely, he has few Jewish friends. "I don't hang out with other Jews," he explains. "I know a few people here and there… but they are not people whom I would phone." Nor is he particularly interested in Jewish matters.

Albert's additional children, Salek and Esther, reside in Israel.

A bodybuilder who operates a fitness studio in Tel Aviv, Salek is married to an Israeli who lived in Munich.

Esther has been in Israel since 1973 and runs an art gallery in Jerusalem that her father-in-law, a Romanian immigrant, founded. Her recollections of a childhood in Germany sound circumscribed. "I was not allowed to date non-Jews, and basically, I could not have any non-Jewish friends."

As a result, she felt ill at ease in Germany. "All I can say is that I did not feel comfortable with the Germans. There simply was a barrier there."

Esther, who Bodemann refers to as "the Zionist pioneer," is very bitter at having been raised in Germany.

"I always told my father, 'I don't understand how you could stay on in Germany.'"

Albert's attachment to Israel obviously rubbed off on Esther. "Long before my first visit to Israel, I had decided that I wanted to live in Israel," she recalls. "The idea of a Jewish state was important to me, especially with the Six Day War. I remember that well… I was in school, we were incredibly emotional then, and very proud of course."

Dina, Jurek's divorced and remarried daughter who gave Bodemann access to and sharpened his interest in the Kalmans, lived in Israel for a while.

"I really was hell-bent on integrating into Israeli society," she says.. "I felt comfortable among the Israelis, because it was not important there who I was and where I came from… In some ways, I was more Israeli than the Israelis themselves. Often, I was told, 'Are you crazy? Why did you come to Israel, you've got it so comfortable in Germany.' When I told them, because I am a Zionist, they laughed at me. For these people, I was an oddity."

Eventually, Dina returned to Germany, and in the mid-1990s, she met Johannes Rautenstrauch, the man who would be her second husband and the father of their son, who was born in 1998. Although he supports Dina's interest in Judaism, he does not consider himself "a Jewish father."

He is more far interested in Israel, which he has visited and where he feels comfortable. He has no urge to convert to Judaism, and Dina seems content with the status quo.

These and other stories comprise the essence of *A Jewish Family in Germany Today*, a book that offers insights into a most unusual Jewish community.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

YIDDISHLAND EVENING RECALLS PAGE OF TORONTO JEWISH HISTORY

Nathan Garnick, **Denise Williams**, **Michael Mandel** and **Brahm Goldhamer** are the featured players in Di Yidishe Shtunde Remembered: A Page of Toronto Jewish History. This 48th Yiddishland Cafe evening takes place at the Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $12. Sunday, June 26, 7:30 p.m. 416-787-2081.

* * *

Next Stop Prague: Torontonian **Judy Kopelow's** innovative musical productions of *Children of a Vanished World* and the **Udo Zimmermann** opera *White Rose*, both of which were recently staged here, are being rehearsed for July performances at the Three Rings Arts Festival in the historic Spanish Synagogue in Prague, Czech Republic.

Roman Vishniac

Children of a Vanished World brings to life **Roman Vishniac's** haunting images of the once-vibrant Jewish life in prewar Poland, Romania, Russia and Hungary. More than 70 Vishniac photographs are LCD-projected onto a large screen to the accompaniment of Yiddish folk songs. German composer Udo Zimmermann's one-act opera *White Rose* tells the story of Munich brother and sister **Hans and Sophie Scholl**, students whose anti-Nazi pamphleteering led to their execution.

Kopelow, a health professional at the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine, co-produced the works with musical director **Sabatino Vacca**. Both productions feature soprano **Marta Matulewicz** and tenor **Joey Niceforo**, singing Vacca's original arrangements. Further productions are planned for Warsaw, Berlin, New York and Israel.

"The Canadian embassy in Prague is having a reception for us on opening night," Karpelow reports. "They're inviting the entire audience plus members of the Jewish community and the academic community. We're very grateful for that." Performances are July 3 to 6. Details at www.thethreerings.com.

* * *

Sephardi Experience on Stage: *Les Mers Rouges* (*The Red Seas*) is a postmodern epic of survival by French playwright **Liliane Atlan** that spans 500 years of her Sephardi Jewish family's history. Translated into English by **Leonard Rosemarin**, the play is directed by **Kalli Paakspuu** and features a rich orchestration of Ladino love songs under the musical direction of **Eyal Bitton**.

The story spans the centuries from the Spanish Inquisition to the Holocaust; the ancestral love songs "give meaning to exile and to the experience of Auschwitz." Presented to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the play features **Shel Goldstein**, **Genevieve Trilling**, **Michele Tredger**, **Philip Cairns** and **Lorne Hiro**.

Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. (King-Bathurst area.) Presented as part of the Fringe Theatre Festival; partial proceeds to benefit High Park Youth House. $10. July 7 to 16. 416-967-1528.

* * *

Fringe Offering: Fresh from Winnipeg comes *Three Ring Circus: Israel, the Palestinians and My Jewish Identity* by **Daniel Thau-Eleff** and **Chris Gerrard-Pinker**. Thau-Eleff performs this one-man show that won an award for Best Manitoba Play when it debuted in the 2004 Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Themes include politics, religion, romance, family, sex and how to get along with people.

Thau-Eleff "manages to criticize the faith, Israel and the entire Jewish experience while delivering what is actually a valentine to his people," said a CBC commentator. Toronto Fringe Festival, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave. $10. July 7 to 16. www.threering.ca or www.fringetoronto.com

* * *

Breast Cancer Fundraiser: An evening of jazz with a silent auction in support of Princess Margaret Hospital features the **Shuffle Demons**, **Michael Danso** and **Julie Michaels**. $10 in advance, $15 at the door. The Speakeasy, 120 Church St. June 25. 416-306-0388. breastfundraiser@ yahoo.ca

* * *

Department of Oxymorons: Eye On Arts deplores the insensitivity of the activist group ATSA, an acronym that stands for "Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable" or "Socially Acceptable Terrorist Action."

Last week ATSA and the Theatre Centre were scheduled to stage several "hyper-realistic" explosions of sports utility vehicles in Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square. ATSA has already engineered eight similar demonstrations in Montreal and Quebec City and plans more this week in Ottawa. The group's purpose is to "heighten the public's awareness of the perverse effects of gas-guzzling, power-hungry vehicles."

Regrettably, ATSA's mock terrorism only serves to invoke images of real devastation of terrorist atrocities in Israel and elsewhere. While its ecological intent seems worthwhile, the group's name is an oxymoron and its use of the terrorist model is troubling and offensive.

* * *

At the Galleries

- "Worlds," an exhibition of works by **Judy Singer**, is at the Moore Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 404, from June 23 to July 16. Artist present at opening, Thursday, June 23, 6 to 8 p.m.
- An exhibition of contemporary textile art by **Melanie Siegel** is on view at the Mill Pond Gallery, 314 Mill St., Richmond Hill. The works include a Torah cover, completed with the aid of a UJA cultural grant. Sunday, June 26, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 905-770-7449.
- Works by **Massimilano Schiavon**, a fourth-generation glassmaker from a family of Muranese glassmakers from Venice, are on view at Amarynth Gallery, 161 Cumberland St., until July 30. 416-515-9191.

Moscow-born singer 'Jewish ambassador of culture and music'

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

For most musicians, getting a few nasty letters goes with the territory, but the letters that one Russian performer received went well beyond the normal celebrity/fan correspondence.

"I came to receive hate letters, dangerous letters that said, "Go away to Israel, get out of this country, this country's not for Jews," says Svetlana Portnyansky, a Moscow-born singer, who, with Israeli tenor Yevgeni Shapovalov, is playing the Toronto Centre For The Arts on June 26.

The reason for the vile letters was not just because Portnyansky was Jewish – it had as much to do with when she started her career as her religious beliefs.

"[When I started] it was just the beginning of Russia's revival of Jewish culture. I was part of the first wave. It was very moving for all Jews because we didn't hear songs and music for years."

When Portnyansky says years, she's not talking about a few, she's referring to decades.

"Stalin assassinated the Jewish actor and musician Solomon Mikhoels in 1948," she says. "Since then, and until 1988, the Jewish theatre was closed."

It was around the time that Jewish theatres started to open again that Portnyansky's career took off. But as the hate mail suggests, her first few years were trying.

"In the very beginning of the revival, it was a struggle between old times and new times," she says in her thick Russian accent. "The new times had open doors and windows, but the old times hated Jews and they tried to close doors and not let us do what we wanted to do. It was a very dark time."

Although Portnyansky found work all across Russia, she knew that she would eventually need to leave her country.

"We didn't see any future ahead of us. I didn't know what to do and what will be, so when I received an invitation to the States I decided to stay there forever."

Portnyansky's invitation to the United States brought her to New York, and she soon moved to Los Angeles. It wasn't until 1997, six years after she left Russia, that she returned to her homeland.

She noticed that a lot had changed since she'd left Moscow, especially the attitude toward Jews.

"It's a different country. I look at my hometown and I can't recognize it," she says. "I see people have stopped hating Jews, they've opened a lot of Jewish schools, Hebrew facilities, synagogues, and there are a lot of Jewish events." However, she can't shake some of the uncomfortable feelings that still linger.

"It's still remaining Russia, culturally, ideologically. I still find it strange. In my eyes, I look at it like a tourist."

Since moving to the U.S., Portnyansky's career has blossomed. She's travelled across the world, and played shows with famous artists such as Debbie Friedman and Lionel Hampton and released four albums.

While her musical day job technically began after she graduated from the Moscow conservatory, Portnyansky's first voice lesson was from her father.

"When I was a little kid, my father played piano professionally," she says. "He was a very good piano player and I used to hear music, especially classical music since my early childhood. He sang, too, and we sang together. I soon started to repeat everything I heard and then I understood that I liked it. In high school, I decided to be a singer."

Despite all the resistance toward Jewish musicians in Russia, Portnyansky's desire to perform Jewish music never wavered.

Continued on page 37

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Arts & Travel

Ukrainian immigrant founds travel magazine

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Susanna Kislenko's story may well be the stuff legends are made of.

She was a Ukrainian Jewish immigrant who left the repressive grip of the Soviet regime in the late 1980s and arrived in Canada as a child, unable to speak a word of English.

Today, she is an accomplished writer, travel magazine editor-in-chief and a graduate of studies in international business. The 24-year-old is indeed living proof of Canada as the land where immigrants realize their dreams.

The new magazine under her stewardship is called *Legends*, and the name has a double meaning.

"Our table of contents is labelled like a legend on the map and… in every issue we will feature the legend behind a certain place, like in the current issue, which is about the legend of the Acropolis," said the York University graduate.

Kislenko's personal legend began in the Soviet Union, where life for Jews was challenging. As a result, the family, like thousands of others, sought to leave.

Their original plan was to resettle in Australia, where they had relatives, but because immigration was a lengthy, step-by-step process, they had to live in limbo in Europe before setting off to their final destination.

"The first place we ended up was Vienna, Austria, where we stayed for two months, waiting for permission to go to Italy," she recalls.

"Then we went to Italy for eight or nine months."

The Australian goal didn't materialize and it turned out that Canada opened its doors.

"We could have stayed in Italy another couple of years [but] Canada accepted us first," she said.

At the age of seven, Kislenko arrived in Toronto. Initially, she hid her heritage in an effort to try and fit in with her classmates.

"You want to fit in and be the same," she said.

"But there came a point where I realized… in a city like Toronto, everybody has their own background."

In time, she became accustomed to her new home, achieved success in school and went on to study international business.

The genesis of the magazine dates back to Kislenko's days writing for the Schulich School of Business' magazine, *Insider*.

After wrapping up her first year with the publication, Kislenko spent the summer travelling in Australia, where she received an unexpected phone call from *Insider*'s managing editor asking her for story ideas. Naturally, being on a trip halfway around the world, she suggested a travel column, which was titled Travel Tales.

"I put the word out saying if you have a travel story, let us know… and it just took off," she recalled.

"That's when I first got a taste of the kind of demand there was for this demographic."

Kislenko went on to become managing editor of *Insider*, which she said provided invaluable training. "It was the best experience," she said.

"If I hadn't gotten that experience, I wouldn't have had the confidence and knowledge to gather the content for *Legends*."

Five thousand copies of *Legends*' first issue were distributed free across Toronto on April 27.

The travel magazine's core market are 20-something, urban young professionals, a demographic Kislenko believes has been ignored by other travel publications.

"There wasn't anything out there for our demographic that was hip and cool and in line with our interests," she said.

"That's how the idea came to me. I wanted the magazine to be in line with travel through your interests."

To that end, *Legends* explores travel through music, arts and sports.

For instance, the inaugural issue features a first-hand account of Europe from a musician on tour in that continent, a story about the grave sites of famous musicians and an article on the Tour de France, which also explores cool sites to hit in Paris.

"With every article that I consider [publishing] I just think about whether I would want to pick it up and spend time reading it," she said.

Kislenko honed her own travel writing skills working as a travel columnist for community papers and noted some of that experience taught her what not to do with *Legends*.

"As a travel columnist, I was once writing for a publication where they didn't care if I went [to the place being written about]," she said.

"That's what I want to avoid. With *Legends*, all writers have to have been there."

While it's still new, readers and writers alike have caught the magazine's travel bug, with interest in the publication from across the country. She hopes the fire will continue to burn and intends on increasing the size of the magazine from 28 pages to 40.

She is also aiming to have *Legends* distributed as an insert in city magazines such as *NOW* and to eventually set up a version of the magazine in Vancouver. As well, Kislenko hopes to provide *Legends*' readers with interactive travel advice online, including a forum of answers to questions such as, "I'm in Amsterdam and I'm looking for a place just like Toronto's 7 West Café. Does anyone have advice?"

As if the magazine doesn't occupy enough of her time, Kislenko also works full-time at a company that evaluates the credentials of people who earned their degrees outside of Canada. She is also set on becoming a yoga instructor.

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Play explores post-9/11 themes

By JONATHAN ROTHMAN
Special to The CJN

SAN FRANCISCO — David Gow identifies with prison. He doesn't practise criminal law or hold a record of convictions. The Montreal writer hasn't been interrogated or detained at the border post-9/11 either, but he's enjoying success with these themes.

"Captivity turns up in my work again and again, different forms of captivity. People in states of psychic terror, psychic duress of one form or another … somehow that's laid next to the humour coming out of that situation," says Gow.

Gow's play *Cherry Docs* takes place in Toronto, where a Jewish attorney defends a skinhead who kicked a Pakistani man to death.

San Francisco's *A Traveling Jewish Theater* recently produced the show's successful west coast premiere. Since its initial run at Toronto's Factory Theatre in 1998, the SF production joins past versions from Poland, Germany, Israel, and across the United States and Canada.

It has since been adapted into a film, *Steel Toes*.

Gow has recently worked on a CBC- Radio play *Relative Good*, a satire on post-911 border security.

Much of Gow's writing is both political and personal. "It's the human condition, or the human experience; race, politics… is part of that. In *Cherry Docs* and *Relative Good*, the personal and political collide in a pretty pronounced way, which creates drama an audience can readily access," Gow says.

"*Relative Good* is a reflection on something happening now in Canada and the west – arrest and detention without formal charges [has become easier]. These changes in law are portrayed as a reaction to 9/11, and they are, but regardless of where it's coming from, it's a sharp change in the sociopolitical landscape. The play is exploring that change, probably the largest we've seen in the last 50 years, if not several hundred."

In *Cherry Docs*, Jewish lawyer Danny demands his neo-Nazi client Mike construct his own defense strategy.

Gow recalls a series of events that began in 1999, after the play's first run, which led to a touring production in Hebrew by Tel Aviv-based Nefesh Theater.

"At that time in Israel, there were banners reading 'peace at last.' The mood was that things would be settled, that it was possible. At a time like that, people watching the play could identify even more with the struggle of identity between the two characters."

Gow says he doesn't consciously write about Jewish characters.

"In my first play, years ago, I hadn't made a conscious decision to write a Jewish character. My friend made a suggestion about 'that Jewish character,' and I didn't know what he was talking about. There was nothing to indicate the character was Jewish at all. My friend said, 'he just sounds Jewish.' What I've tried to do with characters I've created is to be true to who they are."

Steel Toes, the film adaptation Gow wrote and directed, brings Danny and Mike onscreen; American actor David Strathairn reprises his role as Danny from the Philadephia production of *Cherry Docs*.

Gow shot *Steel Toes* in and around Montreal, and says the film "gets the audience close to the performers… [it] gives a more intimate look at the material." So what else changed?

"I tried to preserve what works best; keep the essence and get that to live on screen. I always say theatre is an aural and an oral form. Film is obviously much more visual. Not every playwright gets to record their own vision."

In the end, though, Gow's tough questions remain: "How do you deal with someone who wants you dead or says they want you dead? Even if they don't recognize you – you don't walk around with tzitzit and payes – they want you dead. How do you deal with that? *Cherry Docs* became a personal exploration of that question."

Steel Toes is forthcoming from Galafilm later this year. *Relative Good* airs June 20 at 9:05 p.m. (9:35 Newfoundland) on CBC Radio Two's "Monday Night Playhouse"; the stage version, presented by Ottawa's Great Canadian Theatre Company, premieres this September.

Travel Talk

By Bill Gladstone

17th MACCABIAH GAMES WILL BE BIGGEST EVER

Set to run from July 10 to 21, the 17th Maccabiah Games promise to be the biggest sports event ever held in Israel.

The opening ceremonies are shaping up to be an extravaganza of olympian proportions involving a torch relay from the tombs of the ancient Maccabean leaders. Some 7,000 athletes and 4,000 dancers, singers, artists and players are slated to join the opening march into the Ramat Gan International stadium in B'nei Brak near Tel Aviv.

Thousands of participants are expected from at least 55 countries, including Canada and the United States. Competitions in swimming, chess, golf, tennis, cricket, softball, rugby and other sports are scheduled for facilities in Caesaria, Jerusalem, Haifa, Ashdod, Petach Tikvah, Herzliyah and other cities.

After the last race has been run, the Games will close with a big-screen stage extravaganza in which celebrity performers and a large troupe of dancers will kick up a fond farewell against the floodlit backdrop of Jerusalem's Old City walls.

Often described as the "Jewish Olympics," the Maccabiah Games are held in Israel every four years. Planned for display during the current Games, a set of memorabilia exhibits will recall the first and second Maccabiahs of 1932 and 1935. For more details, please visit the website www.maccabiah17.com.

* * *

Magen David Adom: An Israel mission is being planned to coincide with 75th anniversary festivities of Magen David Adom, the support arm of Israel's emergency medical services. Highlights include a gala dinner with MDA officials from around the world, relaxation time at a Dead Sea mud and mineral spa, and a tour of Golan wineries.

An orientation meeting with light refreshments takes place at 788 Marlee Ave., 3rd-floor boardroom, Wednesday, June 29, 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Iris Ehrent, 416-780-0034 or Peninah at Peerless Travel, 905-886-5610, ext. 344.

* * *

Israel for Young Adults: For two weeks this summer, college-age young adults (18 to 25) with questions about Israel may find answers on a fun, educational and interactive travel experience hosted by Melitz, a leading provider of informal Jewish education since 1973. Melitz employs "dynamic, interactive techniques to challenge participants to grapple with cutting edge issues that face Israeli society and the Jewish world, while visiting Israel's highlights and hidden treasures."

The two-week program includes swimming, hiking and other physical activities and focuses on dilemmas facing young soldiers and environmental problems challenging the state. Participants will observe Arab and Jewish communities living side by side and explore various towns and cities to get a taste of what life is really like for Israeli of their own age. Website www.melitz.org.il, phone +972 (0)2 621 6451.

* * *

Cruises to Alaska: Glatt kosher gourmet dining, thrilling shore excursions and breathtaking scenery are not the only attractions on the upcoming Kosherica cruises to Alaska. Renowned figures in cantorial and Jewish music – including Mordechai Ben David, Dudu Fisher, Shlomo Simcha and others – are also on the bill of fare. Kosherica's summer getaways to Alaska get away July 10 to 17 and Aug. 19 to 26. Details at www.kosherica.com.

* * *

Singles to California: Jewish Singles Vacations, a group tour operator for Jewish unmarrieds between 35 and 55, is hosting a trip to Nevada and Northern California (Reno, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, Napa Valley, San Francisco) for July 9 to 17. A second trip takes in the glorious California coast (San Francisco, Monterey, Carmel, Hearst Castle, Solvang, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego) from July 16 to 24. 617-782-3396 or www.tourgroups.com/jsv/

* * *

Jerusalem Still the Favourite: Jerusalem is the most frequent destination of tourists to Israel, according to statistics released this month by Israel's tourism ministry. The figures show that more than 60 per cent of tourists to Israel visited Jerusalem in 2004, with one third of their overnight hotel stays occurring in Jerusalem. The average stay is six nights.

Jerusalem's Western Wall ranks as the country's top attraction, attracting 54 per cent of all tourists. The *Jerusalem Post* reported June 6 that the tourism upturn was sparking an economic revival for Jerusalem. The next favourite destinations for visitors are Tel Aviv, which drew 49 per cent of tourists in 2004, followed by Haifa (21 per cent) and Eilat (20 per cent).

'I found myself in Jewish music'

Continued from page 35

"I found myself in Jewish music. This music fits me, the tune, the melody, the sense of music. I took it very closely, it's in my blood."

To develop her repertoire, Portnyansky studied to become a cantor in Los Angeles. It was in these classes that she learned Hebrew, and her current set list incorporates many cantorial tunes.

Portnyansky says that she's not just trying to convert fans to cantorial music – she's hoping to raise awareness of Jewish culture in general.

"The more I travel around the world, the more people know me. There's a sense of me being an international Jewish ambassador of culture and music. It unites people with different languages," she says.

Of course, Jewish culture doesn't only include cantorial music. Portnyansky sings Broadway songs, originals and other Jewish hits. With almost 20 years of experience behind her, she has an extensive oeuvre, so picking what to sing on tour is a challenge.

"When I choose what to sing, I first of all have to like the music, words and arrangements. When I like it in my concert, I'll put it on CD. Sometimes I'll ask advice from my friends, because I have a pretty big repertoire, but I'm trying to make it wider and more interesting."

Don't expect Portnyansky to pick up a guitar and jam to Israeli rock 'n' roll though. There's not enough room for her to improvise.

"I don't find it interesting. I like my own arrangements and I like improvisation. When I can't [change it], I can't do anything interesting."

Singer Svetlana Portnyansky

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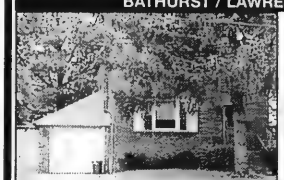

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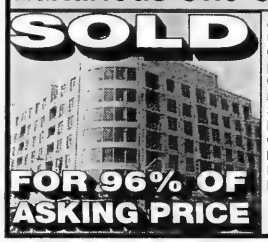

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New Listing! Fully Renovated, 5 Bdrm Side Split. South Lot, Eat-in Kitchen, Family Room, Walk-out to Garden. **Judy Hendler**, Sales Rep. **Forest Hill R. E. 416-488-2875**

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Bright 3+1 bedroom raised bungalow in the heart of the Manor. Home includes fin bsmnt, 2 rec rms & a sep entrance. Close to all amenities!

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Large 4 bdrm in mature neighbourhood. Main floor laundry & family rm, finished basement w/sauna, rec room & more!

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1ST AD!! 81 FRANMORE CIRCLE - CLARK/ATKINSON
4 bdrm, 4 baths, gourmet kitchen w/centre island & granite, family rm w/custom marble fireplace + lib, crown mouldings, hrdwd, nanny suite and more. $749,900. View at www.virtualproperties.ca/g5032

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

27 RIDGE HILL DRIVE $1,800,000
2 side by side building lots in Upper Forest Hill Village 90 x 120 ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

REDUCED! LOWER FOREST HILL $1,595,000
Renovated centre hall, 5 bdrms, 5 bths, large fam rm, 50 x 130 ft garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 482 LYTTON BLVD! $1,499K!
Alexandra Wood Area! Incredible 6+1Br, 6Bth! Rare Mn Flr, Mbr Retreat! Fab 67.5x135'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM HOME 4+1 BDRMS
Ave/Lawrence Neighbourhood, 2 yrs new, upgraded throughout, $$, must see! B. Westbrook* 416-226-1987

$1,077K CUSTOM 4BR, WILSON/AVENUE
3rd Level, 2 bdrm loft, great for home, office, 2 Jacuzzi's, Marble, Steam rm+++. Kathy Alpert* 416-226-1987

221 REINER ROAD! RARE 4+1BR, 2BTH!
$689K! Bathurst S/Sheppard! Nanny Ste! 2 Car Grge! W/Workshop! Amazing 50x165'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NEW LISTING! AVENUE/LAWRENCE $619,000
Gorgeous updated 3+2bdrm, 3bth, sep. LR/DR w/ walk-out to deck, sep entrance to fin bsmnt. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

UPPER FOREST HILL/FAIRLEIGH CRESCENT
4 bdrms, 1.5 storey, 2 baths, hardwood firs, garage, immaculate. $549,000. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CHARMING STOREY & HALF
2+1 bedroom, 3 bath, sep lr + dr, 50 x 150 lot. Finished basement. Marilyn Weingarten* 416-226-1987

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

56 RISEBROUGH AVENUE! 5+2BR, 7BTH!
$1,189K! Bayview N/Finch! Stunning Exec. Res! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau +2Pce! W/O Bsmt! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

122 LEACREST ROAD! NO 3+1BR, 2BTH!
SOLD
$519K! Bayview S/Eglinton! Unbelievable Find! Gorgeous 38 x 100'! This Won't Last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES CONT'D.

372 WILLOWDALE AVENUE! 52 X 126'!
$495K! Bayview N/Sheppard! Much New Dev't In Area! Live In/Add On /Build New! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

239 CRESTWOOD ROAD! FAB 73 X 151'!
SOLD
$429K! Bathurst N/Steeles! Build Your Dream On This Prime Cul-De-Sac! Call Now! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BEAUTIFUL 3BDRM, 3BTHS, T.H.
Excellent location, move in condition, many upgrades. Quick possession. Anne Eidlitz* 416-226-1987

3BDRM, 3BTH, FREEHOLD T.H. BAYVIEW/WILLOWBROOK
Home is fully updated. Lower family room w/walkout on lot. Anna Pollock* 416-488-2875

266 MAPLEHURST AVENUE! 2BR, 1BTH!
SOLD
$289K! Bayview N/Sheppard! Incredible Bungalow! Fab 30 x 120'! W/ Private Drive! Hurry! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL VILLAGE! SMASHING NEW CONDO PROJECT!!!
Small exclusive building, high ceilings, finely appointed, From $800,000's. Mary Goldberg* 416-488-2875

1 GLEN PARK AVENUE! NEW 2BR, 2BTH!
$418K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Fab S/E Corner Ste! Hi Ceilings! Move Right In! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

SPECTACULAR EMPRESS WALK CONDO
2 Bdrms, 2Bths, parking hardwood & ceramic floors. Direct access to subway. B. Westbrook* 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 81 NAVY WHARF COURT! $249K!
Spadina S/Front! Breathtaking 1+1Br, 1Bth, N/E Corner W/Balcony! Outstanding Complex! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1131 STEELES AVENUE WEST $239,900
Just Listed Large, bright end unit, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen. Barbara Peltz* 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 500 GLENCAIRN AVE! $229K!
Choice South 1+1Br, 2Bth Penthouse Ste! Hi Ceilings W/Panoramic Views! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

BATHURST/EGLINTON PENTHOUSE $4200/MO.
New Reno, 4000 s.f. 4bdrm+den,5bths,large sep LR,DR, gorg'us views, large terraces. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

AVENUE/WILSON GORGEOUS 3BDRM
Family home $2500 updated kit, 3 bths, fin bsmt w/rec rm, hrdwd, near schls, synagogues. 2 yr lease. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

EXECUTIVE BATHURST/ST. CLAIR UPPER DUPLEX $2300/MO.
Updated 4 bdrm, 2 bths. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

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560 MELROSE AVENUE * 40' x 107' * $699K
PRIME AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE * A 10!
Open House weekend 2:00 – 4:30. Beautiful updated starter home for young family in trendy area. Great looking exterior, huge mstr w/ens, eat-in mod kit, spacious LR/DR, fin'd bsmnt. Definitely a great value for area. Arlette Carmona* ext. 277

BRAMALEA – WILSHIRE $549,900
Best value! 2900+ sf Thornhill 4 bedrooms home with whirlpool master ensuite, family room + library. Full size 2 car garage w/entry, large centre island kitchen, built-in appliances, west exposure. Quick closing. Maxine Povering** ext. 308

BATHURST – WILSON $499,000
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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst & Steeles, lux. 1300' 2 br. condo. on 1st flr., 2 baths, eat-in kit., solar., sep. liv./din. rm, full ens, indry. rm., 5 new appls., util./cable incl., 2 gar. spaces + locker. Call 905-731-1840.

Bathurst/Steeles - Furn. or unfurn. Primrose, lrg lux penthouse, fully renov. very bright eat-in kitchen, 2 bdrm., 2 full bath. parking. avail. July 1. Call 416-665-4121.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Bathurst/Elgin Mills, partly furn. bsmt. apt. w/9' ceilings, walk/out entr. $1200 neg. 905-737-8207.

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Brooke, 1 block from Bathurst, 3 bdrms., backyard, fin. bsmt., eat-in kit., 5 appls., pkg. & gar. Avail. immed. Days, 416-783-0179, evenings, 905-886-5515.

Bathurst/Flamingo, 4 bdrm., steps to shul, school; bright, semi, newly renov., hardwood floor, fenced yard, all amen. and more. Available August, $2000 + util. 416-567-9707.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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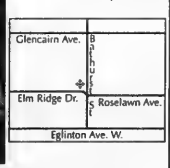

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Belle Ewart, 4 bdrm. lakefront, furn., synagogue, 1 1/2 baths. Call, leave msg. 416-789-7484.

Belle Ewart, beautiful 4 bdrm., large living room, close to shul. August. Call 416-633-3151.

WASAGA BEACH, beautiful custom built lakefront house, 8 bdrm., all amenities. Kosher kitchen, avail. for July at $2500 week. Shomer Shabbas only. Call 416-783-2952.

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF MALBEN – JDC NETWORK OF OLD PEOPLES HOMES

SURRENDER OF CHARTER

Notice is hereby given that CANADIAN FRIENDS OF MALBEN – JDC NETWORK OF OLD PEOPLES HOMES intends to apply to the Minister of Industry for leave to surrender its charter, pursuant to the *Canada Corporations Act*.

March 31, 2004

HARVEY H. SOLURSH
Secretary

LES AMIS CANADIENS DE MALBEN – LE RESEAU DE JDC DE MAISONS DE RETRAITE

ABANDON DE CHARTE

Avis est par les présentes donné que **LES AMIS CANADIENS DE MALBEN – LE RESEAU DE JDC DE MAISONS DE RETRAITE** demandera à la ministre de l'Industrie la permission d'abandonner sa charte en vertu de la *Loi sur les corporations canadiennes*.

Le 31 mars, 2004

Le secrétaire
HARVEY H. SOLURSH

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION OF ISRAEL

SURRENDER OF CHARTER

Notice is hereby given that CANADIAN FRIENDS OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION OF ISRAEL intends to apply to the Minister of Industry for leave to surrender its charter, pursuant to the *Canada Corporations Act*.

March 31, 2004

HARVEY H. SOLURSH
Secretary

LES AMIS CANADIENS DE FONDATION DE MUSCOVISCIDOSE D'ISRAEL

ABANDON DE CHARTE

Avis est par les présentes donné que **LES AMIS CANADIENS DE FONDATION DE MUSCOVISCIDOSE D'ISRAEL** demandera à la ministre de l'Industrie la permission d'abandonner sa charte en vertu de la *Loi sur les corporations canadiennes*.

Le 31 mars, 2004

Le secrétaire
HARVEY H. SOLURSH

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF MICHA SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN

SURRENDER OF CHARTER

Notice is hereby given that CANADIAN FRIENDS OF MICHA SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN intends to apply to the Minister of Industry for leave to surrender its charter, pursuant to the *Canada Corporations Act*.

March 31, 2004

HARVEY H. SOLURSH
Secretary

LES AMIS CANADIENS DE SOCIETE DE MICHA POUR LES ENFANTS SOURDS

ABANDON DE CHARTE

Avis est par les présentes donné que **LES AMIS CANADIENS DE SOCIETE DE MICHA POUR LES ENFANTS SOURDS** demandera à la ministre de l'Industrie la permission d'abandonner sa charte en vertu de la *Loi sur les corporations canadiennes*.

Le 31 mars, 2004

Le secrétaire
HARVEY H. SOLURSH

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations! Winners of Na'amat Canada's Daily Calendar Lottery Draw for May 2005: Marilyn Feldman, Ruth Tagoff, Florence Lazar, Ann Aronson, Charles Benaiah, Paul Kates, D. Weinberg, R. Goldberg, Mildred Miller, Sol Zeifman, Miriam Pinhas, Mynne Lefkowitz, Hannah Wasserman, Beth Gorbet, Hinda Petroff, Barry Margolis, Louise Steinfeld, Pearl Mekler, Loretta Lundy, Elizabeth Stupp, Carol Bloom, Valerie David, Charna Galper, Sara Freedman, Ruth Lukofsky, Francey B. Sager, Elaine Sugar, Ann Felsenstein, Verin Green, Harold Lewkowicz, Claire Weinberg.

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Canada's top Jewish athletes set for Maccabiah Games

CJN News Services

Canada will send its largest delegation ever – more than 375 athletes, coaches, administrators and medical staff – to the 17th Maccabiah Games set for July 10 to 21 in Israel. .

An expected 7,500 athletes from 60 countries will compete in a variety of events at the quadrennial event known also as "the Jewish Olympics." It is believed to be the third largest amateur sports gathering in the world after the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games. And for the first time, there will be Maccabiah delegations from China, Macedonia and Grenada.

Toronto-born Sharon Fichman, one of the top-ranked female tennis players for her age in the world, is among the athletes expected to reach the awards podium. Six-foot-11 Alex Bougaieff, a former national team player who attended Rice University in Houston, will lead the basketball squad. Canada's youngest competitor is 13-year-old sprinter Darrian Tissenbaum.

Irwin Cotler, Canada's federal justice minister, will also attend as a masters athlete in the table tennis competition.

The largest delegation will be from Israel itself and will include Athens Olympic gold medalist windsurfer Gal Friedman, as well as judo bronze medalist Arik Ze'evi and European pole vaulting champion Alex Averbukh. About 35 per cent of the host Israeli team is expected to consist of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

Russia will bring three fencing medalists from the Athens Olympics, as well as European fencing champion Dimitry Ragin.

Sydney Olympics triple gold medalist swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg will captain the record U.S. delegation of 1,200, which will include Athens swimming double gold medalist Scott Goldblatt.

"This is a special moment to be part of the U.S. delegation and be honorary team captain," said Krayzelburg, who also captained the squad in 2001. "I feel that since the 2001 Games, I have really become attached to the Maccabi movement. To me, the Maccabiah Games represented a life-changing event that affects many people that are part of it and I am proud to be one of them."

Allen Gerskup, head of Canada's delegation, said Canada will participate in 18 sports and will make its debut in women's softball, open men's soccer and junior boys' baseball.

"The Maccabiah Games are about sports, athletes competing against the best in the world and about making a difference," said Gerskup, who noted that Canada's top Jewish athletes were chosen following a series of tryouts. "This could very well be the best contingent in our history."

Maccabiah organizers are hoping a successful event restores the games' somewhat tarnished image.

The 16th Maccabiah was nearly cancelled because of the security situation in the midst of the second intifadah, and although it went ahead, only 2,200 athletes participated from 46 countries, including Canada, as well as 1,000 Israelis.

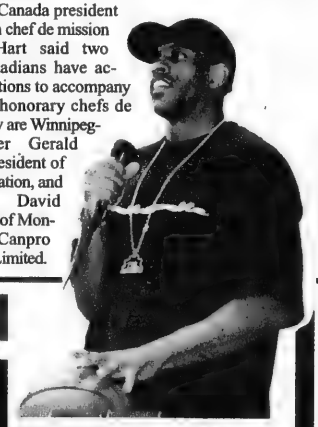
The 15th Maccabiah was marred by a tragedy at the opening ceremonies when a foot bridge collapsed near Ramat Gan National Stadium. Four members of the Australian team died after they plunged into the Yarkon River and dozens were injured, many seriously.

Australia will send a record team of 550 athletes to the 17th games. Britain will send more than 400 participants, while the World Maccabiah Movement will subsidize delegations from Latin America, Eastern Europe and countries of the former Soviet Union.

The first Maccabiah Games were held in 1932, when 390 athletes came from 18 countries. Swimming events were held in the Mediterranean Sea.

Canada competed in the games for the first time in 1951. Our best performance was in 1997, winning team gold medals in softball, basketball and hockey in addition to a number of individual awards.

Maccabi Canada president and Canadian chef de mission Lawrence Hart said two notable Canadians have accepted invitations to accompany the team as honorary chefs de mission. They are Winnipeg-born lawyer Gerald Schwartz, president of Onex Corporation, and developer David Azrieli, head of Montreal-based Canpro Investments Limited.



Sailors earn silver at Euro championship

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Israel's sailors took silver medals in both the men's and women's 470 event at the European Championship in Poland last week.

Udi Gal and Nir Klieger won silver medals in the men's event and Vered Buskila and Nika Kornitzki finished second in the women's event.

For both pairs, last week's silver medals removed some of the bitter taste remaining from last summer's Olympic Games in Athens, where they failed to finish in the medals despite high expectations.

"It is an exceptional achievement for Israeli sailing," said Israel Sailing Association chairman Yehuda Ma'ayan. "I'm glad both pairs took medals. Our next goal is gold at the World Championship in San Francisco."

The medals give both pairs a place on the Olympic Committee of Israel's elite squad and a 5,000-shekel-a-month grant for each of the sailors.

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CHABAD WELCOMES JYD: Rabbi Shmuli Nachlis, youth rabbi at Chabad@Flamingo, looks toward the net while Brandon Fisher gets some coaching tips from former Toronto Raptor Jerome "Junkyard Dog" Williams, right, during a shooting contest. Williams, who now plays for the New York Knicks, returned to Toronto on June 8 to meet with some 100 teens at Chabad@Flamingo with a message about community involvement and positive life choices. [Benji Feldman photo]

We must protect our beautiful lakes

"God led Adam around all the trees of the Garden of Eden. And God said to Adam, 'See my works, how good and praiseworthy they are? And all that I have created I made for you. But be mindful then that you do not spoil and destroy my world, for if you spoil it, there is no one after you to repair it'" (Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 7:13, eighth century CE).

Judaism has a balanced and rational approach to environmental issues that could be a source of pride to Jews and an inspiration to everyone. However, our relationship with nature is fragile, delicate, and needs our immediate attention.

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

On the news recently, the weather reporter listed Toronto area beaches that were safe for swimming. Beaches not on the list – which changes daily due to pollution levels – were considered unsafe and swimming was not permitted.

Water pollution is a change in the chemical, physical and biological health of a waterway due to human activity. Ways that humans have affected the quality of the Great Lakes over the centuries include sewage disposal, toxic contamination with heavy metals and pesticides, over-development of the water's edge, runoff from agriculture and urbanization, and air pollution.

Pollution puts the ecosystem out of balance and causes serious destruction to nature, animals and humans. Water pollution is caused in part by the disposal of waste into a river or lake. In large or small amounts, dumped intentionally or accidentally, it may get carried away by the current, but it doesn't disappear. It reappears downstream, sometimes in changed form or just diluted.

When I lived in the United States in the 1990s and drove by Exxon gas stations, the shocking image of helpless ducks covered in oil invaded my thoughts. On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker spilled approximately 11 million gallons of oil – equivalent to 125 Olympic-sized swimming pools – in Prince William Sound off the coast of Alaska. The spill was accidental, but the results of this environmental tragedy were horrific.

The oil spread slowly over open water during three days of flat calm seas. The estimated death toll from the spill was 250,000 seabirds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbour seals, 250 bald eagles, up to 22 killer whales, and billions of salmon and herring eggs.

I never filled up my car with Exxon's gasoline.

It's now 2005. The current water pollution statistics for the Great Lakes are devastating. Have we not learned anything from the Exxon Valdez spill?

Canadian Press reported on June 8, that "despite government claims pollution is decreasing, a new study says Canada released a billion kilograms of toxic chemicals annually in the Great Lakes basin from 1998 to 2002, with no significant decline. Most of the chemicals were released into the air – now recognized as the biggest source of pollution affecting the lakes – by industries and public utilities. The load in 2002 included three million kilograms of carcinogens and almost 2,000 kilograms of mercury."

Other sources report that water pollution in the Great Lakes is causing severe damage to the aquatic environment and to our health. Contaminated drinking water has caused sickness and deaths, not to mention that many of our fish are poisoned with chemicals, and sediment at the bottom of the lakes is becoming increasingly toxic.

Our water is being polluted by municipal, agricultural and industrial waste, including many toxic synthetic chemicals that can't be broken down by natural processes. Some factories take large amounts of water from Lake Ontario, and after using it, dump it back into the lake with high levels of mercury. Soaps and cleaners with harsh chemicals also add to the destruction of the most beautiful bodies of water in the world. The Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty designed to decrease global warming by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, might help to change this.

It is our obligation to prevent further damage to our beautiful lakes – because there is no one else to repair them.

Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

CAESAR SALAD W/HOMEMADE CROUTONS & BALSAMIC DRESSING

1/2 cup olive oil, divided
3 large garlic cloves, crushed, divided
1/2 tsp. coarse kosher salt
1 15-oz. loaf country-style white bread, crust removed, cut into cubes
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup mayonnaise
2 anchovy fillets
1 1/2 tbsps. balsamic vinegar
1 1/2 tbsps. fresh lemon juice
1/2 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 very large head of romaine lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces

Preheat oven to 350°F. Blend 1/4 cup oil, 2 garlic cloves, & coarse salt in large bowl. Add bread cubes, toss to coat. Transfer to baking sheet. Bake croutons until golden, about 12 mins. Cool. Blend cheese, mayonnaise, anchovies, vinegar, lemon juice, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, remaining 1/4 cup oil, and 1 garlic clove. Puree until smooth. Season to taste with salt & pepper. Place lettuce and croutons in large bowl. Toss with enough dressing to coat. Serve with any remaining dressing.

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"Jews in history"

By JOE KING

Al Gross (1918-2000) invented the walkie-talkie and the pager, and is known as the founding father of wireless communication.

Born in Toronto, he became fascinated with radio while on a steamboat trip on Lake Erie when he was nine years old. A ship's radio operator let him listen to the wireless.

His family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where, by age 12, Gross had collected equipment from junkyards and built a crystal detector set in his basement. At 16, he obtained amateur radio licence W8PAL, and to many in wireless communications, that is how he was known.

In 1938, using unexplored frequencies above 100 MHz, he invented the "walkie-talkie."

The U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) recruited Gross to design a portable two-way air-to-ground communications system. He developed two – a ground unit called "Joan" and an airborne facility dubbed "Eleanor." During World War II, these units enabled the Allies to communicate with each other using Herzian radio waves, without fear the enemy would be able to monitor their transmissions.

Al Gross

Gross's work resulted in the creation of the Citizens Radio Service Frequency Band, approved by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1946. He then formed a company in 1948 that produced two-way radios for personal use. In 1949, he developed the telephone pager, using a pocket-sized wireless receiver.

William E. Kennard, chair of the FCC, formally acknowledged Gross's achievements in 1999, noting that his "contributions included such wireless devices as the walkie-talkie, the cordless telephone and the beeper."

Shortly after this, U.S. president Bill Clinton joined in the tribute to the inventor, then 82, with a letter of commendation.

Journalist John Stanley, in an article in the *Arizona Republic* on Jan. 7, 2001, wrote: "If you've ever used a cell-phone, pager or garage-door opener, thank Al Gross."

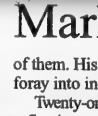
Excerpted from The Jewish Contribution to the Modern World.

Joe King is a veteran Montreal writer and publicist.

Mark Gryfe: my creative mentor

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



One of my first glimmers of self-awareness came through a quaint interaction with Mr. Glenn, my Grade 3 science teacher. One ordinary day in 1968, he said to me, "Avrum, you are dishevelled. Do you know what that means?"

"No," I replied.

"Well," he retorted, "dishevelled means to seem or to be unkempt… sort of ruffled."

Mr. Glenn was right. Many times since then, I have discovered an amusing indignity on my feet – one green and one blue sock. My hair is frequently wind-swept, and other than those things that I understand vaguely well, my thoughts can be untidy. I have even coined the term "dishevellism" to describe my art. I am dishevelled; however, I choose to think Mr. Glenn meant that in the same way that a forest grows unfettered.

Few instances stand out in our memories that serve to define us. Mr. Glenn's bold assertion, made in my eighth year of life, was one of them. His words introduced me to me – my foray into introspection.

Twenty-one years later, I experienced another reflective episode – the discovery of my creativity. It was 1990, and I had begun working at the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) as freedom was breaking out in the former Soviet Union (FSU). It was a wildly Jewish time and it would require imaginative artistry to raise an unimaginable amount of money to rescue Soviet Jews.

My boss was Mark Gryfe. He was a thirtyish creative fireball, the youngest UJA campaign director in the world, and his ebullient presence and spontaneous outbursts of inventive ideas regularly filled the office like helium fills a balloon. He was unquestionably right for the task – a genius within his empire who actualized his gift with a childlike demeanour.

April arrived and Mark and his seven chairpersons chose to do the unthinkable: to launch the campaign – Operation Exodus – immediately, four months before the traditional start time. The air was thick with confidence. Every morning, Mark summoned the staff and, like a general decidedly aware of his place in history, reported on daring Jewish rescues in the FSU and the arduous task before us. At 29, I was for the first time on a team led by a dazzling whiz kid of a man who both intimidated me and energized the hell out of me.

By the end of week 1, Mark delegated the co-ordination of the Operation Exodus campaign launch at Pantages Theatre to me. By week 2, he asked me to create *The Fifth Question* – a community pamphlet on Operation Exodus.

Sheepishly, I offered a creative idea. Mark liked it. I became bolder and decided to design the content of the pamphlet in three languages – English, Hebrew and Russian. Mark evaluated my work, beamed his David Letterman smile, and without warning, shouted an earbending "Yes!"

A month or so into the campaign, Mark asked me if I had a second. With great panache and big-heartedness – like a generous CEO who initiates a conversation in an elevator with a new entry-level employee – my creative mentor handed me a skilfully framed copy of *The Fifth Question*. A penned note at the bottom of the pamplet read: "Congratulations on an excellent job." Mark had had it signed by Charles Bronfman.

This was the first time somebody had encouraged and celebrated my creativity and it was a turning point in my life. I will forever cherish those captivating moments with Mark. I'm sure many others who have interacted with Mark have also experienced his creative brilliance during his tenures at UJA, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and currently as the president of the Baycrest Foundation.

Mr. Glenn compelled me to become introspective. Mark Gryfe enabled me to chase my dreams… two defining moments in my life initiated by two good men.

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The Canadian Jewish news
Section B

Tribute to ISRAEL

[IsraAID photo]

'Privileged to know them'

Editorial

The people walking on the sandy, white beach behind the young lad carrying the Israeli flag are not Israelis. They are Sri Lankans.

Their makeshift oceanside parade was a spontaneous gesture of gratitude to the people of Israel – the tiny land so far away – who responded within hours to the monstrous tsunami tragedy that struck the island so hard late last December.

Israelis are still in Sri Lanka helping the tsunami victims, some of whom are the same smiling people sloughing their toes through the warm sand in the above photo.

The story of this particular humanitarian relief effort is little told in the rest of the world. Neither are the countless other stories told about the wonders and the benefits that Israeli industry, science, technology, medicine and scholarship bring to the world.

But all Sri Lanka knows.

It is important, however, that we know and speak of it too.

IsraAID, the non-governmental Israeli humanitarian relief agency that dispatches assistance and aid wherever it can, has distributed food in Sri Lanka to more than 12,000 mothers and children through local mother and child health clinics. It has provided Sri Lankan women with sewing machines to help them rebuild their livelihoods and establish small businesses to support their families. It has also built or repaired homes for the needy.

Shachar Zahavi, one of the Israeli founders of IsraAID, last week sent *The CJN* an e-mail in which he wrote that he believes the Israeli assistance in Sri Lanka has had a "profound effect… on the lives of tens of thousands of people."

He receives "non-stop e-mails from people who encounter the Israeli team on the ground since the December 2004 tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka and hear[s] their praise and delight in working alongside them. Israel's image lies not only on the government but also on its people, and these Israelis deployed to the field are a great example. I feel privileged to know them."

Israel's image in the world, alas, to which Zahavi alludes, has been painted and sculpted for more than three decades in dark colours and distorted shapes. But an image – any image – deliberately cast only darkly and distortedly, can never be true.

Such is the case with the false image of Israel depicted by its enemies and detractors from whom we have heard a great deal since the beginning of Yasser Arafat's war in September 2000 and the World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, a year later.

Despite its flaws and imperfections, however, Israeli society is uniquely inspiring. In two months, it will begin the process of unilaterally dismantling Jewish communities from territory it won in a war that it waged 38 years ago in defence of its life. Yet, in a real sense, it is still fighting for its life some 57 years after its establishment.

Where is the country, anywhere on earth, that would undertake or has undertaken so bold and so painful a measure?

To borrow Zahavi's words, "I feel privileged to know them." Indeed, I feel privileged to live in a world in which Israel lives too.

As Rabbi Moshe Shulman of the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto has written in the Perspectives essay in this issue, we must show our support for the State of Israel and its brave people without distinction or preference for religious, political or any other affiliation.

The most eloquent statement of tribute to Israel by the people of Sri Lanka, Zahavi wrote in his e-mail, "is the Israeli flag hanging in various places in the Galle district in Sri Lanka."

It is that sense of tribute that we show on this page and that we share.

We extend our congratulations to the State of Israel on the occasion of its 57th Anniversary of Independence

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Tribute to Israel

Haifa is a model of Jewish-Arab coexistence, mayor says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The mayor of Haifa – Israel's third largest city – was here recently to promote his hillside port city as a unique laboratory of Arab-Jewish co-existence.

"Haifa," claimed Yona Yahav in an interview, "is the only place on earth where there is full peace between Jews and Arabs."

He added, "It's important to make this known because it proves it's possible for Jews and Arabs to live together."

Yahav, here at the invitation of the Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation, held up Haifa as a model of pluralism and harmony in a region torn by ethnic and religious discord.

"They get along very well," said Yahav, speaking of the Jewish majority of 240,000 inhabitants and the Arab minority of 30,000 residents. "It's something normal in Haifa."

Nor has the second Palestinian uprising sullied Haifa's status and image as a tolerant metropolis where Jews and Arabs mingle easily, he observed.

During the earliest phase of the current intifadah in October 2000, Israeli Arabs, in solidarity with their cousins in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, went on a one-day rampage throughout Israel.

Israeli police fired on the Arab demonstrators and rioters, killing 12.

Although the situation was emotionally charged in Haifa, Yahav said, the demonstrators dispersed after a few hours, and since then, calm has prevailed.

In the past four and a half years, Palestinian suicide bombers have killed 85 Jews and Arabs in four separate attacks in Haifa. The attackers targeted restaurants and buses jointly owned and frequented by Arabs and Jews.

"The aim of the bombers was to jeopardize Arab-Jewish relations," said Yahav, a 60-year-old Labor Party politician who has been mayor since June 2003. "But they have not succeeded."

Of all of Israel's ethnically mixed cities, Haifa has the largest concentration of Arabs after Nazareth, whose Arab population is listed as 60,000.

Yahav said Arab-Jewish relations in Haifa are better than in Ramle and Lod, where Jews and Arabs also live virtually side by side.

"Arabs feel wanted in Haifa," said Yahav, a lawyer by profession and a member of the Knesset from 1996 to 1999. "They feel equal, like partners."

Joseph Khoury, an Israeli Christian Arab on Yahav's delegation, cited yet another factor for the positive state of Arab-Jewish ties in Haifa.

"The Christian and Muslim communities are not led by extremists," said Khoury, a 65-year-old Greek Orthodox businessman in the building trade who is active in the Haifa Foundation.

Although Haifa's Jews and Arabs mix freely, they lead largely separate lives, said Yahav, whose deputy is an Arab.

In keeping with previous Ottoman and British Mandate tradition, more than 90 per cent of Arabs reside in their own neighbourhoods and all but a handful of Muslim and Christian students attend public or private Arab schools.

Jews, however, generally enjoy a higher standard of living than Arabs in Haifa. The reason is that most Haifa Arabs are originally from nearby villages and need time to close the gap, Yahav said.

Though the relationship between Arabs and Jews in the rest of Israel is "not bad," there is considerable room for improvement, Khoury noted.

"We're struggling for equality," he said, referring to Israel's one million plus Arab citizens. "Arabs want to live in coexistence, but with their rights. I want to feel I belong. I want to feel it's my state, too."

He urged the Israeli government to take three major steps: to allocate equal municipal funding to Arab towns and villages, to upgrade the standard of the Arab education system and to open up all jobs, in the private and public sector, on the basis of merit.

In the meantime, the Haifa Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the city, is working on two projects to achieve that broad objective.

A co-existence park, with a soccer field and a community centre, is being built where Jews and Arabs can meet on neutral ground.

"Then the walls can fall down," said Dani Neuman, the executive director of the Haifa Foundation.

The first section of the park is scheduled to be opened later this year.

Plans are also afoot to expand an existing Jewish-Arab community centre. A fundraising campaign has been launched, and if all goes according to plan, the enlarged centre will be inaugurated in 2006.

Yahav, who was born in Haifa, called on overseas Jewish travellers to visit his city.

"We feel a bit neglected as far as world Jewry is concerned. Diaspora Jews usually visit Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but skip Haifa."

The mayor, who was here with his wife Rivka, also visited Hamilton, where he appeared at a reception hosted by two former Israeli Arabs from Nazareth, Joe and Elham Farah, the owners of the Hasty Market chain of stores.

The event was attended by Jews and Arabs and attracted, among others, Israel's consul general in Toronto, Yaacov Brosh, and the mayor of Hamilton, Larry Dilanni.

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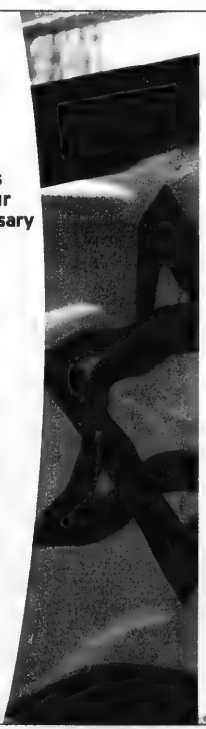

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HELPING WEIZMANN: Students from Bialik Hebrew Day School participated in the Math-by-Mail program of recreational math enrichment offered through the Weizmann Institute of Science. Pictured with Dr. Yossi Elran of Weizmann are, from left, Grade 6 students Ethan Jaffe, Ariel Hubert, Yael Schwartz and Louis Goldberg.

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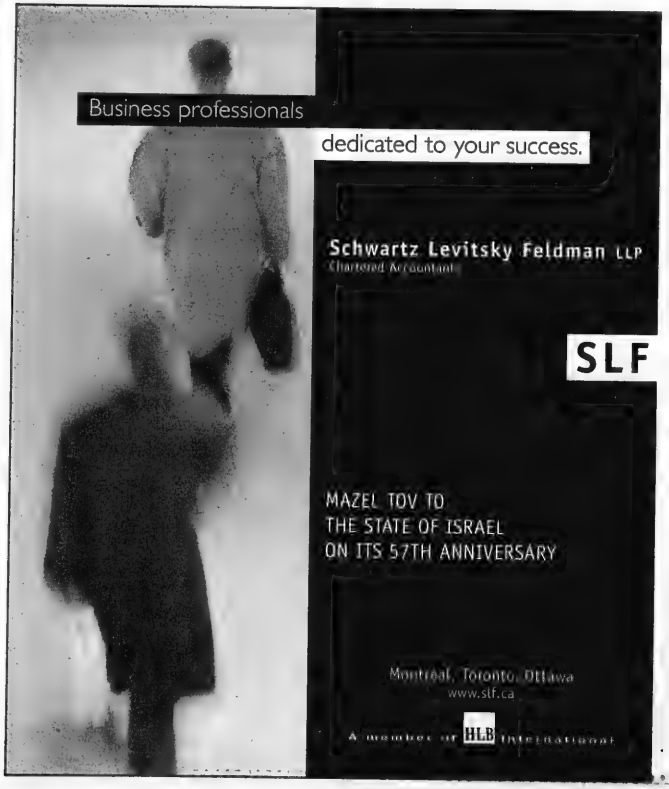

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Solutions for today – Strategies for tomorrow

Tribute to Israel

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's speech at the launch of the Masa Project

It is not every day that a man sees his dream beginning to be realized. Two years ago, I announced at the [United Jewish Communities General Assembly] that I had a dream that every Jew would visit Jerusalem at least once, and that I believe that we must set the goal that every Jewish youngster would live here for at least one year during their lifetime.

Today, we launch the Masa Project. Today, we are taking a giant step towards realizing that dream. Today, we are taking a giant step towards the time when living in Israel for a period of time will be an inseparable part of the life of every Jewish youngster around the world, just as the Land of Israel is an inseparable part of our identities as Jews.

Ariel Sharon

I am a Jew, and for me, being a Jew is the most important thing. I view it as my personal responsibility, as a Jew and as prime minister of the Jewish state, to ensure the future of the Jewish people for the next 30 years, the next 300 years, and, God willing, the next 3,000 years.

The Masa Project is part of the actualization of the State of Israel's commitment to the future of the Jewish people. It is a mission which the government of Israel – every government, today and in the future – must see as one of its most important goals.

We are currently near the ancient city of Maresha, which is mentioned in the Bible as one of the towns of the Judah tribe and as one of the cities which Rehoboam the king fortified. Eight kilometres north, in Emek Ha'Elah, the armies of the Philistines and the armies of Saul, king of Israel, stood face to face. In between them, David, the red-headed boy, shot a rock into Goliath's forehead. Later, David hid from Saul in caves which are in this area. Approximately 1,000 years later, Bar Kochba's warriors hid in the same caves, and from there launched attacks against the Roman armies.

The Philistines and the Romans are ancient history. However, the descendants of King David's warriors established Kibbutz Beit Guvrin here behind you 56 years ago, where there is an advanced factory producing polymers used in various industries. In the area surrounding us, there are vines which produce excellent wines, and wineries which preserve historical biblical names, such as Tzora and Kela David. Located approximately 10 kilometres from here is the Intel factory in Kiryat Gat, where the descendants of Bar Kochba's warriors produce the advanced processors found in millions of computers worldwide. On this land, where the kings and prophets walked, today walk scientists and writers, inventors and industrialists, members of the military and farmers. This is the uniqueness of the Land of Israel – it has a glorious past, a promising present, and together with you, a bright future.

Out of the hundreds of students who are here – such as Rina Goldberg from Canada and Olga Zayetzevah from Belarus, who study at the Hebrew University – will certainly emerge the best scientists and Nobel laureates of the future.

The future leaders of Israel and the Diaspora will emerge from your ranks, such as Robin, who spoke here earlier, and immediately following this event will fly back to the United States to be a counsellor at a Jewish summer camp. From your ranks will emerge the mutual guarantee between all sectors of the Jewish nation, which finds expression in the adoption of the children's house in Netanya by the pupils of the "Shalem" group of Young Judea, and in the work with children suffering from head injuries in Kfar Maccabiah, which the pupils of "World Maccabi" from Latin America undertook. And you, Tal Avneri, who flies every week from Kibbutz Ktora in the Arava to Metullah in order to participate in ice hockey practice, perhaps, thanks to you, Israel, which has already established its standing as a powerhouse in European basketball and judo, will excel in this sport as well.

The possibilities open to you in Israel today are limitless.

I am very pleased that you chose to participate in this journey [Masa]. I am certain that, for most of you, this will be the most important journey of your lives. I hope to see you all here, with us, in the State of Israel.

This is the most important thing we need. If, in the meantime, you choose not to make aliyah – I hope you will decide to make aliyah, but if in the meanwhile you decide not to make aliyah – I hope to see you as activists and community leaders. I believe that the Masa Project will grow and succeed, and I hope to see in the future, tens and hundreds of thousands of young Jews journey to their land – a journey in Israel.

And remember: we need you, all of you. We always did. Today, we need you more than ever. More than ever.

Thank you.

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Israel hoping long-term stays by Diaspora youth will pay dividends

By DINA KRAFT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Ben Russell helped deliver two babies, taught English to Druze children, worked with Ethiopian immigrants, led coexistence workshops with Arab students and met Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during his "year off" in Israel before college.

"I always felt like I knew bits of Israel, but not well," said Russell, who grew up in London and will study at Cambridge University in the fall.

"I wanted to spend some real time here and get to know the country."

Russell, 19, is one of some 5,600 young Jews from around the world who came to Israel this year for long-term study or volunteer programs. The sense of connection and adventure that these extended visits create are seen as a safeguard against climbing intermarriage rates and a drop in Jewish community involvement among young people.

> ***'Build a next generation of Jewish people into the future'***

Israeli officials believe that longer stays in the country are the best way to cement Jewish identity and commitment to Israel – including an interest in aliyah – among the next generation of Jews. They don't merely trust that such programs are the way to go; they're banking on them.

Last month, the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for Israel launched an ambitious program called Masa, or Israel Journey, in which they plan to invest $100 million (US) a year to help subsidize semester and yearlong programs for Diaspora youth.

Program fees paid by participants are expected to reach another $100 million a year.

The goal is to bring 20,000 young Diaspora Jews to Israel each year on long-term visits.

Allan Hoffman, director general of JAFI's Education Department, said the goal of having one in five young Jews from the Diaspora in Israel for a long-term program will have a "transformative impact on Jewish life.

"I believe this is one of the few avenues open to us to really build a next generation of Jewish people into the future," he said.

Hoffman said coming to Israel for an extended stay takes the experience to a different level than coming as a tourist.

"You can have a wonderful experience as a tourist, but you're always an outsider looking in," he said.

The gap can be narrowed, he said, "if we can create a generation of young Jews who feel like insiders in their experience with Israel and Israelis."

Participants, aged 18 to 26, have dozens of programs to choose from, ranging from studying at Israeli universities, yeshivas and music conservatories to volunteering on kibbutzim, working with immigrants and underprivileged youths or doing professional internships.

During the 2004-2005 school year, Masa's pilot year, $10 million was invested in the program.

Last month, more than 2,000 students who had spent all or part of the year in Israel gathered at an amphitheater at Beit Guvrin National Park south of Jerusalem to celebrate the official launch of Masa with music, dancing and speeches.

Sharon met with the young people and encouraged them to continue their connection to Israel, either by making aliyah or becoming community leaders and supporters of Israel back home.

"Today, we are taking a giant step toward the time when living in Israel for a period of time will be an inseparable part of the life of every Jewish youngster around the world, just as the Land of Israel is an inseparable part of our identities as Jews," Sharon said.

The program marks the first time the government has allocated such a large sum of money specifically for the Diaspora, cabinet secretary Yisrael Maimon said.

"There is a lot of criticism of the government about the decision at a time when there is poverty and budget cuts," Maimon said.

But citing the rise in intermarriage and the decrease of young Diaspora Jews remaining active in their communities, Maimon said the government decided it was time to act.

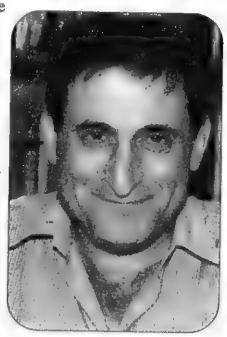
Masa is the brainchild of Sallai Meridor, the outgoing head of JAFI. Meridor made an emotional speech to the Masa participants.

"You, the Jewish youth, you are the future of the Jewish nation. We all have just one country. We will safeguard it forever. The government of Israel and the Jewish Agency are with you in safeguarding the future of the Jewish nation. We will bring together tens of thousands of Jewish youth to Israel," he said.

The crowd applauded wildly with Meridor's final words, "Am Yisrael chai."

Researchers have found that Jews who spend extended stays in Israel when they are young have a higher chance of either making aliyah or becoming active, committed members of their communities back home.

According to a study of participants in the Young Judaea year course, a program for North American high school graduates who spend a year in Israel before going to college, 91 per cent go on to marry Jews.



Sallai Meridor

A study of another post-high school program, Machon LeMadrechai Chutz LeAretz – which Russell was on this year – found that 40 per cent of graduates have made aliyah.

Elan Ezrachi, director of Masa, described birthright israel – the free, 10-day trips to Israel for Diaspora youth – as an "appetizer" for Masa. On birthright, young Jews often get their first taste of Israel, but longer experiences are needed to cement the connection to the country and their Jewish identities, Ezrachi said.

Russell said he was amazed by the range of experiences he had in Israel.

He changed locations about every six weeks. Among the places he stayed was the city of Safed in the Galilee. It was there that he volunteered to teach English to Druze children as part of the United Jewish Israel Appeal's work in the region. The UJIA, Britain's largest Jewish philanthropy, invests in Jewish education in the United Kingdom and Israel.

Like Russell, Robin Zebroitz, 23, of Atlanta also had a busy year – teaching swimming and English, hauling plants in an organic greenhouse and living in a center for new immigrants from Ethiopia, France, South Africa and Yemen.

"It's an absolutely phenomenal, invaluable experience," Zebroitz said of her year in Israel. "The things I have done here, the friends I have made, the connections are something you can only do if you are here for longer."

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Tribute to Israel

Park a 'fitting memorial' to Dolphinarium victims

By WENDY ELLIMAN
Israel Press Service

For the past four years, Irena Sklyanik has kept the bedroom of her daughter Yulia, who was killed at age 15, just as Yulia left it – her bed covered with stuffed toys, the walls covered with posters.

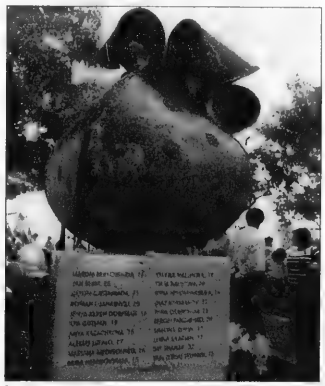
Simona Rudin's father cherishes the memory of his daughter, aged 17 when she died, by dancing the salsa, as they once danced it together. Simona's mother has made her daughter's room a virtual shrine of photographs, flowers and candles.

All the parents of the 21 people, mostly teens, killed by a suicide bomber on June 1, 2001, as they waited outside a popular beachfront discotheque opposite Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium nurture the memory of their dead children in their own way.

Now they have a special place to do so.

"The memorial we chose to build is a park with a children's playground," Sklyanik says. "Those who died at the Dolphinarium were youngsters who never got a chance to become parents. Even though their children and our grandchildren will never be born, life goes on and there are still children to whom we can bring joy."

The one-acre Memorial Park in southeast Tel Aviv is the result of four years of the families' grief-filled efforts to rebuild their lives. Most of the victims, along with 164 more who were injured in the bombing, were high school students who had immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union with their parents in the 1990s.



In the centre of the new Memorial Park is an imposing copper pomegranate mounted on a large jagged stone inscribed with the names of the 21 who died.

Roman Dezanshvili of Bat Yam, for example, had come to Israel from Georgia in 1994 with his brother and his mother Zena.

"I moved my family to Israel for the sake of my children," Zena says. "I'd been a teacher of Russian in Georgia, but in Israel I worked as a cleaner, and I did it gladly for my sons. Now Roman is dead. He lived only 21 years."

Being new to Israel made dealing with the bombing's aftermath particularly challenging for the families.

"Trauma and tragedy happen both to new immigrants and veteran Israelis," says a psychologist who works with the support group created by the Tel Aviv municipality for the bereaved parents. "Newcomers, however, usually have a far harder time coping, because they rarely have the same social network, financial resources or workplace support of those who have lived here for many years. Still reeling from the trauma of immigration, it's another mighty blow."

Members of the support group bonded over the idea of remembering their loved ones.

"We didn't all know one another when our children died," Sklyanik says. "We met in the support group. Some of us became more involved, others less, but we all knew it was important not to forget or to let others forget. Our murdered children are part of the history of Israel and deserve to be memorialized."

The site of the Dolphinarium suicide bombing, where 21 youngsters died in June 2001. [IPS photos]

The idea for the park grew slowly. The bereaved families first planted olive trees, put together a booklet about their children, and made a DVD and an exhibit that has been shown in Israel and abroad. All were meant to reach beyond static photographs and show how their children lived.

In this spirit, they told the municipality of Tel Aviv that they wanted a living memorial to their children, not simply an engraved stone at the place they died.

"The idea of a physical location dedicated to these youngsters became increasingly important with each anniversary of their death," says a spokesperson for Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai. "As they're not buried in one single cemetery, there was no obvious site for a memorial ceremony."

The parents eagerly accepted the idea for a park. From five locations offered by the city, they chose Yad Eliyahu, a neighbourhood that's home to many new immigrants and children.

"A park existed on the site, but it was bleak and run-down," Sklyanik says.

"We started to look for the money needed to revive it. With help from friends of the Tel Aviv Foundation in England, we found it. Most of the money came from a group of 40 London families who understand our pain."

Israeli landscape architect Haim Kahanovich, who was charged with rebuilding the site, has designed a lyrical oasis of paths, shaded seating areas and play areas, all amid flowers and lawns.

In the centre of the park is an imposing copper pomegranate sculpted by Aharon Ben Arieh. It's mounted on a large jagged stone, designed by Varda Givoli, on which the names of the 21 who died are inscribed.

"Are we pleased with the park?" Sklyanik asks. "Yes, very pleased. Is it enough? No, nothing can ever compensate our children or ourselves for the years stolen from us. But we must be realistic. Nothing will bring them back.

"This park is all we hoped it would be and more. It reflects youth and happiness, it is alive and joyous. It is a fitting memorial."

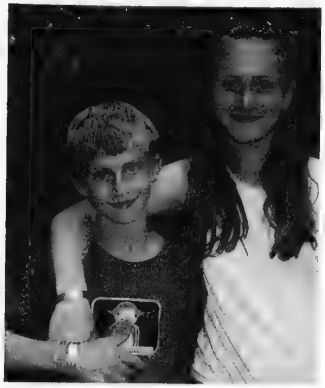
Tribute to Israel

Heschel students sell bracelets for terror victims

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Israelis are protecting Diaspora Jews' birthright in the Land of Israel, terror victim Sarri Singer told 115 students at the Toronto Heschel School earlier this month.

"With them protecting your little piece of Israel, it's your responsibility to give them support and show them that you care," Singer said at the launch of a three-day Heschel fundraising drive for the OneFamily Fund, which provides financial, legal and emotional assistance to Israeli survivors of terror.



Oliver and Andi Spring model their bracelets

Singer, who almost died in a 2003 suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem and is now East Coast director of OneFamily in the United States, told the students in grades 5 to 8 that despite her experiences, she still considers Israel a wonderful place and loves it very much.

The Heschel drive involved selling metal bracelets for $10 each that are inscribed with the name and age of an Israeli terror victim and the date they were killed. The students raised more than $700 to help send bereaved siblings of terror victims to camp.

As well, in order to connect with the survivors of terror and families of victims, each Heschel student received a Toronto-themed postcard to write a message on. The cards were then to be sent to the Israeli children at camp.

The fundraising drive was organized by Shane and Nancy Spring and their children Andi and Oliver. They became involved in OneFamily after a chance meeting in Israel with an old friend of Shane's, Pam Albert, OneFamily's Canadian director, who told them about the organization.

On their return to Toronto, they were invited to a OneFamily event, where they heard some of the Israeli guests speak about their personal experiences or about losing a child in an attack.

The Spring family took their guests – four Israeli victims of terror – to Niagara Falls. Pictured from left are Shimon Levy, Shane Spring, Andi Spring, Oliver Spring, Yoni Olin and Yehekeal and Dalia Ozerov.

The next time a OneFamily group visited from Israel, the Springs hosted an event in their home. They also took their three Israeli guests, Shimon Levy and Yehezkel and Dalia Ozerov, to visit Niagara Falls.

Meanwhile, Andi and Oliver, together with their friends Jonah and Rebecca Himelfarb, helped organize the fundraising effort at Heschel.

"The children I know who have bought these bracelets do not want to take them off," Shane said.

"They seem committed to ensuring that the individuals did not die in vain and to ensure that their spirit will live on."

Volunteers with OneFamily, which describes itself as the "Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund," are in constant contact with victims of terror and their families.

Along with offering a compassionate ear, the volunteers also help distribute food and other material to survivors of terrorism, and they organize camps and retreats so survivors can get away and heal with people who have been through similar experiences.

For more information, contact Albert at 416-644-4955.

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In pursuit of a Zionist Dream

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

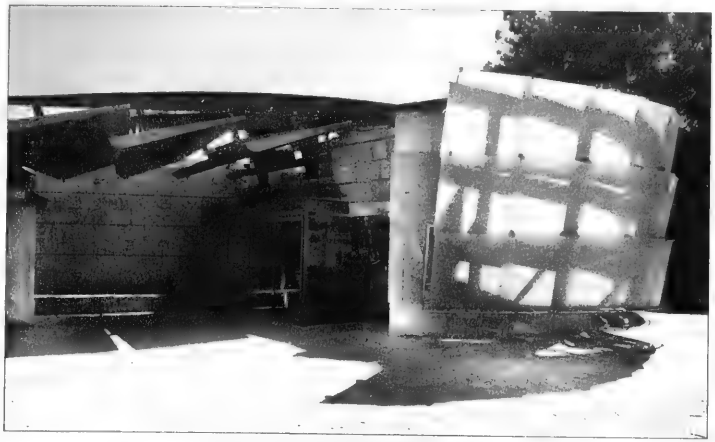
The new Herzl Museum uses state-of-the-art audio and visual aids to trace the life and times of the late Theodor Herzl and tell the story of his dream to have a Zionist homeland.

The museum, which opened last month on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, a short distance from Herzl's grave, is a World Zionist Organization project supported by the Jerusalem Foundation. It is divided into four sections and it takes just over an hour to go through the complex from beginning to end.

Visitors can now select the sound commentary in Hebrew and English, but will eventually be able to choose from Russian, French, Spanish and German. The audio comes from different directions, adding to the experience.

At any given time, the museum can accommodate three different groups. Each group is limited to about 30 people, and it will be necessary to book a tour in advance to guarantee it will be available in the language chosen.

The journey through Herzl's world begins in a rectangular area made to look like a cobblestone street in Paris. One wall is covered by a huge television screen that shows two French soldiers from the 1890s talking about the famous trial of Alfred Dreyfus, a French Jewish officer who was wrongly charged with and found guilty of treason.



The exterior of the Herzl Museum.
[Israel photo]

In 1894, when anti-Semitism was rampant in the French army, the Dreyfus trial dominated the news. Herzl was a journalist at the time, working in Paris for a Viennese newspaper and he covered the trial and its aftermath.

After the story of Dreyfus is briefly told, the sound and pictures fade and the visitors' attention is drawn to the opposite wall, where another screen appears, as if from nowhere.

This time, the scene is set in modern times, inside a theatre, and the young Israeli actor Zak Berkman is talking to a well-known Israeli theatre director, Micha Levinson, who plays himself. Israeli actress Sandra Sadeh, the third person on the screen, plays the part of a coach who teaches Berkman about the life of Herzl, and how he should play the part. The idea is that as visitors proceed through the four sections, they will learn along with Berkman.

Another large screen reveals a busy, noisy Viennese café at the turn of the last century. Full-size fibreglass figures are seated at two of the café's tables, and a film in the background shows people in period costumes, including Berkman as Herzl.

This scene describes the Dreyfus trial and its influence on Herzl in his attempts to establish a Jewish homeland.

Continued on page B9

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In another part of the Parisian street scene, "Death to the Jews" graffiti are scrawled on a wall. To the right is a screen that shows a re-enactment of two French soldiers talking about the famous Dreyfus trial. [Israel Sun photo]

Herzl's personality will come alive

Continued from page B8

Using special effects and elaborate sets, the area in the room that initially resembled a Paris street disappears. A full-size window and door of a Paris book shop on one side, and Herzl's Paris study on the other side are revealed. The visitors are guided between the book shop and the study, through a metal door, and enter another phase of Herzl's life.

This section is an impressive re-creation of the Basel Municipal Casino. The museum guests take their places among the fibreglass audience and listen to the same raucous debate that was heard at the first Zionist Congress meeting in 1897.

Visitors are led out of the casino into a third section, a detailed re-creation of Herzl's study that contains most of his own artifacts and furniture. Some of these can be seen in contemporary photographs displayed outside the study.

The final section is in the form of a modern theatre with tiered seats. Its draped curtains rise to reveal yet another screen.

The video, which covers the period from the year Herzl died in 1904 to today, reviews Israel's achievements and its turbulent history.

With his trademark thick, dark beard, Herzl, still played by Berkman, addresses the visitors about a time that he never knew or saw. The audience is left to decide for themselves the degree of Herzl's success in making his dream of a Zionist state a reality.

While it is difficult to recreate the complexity of the Zionist story in such a short visit, Herzl's personality and achievements will come alive through this exhibit.

Herzl knew that you could not fight anti-Semitism in a conventional way. The only way was to give the Jewish people a state of their own. Although his vision did not come true until 44 years after his death, Herzl's name will always be associated with to the Zionist ideology.

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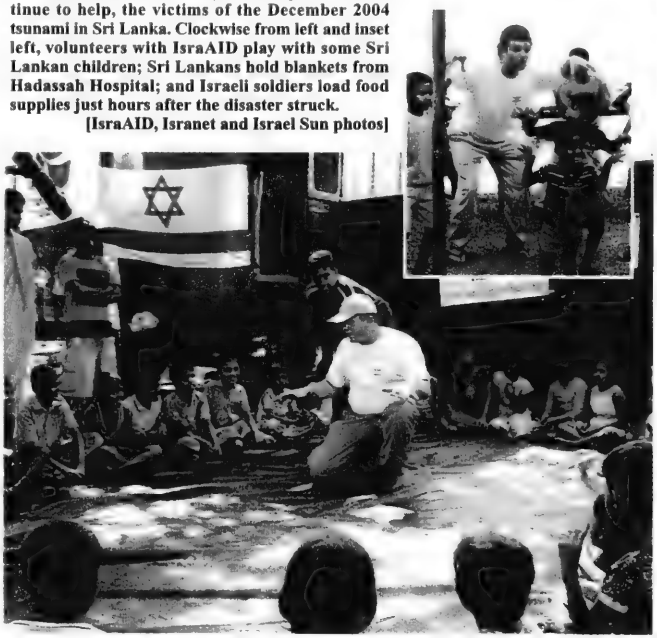
Israel aids tsunami victims

All sectors of Israeli society have helped, and continue to help, the victims of the December 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. Clockwise from left and inset left, volunteers with IsraAID play with some Sri Lankan children; Sri Lankans hold blankets from Hadassah Hospital; and Israeli soldiers load food supplies just hours after the disaster struck.
[IsraAID, Isranet and Israel Sun photos]



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Tribute to Israel

The best cook in the IDF

By ELI STUTZ
CJN Israel Bureau

Maj. Aner Gottlieb of the Israel Defence Forces' logistics and technology corps was the winner of the IDF's second annual cooking contest for commanders – and thus the best cook in the Israeli army.

Seventeen IDF officers, including majors and lieutenant-colonels, took part in the contest.

"The competition is arranged by the logistics corps, but there was no favouritism involved," says Gottlieb, a 33-year-old father of one. "The contest is absolutely fair. The ingredients are kept secret until the start of the contest – that's part of the challenge."

Gottlieb emphasizes that all the ingredients used are available in a standard IDF kitchen. "A whole chicken, fresh spices, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and all sorts of fruits and vegetables. Some ingredients are somewhat scarce around the country's bases, such as fresh pineapple. The vegetables are of five different colours."

He explains that the "five-colour vegetable campaign" is a recent Israeli health initiative to promote a well-balanced diet. The idea is to use the majority of these vegetables, but only up to a point. "If you use too many vegetables at once, you get shakshuka [an Israeli dish with fried eggs and tomato sauce] – in other words, a mess."

What was Gottlieb's strategy? "I made a boat out of a hollowed-out eggplant. This, I filled with other chopped up vegetables, and presto, I had ratatouille! Out of the whole chicken I made a chicken steak, marinated with wine. The sauce I concocted was 'silan,' which is made with date honey."

What put Gottlieb over the top was his inventiveness with the raw flour. "I decided to make home-made fettuccini, on the spot, with a little machine that I happened to have brought," he says. "I knew I had a tough fight when I saw a fellow competitor brandish a ravioli-making machine."

A participant in the IDF cooking competition. [Guy Raivitz photo courtesy of Ha'aretz.com]

Gottlieb insists there was nothing in the rules against bringing such extra tools into the competition, but "I think it was the fettuccini that won me the contest."

Gottlieb's cooking is not limited to the base. "My wife doesn't cook at all," he says proudly.

Cooking is in the family, though. "My father served in the armoured corps, but when he entered the reserves, he became a cook and served as one for 25 years. Much of my cooking knowledge I owe to him."

One of the most famous foods in the IDF is "luf" which is a type of canned meat. Luf lasts for years and is shunned and loved at the same time.

"Don't underestimate luf," Gottlieb jokes. "Luf is part of me, and it will never leave me. You can make wonderful things out of this versatile meat. All the officers love it," he says, tongue firmly in cheek.

Gottlieb's unit reaped the rewards of his win – a 2,000-shekel prize, which will he said will be used to buy food products in civilian supermarkets. Gottlieb himself was awarded a watch, a chef's knife and a course in gourmet cooking.

The judges in the competition were a group of well-known Israeli chefs, including Phyllis Glaser, author of a series of popular Israeli cookbooks. "They were creative and gave it their best shot," Glaser said. "Some of the dishes were better than others, but on the whole it was a wonderful contest and I hope to see what I saw here put into practice in IDF kitchens."

Gottlieb says creativity was the key to his win. "I'm an adventurous chef. I check out the Internet for new ideas all the time." He admits that at home, his child prefers less adventure and more of the standard fare.

What is the secret of being a good chef? "The true secret is to mind the small details – like amounts, for example. You have to be precise. That's the secret of success in anything you do. Also, the curiosity to learn and to develop needs to be part of cooking. That's also true for everything."

The contest was broadcast on Israeli television's channels 2 and 10.

Despite his success, Gottlieb says he's not planning to go pro yet. "For now, only my wife will enjoy my cooking abilities. It's a kind of a hobby – to clear my mind. When you come home, and you're tired of the humdrum of army life, you cook.

"Being a good cook doesn't necessarily make you a better soldier, or a better person," says Gottlieb, "but it's fun."

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One last jump for former IDF Chief of Staff

Former IDF Chief of Staff, Moshe Ya'alon parachuting over Poland last month as part of commemorative ceremonies marking 60 years since the end of the Second World War.

[Israel Sun photos]

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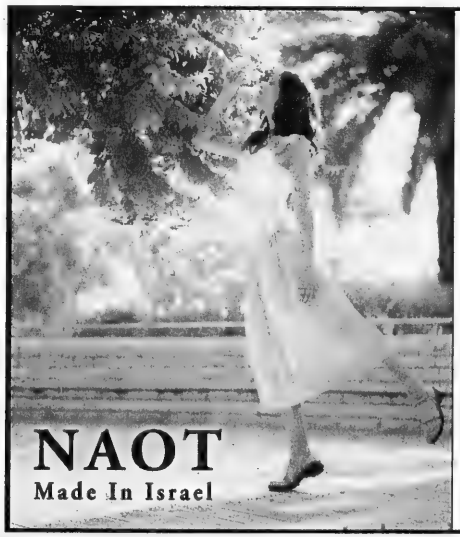

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Tribute to Israel

The myth of the 'right of return'

By JACK CHIVO

It is a sign of our times that some "urban legends" never die. They continue to resurface, in spite of overwhelming evidence contradicting their myths and fabrications.

I was reminded of this truism after reading that the new Jordanian ambassador to Israel, Marouf Bakhit, has advised the government in Jerusalem to revisit and reconsider the so-called "right of return" for Palestinian Arabs, as a sign of goodwill toward the Palestinian Authority and its new President Mahmoud Abbas.

The problem with the ambassador's proposal is that there is no international law or *binding* United Nations resolution specifically mentioning the alleged right of Arab Palestinians to return to Israel, nor was such a right ever implemented, or even recognized, for *any* other group among the hundreds of millions of refugees from countries around the world. Nonetheless, references to the phoney "right of return" can be found on countless websites, and it is being bounced around at anti-Israel rallies, in papers and in other propaganda forums.

The problem with such faulty and specious arguments, which continue to be quoted on a regular basis as part of the Arab and leftist anti-Israel propaganda, is twofold. On one hand, the propagandists surely know that there is no legal or international basis for such a right, but on the other hand, they continue to flog this dead issue, counting on people's lack of knowledge or interest in doing their homework.

To understand the dimension of this ongoing fraud, one can look at some often-quoted UN resolutions, but, more importantly, at the basic international law governing the treatment of refugees for more than 50 years.

The refugee problem was first recognized after the end of World War I, when the world was flooded with people fleeing persecution by the nations newly created from the ruins of the Russian, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires. After a number of international conferences (in 1926, 1928, 1933, and 1939), all previous decisions were enhanced and consolidated in the Geneva Convention, or, as it is legally known, the "1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees" (July 28, 1951).

If one reads the words of the convention carefully, the first thing that is crystal clear, is that the status of being a refugee is granted *only* to a person who has fled or was forced to flee a certain country or territory, but *never* to their children, grandchildren or other relatives, nor to fourth or further generations. The logical reasoning was that if the convention extended these rights beyond the original refugees, it would have created unrest and crisis for centuries to come.

As an example, one can only imagine the worldwide implications if the same "right of return" as that demanded by the Arab Palestinians was to be sought by the more than a hundred million heirs of the refugees created after the partition of the Indian subcontinent now living in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, in addition to the many more millions abroad.

The same could be true for the hundreds of thousands of Japanese removed by the Soviets from the Kurile Islands after the end of World War II, the heirs and extended families of Tibetans and the Greek Cypriots, Tartarians, Kurds, Romanians, Poles and other displaced persons. It could be even claimed by the Acadians living in Louisiana, and others.

One of the most glaring examples that has come into focus over the past few years is that of the former German and Hungarian citizens expelled from Czechoslovakia and Poland after the liberation, where many had previously lived for seven to 10 centuries. While it was true that many people of German extraction collaborated with the Nazi invaders during the war, the 1946 Benes decree in Czechoslovakia did not differentiate between the guilty and the innocent, resulting in a wholesale expulsion of almost every person belonging to the German and Hungarian ethnic groups, and the total confiscation of their assets. The same thing happened in Poland and in the former district of Koenigsberg in Germany, which was taken over by the Soviets as reparation for the Nazi war pillage.

Mahmoud Abbas

In 2002, the negotiations dealing with the request by Poland and the Czech Republic to join the European Union brought to the forefront the fate of those refugees and their heirs, now numbering around 20 million, mostly located in Austria and Bavaria, and their demands, not even to return or to have a complete restoration of their assets, but to receive recognition of the injustice perpetrated against them and some form of moral and financial compensation.

Incredibly, the same European countries that are demanding flexibility from Israel in dealing with the alleged Palestinian refugees were adamant that there was no "right of return" for the Germans, nor had they any claim to compensation or any form of recognition. The Czech parliament reacted immediately, in April 2002, by unanimously adopting a resolution declaring the Benes decree as lawful, and not subject to any revision or interpretation. The Polish government implemented a similar law, while the governing body of the European Union totally rejected any attempt to link the "refugee matter" to the application for membership by the governments in Prague and Warsaw.

As the British magazine *The Economist* wrote in its Aug. 15, 2002, issue, "The most the Sudeten German can hope for, say the insiders, is a statement of regret and a few monuments."

Almost three years later, nothing has been offered, nothing has been erected, and this will probably never happen. Case closed! The same is true for the Poles from western Ukraine, the Cypriots, the Japanese, the Tibetans, the Indians, Pakistanis and others. The idea is kept alive for the Palestinian Arabs only!

It is interesting to note that some of the arguments used in dealing with the fate of the former German refugees could be found in the Geneva Convention, and they apply perfectly to the Palestinian Arabs as well. The statutes of the convention include a number of rules dealing with the "exclusions" from refugee status. In the statutes of the Convention, they are called the "cessation clauses." One of them states that the "convention shall cease to apply to any person failing under the terms of the Section A [defining the status of a refugee] if… he has acquired a new nationality and enjoys the protection of the country of his nationality."

Which begs the question of all those people claiming refugee status in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem. Why? Because while perusing the version of events found on the official website of the Jordanian government, during the reign of the late King Hussein, (www.kinghussein.gov.jo), one can read the following revealing statement describing the status of those living in the

Continued on page B15

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Geneva rules were broken by the Arabs

Continued from B14

territories taken over by Jordan in 1949: "All automatically became citizens of Jordan, a right that was offered in December 1949 to all Palestinians who wished to claim it… the Hashemite Kingdom offered the possibility of normal life to many people who would otherwise have remained stateless refugees."

The same website puts the number of initial refugees at about 500,000, a figure in line with the numbers quoted by most respectable Israeli historians. If one adds all those Palestinian Arabs now living in Canada, the United States, Europe and Australia enjoying the "protection" defined by the convention, the picture becomes even more precise.

But the Geneva Convention adds a few more rules concerning "exclusion" from refugee status. Under Paragraph F, it states that the "provisions of the convention shall not apply to any person with respect to whom there is serious reason for considering that… he has committed a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge, prior to admission in that country as a refugee." And Article 2, "General obligations," states that "every refugee has duties to the country in which he finds himself, which require in particular that he conforms to its laws and regulations as well as measures taken for maintenance of public order."

These clear rules were broken not only by the Arabs who committed crimes against the Jewish population prior to fleeing in 1948-49, but also by the Palestinians during the Lebanese Civil War of the late 1970s and early '80s, during which more than 100,000 people were killed; in the Palestinians' attempt to take over the Kingdom of Jordan, three decades ago, that resulted in the bloody "Black September"; and in their collaboration with the Iraqi invaders in Kuwait in 1991.

It is revealing to learn that the European Union is in the process of tightening the cessation rules for those claiming refugee status there, by adding two new criteria. It would "exclude persons who have committed cruel crimes [terrorism] with a political objective" and those who "instigate or otherwise participate in such activities."

In the case of the alleged Palestinian refugees, if one removes those who initially obtained Jordanian citizenship, those who have become citizens of other countries, and the terrorists involved in crimes all over the world, and add the numbers lost through attrition, there are not many left entitled to be called refugees. A few years ago, an article in *Ha'aretz* put the total number of the original refugees still alive at between 20,000 and 30,000.

> ***No Security Council resolution has ever mentioned the 'right of return'***

But we also have the canard of the "rights" allegedly guaranteed by some UN resolutions. Even a usually well-informed news agency – the Chinese Xinhua – reported the above-mentioned remarks by the Jordanian ambassador, with comments about the right of return "according to a Security Council resolution."

There is one small problem, however. No Security Council resolution has ever mentioned the "right of return" or, as a matter of fact, the words "Palestinian refugees." The sole resolution addressing, but only indirectly, the matter, is the well known Resolution 242, of November 22, 1967, dealing with the aftermath of the Six Day War.

When one reads the short, three-paragraph resolution, it does not include the words "Palestinian," "Arab" or "right to return." One can only find, squeezed between two strongly articulated articles, the phrases "guaranteeing the freedom of navigation" and "guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area"; and a tepid sentence that vaguely mentions the "necessity [of] achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem." This is the extent of the *only* UN Security Council resolution dealing with the refugees at that time.

I must add that, during the debates before the resolution was adopted, the matter of *all* refugees, Jewish and Arab, was mentioned, and it is important to note that the resolution kept the reference very ambiguous to leave room for a wider interpretation of the problem.

The other contemporary, often quoted United Nations document dealing with the refugees, is the General Assembly's Resolution 194 of December 1948, which, by its status, is considered a non-binding resolution. As a matter of fact, it wasn't even a full-fledged resolution, but a simple "Progress Report of the United Nations Mediator," adopted in the middle of Israel's War of Independence.

There are three interesting facts to note about this resolution.

First, it contains a number of demands from the parties involved, during a time when the young Jewish state was fighting for its very existence, attacked by armies from five Arab countries and the Palestinian Arabs. It was a ceasefire roadmap, including cessation of hostilities, free travel for all inhabitants, free access to *all* holy places, full recognition of all states in the area.

Only in Article 11, out of 15, was there the following statement:

The resolution "resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their home and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest feasible date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those not choosing to return and for loss or damage to property which, under principles of international law and equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible."

Second, as with 242, nowhere were the words Arab or Palestinian mentioned, and it is clear that it applied to Jews and Arabs alike at a time when not only were Jews in areas under Arab control being either massacred or chased away, but tens of thousands of Jews in Muslim countries were being subjected to persecutions, pogroms and confiscation of their assets.

Finally, another fact rarely mentioned is that *all* the Arab countries that were then members of the UN – Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Syria – voted *against* the resolution. None of the articles was ever accepted by the Arab states, and surely none was implemented. It must be the peak of chutzpah now, almost 60 years later, to have the same Arab countries and their fellow Arab dictators who defiantly rejected the resolution asking that one single article must be respected – and for the Arabs only!

There is one other interesting aspect to be added to this myth of the right of return: the fact that it is often peddled by some so-called "human rights" groups as part of an enlightened humanistic struggle for worldwide human rights, which, in realty, is only a thin cover for pure anti-Israel propaganda.

One of the organizations involved in the defence of the Palestinian "rights" is a group called "Rabbis for Human Rights" (RHR), based in Israel, which is supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation, the same fund that poured millions of dollars into organizing the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban.

In the early part of 2004, I conducted a lively exchange of messages with Rabbi Arik Ascherman, the RHR executive director, after finding on its website a link to the Palestinian group Adalah, a strong proponent of the "right of return," and learning that RHR was conducting a campaign of defending the property rights of Arabs and Palestinians in Israel and the territories.

As RHR defines itself as a proponent of both Jewish and Arab rights, I suggested that the group add a simple sentence to their statement concerning the property rights for the Arabs, stating that they also defend the property rights of the 850,000 Jews forced to flee Muslim countries after 1945, along with the rights of other dispossessed Jews around the world.

In January 2004, I wrote to Rabbi Ascherman: "Could you please reveal to me *any* action on behalf of the 850,000 Jews who were forced to abandon their properties some 40 or 50 years ago?… Aren't we also worth your efforts?"

After a few more letters from me, Rabbi Ascherman agreed to present the idea to the RHR board of directors meeting of May 2004. Without any comments, I want to conclude with a quote from the reply I received from Rabbi Ascherman on May 6, 2004: "As I wrote to you myself [earlier]… we are not interested in putting out a statement about every subject just because it is important."

Jack Chivo is a former journalist who lives in Vancouver.

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Tribute to Israel

American finds his calling as an Israeli tour guide

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

When Jonathan Duitch leads an Israeli tour bus, "you better listen, dude!" That's the type of thing Duitch would say.

An American-born transplant to Israel since 1979, Duitch was one of many tour guides leading Canadian March of the Living participants to, from and around the Galilee region.

What made Duitch unique was his style. Beneath a well-worn cap and clothes were a yarmulke, a tzitzit, and a true-blue rocker.

He sees himself as something of a "Deadhead," a lifelong fan of the rock group the Grateful Dead. He also lives for the music of Bob Dylan.

The Grateful Dead "was my early passion," said Duitch, a soft-spoken, laid-back guy who connects with kids. In this case, the teens were on Montreal bus number 4.

He sprinkled his bus-tour rap – full of in-depth knowledge and love of the Bible and Israel – with hip lingo and came across as one cool 43-year-old Orthodox guy.

"Why do I love being a tour guide? Because you can transmit something you can feel but not touch," Duitch said in an interview. "You see so many people, and there is a certain *chayn* [transcendent beauty] in their eyes."

Israeli tour guide Jonathan Duitch says, "If you find the job you like, you never work again the rest of your life."

There seems to be no doubt that as average Israelis go, Duitch isn't average.

He grew up in a traditional Jewish family in Omaha, Neb., which has only about 5,000 Jews.

Brought up with a strong Zionist spirit with two siblings – both of whom still live in the United States – Duitch always knew he would wind up living in Israel. And at age 18 he moved there.

It took Duitch, a bohemian, years before he found his calling in tourism. He attended Columbia University – where he earned a BA – returning to the U.S., for a time, and attending a couple of yeshivas. At one point, he thought he could make his fortune by opening up a chain of popcorn stands in Israel. He had a stand in the heart of Jerusalem.

Duitch was once a busker, playing guitar for shekels, and even started his own guitar-making company.

"I gave one to Eric Clapton," he said.

Maybe Duitch's most unusual venture was to co-create one of Israel's first Israeli comic book superheroes, named Uri Om, in the late 1980s. The company produced only a half dozen or so issues, but the project got widespread media attention and even achieved cult status.

"People talk about it to this day," Duitch said.

Because of an innate love of people and Israel, Duitch enrolled in a tour- guide course. He has been a guide since 1993. In 1994, he began to serve as a guide for March of the Living groups and has been doing that regularly ever since.

"I just love it," Duitch said. "It's like they say: 'If you find the job you like, you never work again the rest of your life.' From every person you teach, you learn something. I know what I know, but I have a lot to learn."

Duitch met his wife, Laurie, in 1979, and now lives a more conventional life than he used to in Jerusalem with his children, Merav, 16, Nadiv, 13, and Naomi, 11.

Duitch insisted he was not just saying so when he praised Canadians as the best tourists and March of the Living participants to lead.

"It's really true," he said. "They are closer than any other group, and compared to Americans, even an assimilated Canadian Jew is still very Jewish. You can feel it."

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[Israel Sun photos]

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Further Israeli withdrawals not automatic, columnist says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Further Israeli withdrawals after Israel's planned pullout from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank are not necessarily on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's agenda, says the former director of the Israel Government Press Office.

"We may apply other criteria to the rest of Judea and Samaria," Yossi Olmert said in a recent interview in Toronto. "Gaza is not a precedent to be copied automatically. No one should think Gaza is a recipe for the future. We should consider our national rights in Judea and Samaria."

Sharon's government will not offer the Palestinians the sort of sweeping territorial concessions in the West Bank his predecessor Ehud Barak was apparently willing to make, Olmert warned.

"No one should expect it," said Olmert, an academic, journalist and brother of Israel's deputy prime minister and former mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert. "This government is not in the business of surrendering to the Palestinians."

Olmert, an adviser to former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, described Israel's decision to vacate Gaza as a "litmus test" for the Palestinians' willingness to curb terrorism.

Olmert is "very skeptical" that the Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, will deal forcefully with terrorism.

Yet he believes the Palestinians have shown clear signs of fatigue with the chaos that has enveloped Gaza since the eruption of the second intifadah in 2000.

Olmert, who writes a political column for *Yediot Achronot*, Israel's largest daily, cautioned the Palestinians that Israel is not leaving Gaza out of weakness or due to international pressure.

"We had to rationalize our national priorities, to disengage from a large part of the Palestinian population, in the interests of resolving the demographic problem and maintaining the political initiative."

Yossi Olmert

Nevertheless, Olmert is not an enthusiastic backer of the Gaza withdrawal plan, set to be activated in August.

"One can't be sure about it because we don't exactly know what will happen after we leave. The Palestinians shouldn't misinterpret it as a victory. If terror continues, the Israel Defence Forces will deal the Palestinians a major blow."

Short of "an apocalyptic event," Israel has every intention of carrying out the withdrawal, he said.

In his view, Israel should tear down the buildings in the settlements scheduled to be left behind. "The Palestinians don't deserve any gifts from us."

The Israeli government, however, is "vacillating" on this issue, he said.

Olmert is far from impressed with Abbas' leadership. "Arafat was clearly the worst of the lot," he said, referring to the late president of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat. "But that doesn't mean Abbas is the best."

In a scathing indictment of Abbas, Olmert said, "Rhetoric is not enough. As yet, he's not delivered the goods under the ["road map" peace plan]. The Palestinians have not even begun to dismantle the terror infrastructure."

Asked whether Israel has fulfilled its reciprocal obligations under the road map, he replied, "The first obligation is for the Palestinians to dismantle terror. Without it, nothing will happen."

In Olmert's judgment, the intifadah has essentially ended.

"We've basically won the battle. We've dramatically reduced the levels of violence, our economy is rebounding and life is returning to normal. We're on top of the situation."

Olmert, who once headed the Syria and Lebanon desks at Tel Aviv University's faculty of Middle East studies, dismissed recent overtures by the Syrian regime to resume bilateral negotiations.

"Syria pays lip service to peace and supports terror," he said. "I don't take seriously what they say."

Even if there is a resumption of talks, he opposes a full Israeli evacuation of the Golan Heights.

He suggested Israel should not engage Syria in talks unless it assumes a role in disarming Hezbollah and ousts Islamic Jihad from Damascus.

Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon five years ago was beneficial to Israel, he noted. "But I regret it was done under pressure and not carried out in an orderly and responsible way."

Olmert was in Toronto at the invitation of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Tribute to Israel

Sharon has dropped greater Israel goal: Peace Now

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has reached the historic conclusion that a greater Israel, encompassing most of the territories, is neither possible nor in Israel's strategic or demographic interests, says Mark Rosenblum, the founder and political director of Peace Now in the United States.

Sharon, nevertheless, wants to keep a fairly substantial chunk of the West Bank once Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip and four isolated settlements in the northern West Bank in the summer, he noted in an interview.

"He understands you can't have a greater Israel unless you engage in ethnic cleansing. He's made the choice in favour of a smaller Israel."

Rosenblum, here to deliver a speech to Canadian Friends of Peace Now, said Sharon is essentially engaged in "a salvaging operation." His long-range objective is to "save" what he can of the West Bank, with all its settlement blocs.

In the meantime, he said, Sharon should work together with the Palestinians so as not to leave the impression Israel is withdrawing from Gaza under fire.

Mark Rosenblum

Rosenblum claimed Sharon has no interest in negotiating a permanent status arrangement on such issues as final borders and the Palestinian refugee problem. Sharon's goal is to sign interim agreements with his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas.

Rosenblum said a Palestinian state with provisional borders, as set out by the road map to peace, may be what Sharon has in mind for now.

Sharon, though, is pulling in two different directions.

On the one hand, he is going through with his Gaza disengagement plan. On the other hand, he is turning a blind eye to the expansion of illegal outposts in the West Bank and building a separation fence on land claimed by Palestinians.

He said the United States wants Abbas to succeed, hoping he can close the yawning gap between his intentions, which are good, and his capacities, which are weak.

Rosenblum, a professor of history at Queens College in New York, is finishing two books about the Middle East. The first deals with the Oslo peace process and the Palestinian uprising. The second is on Jerusalem.

Oslo failed for basically three reasons, he observed. Israel continued to build settlements, the Palestinians did not rein in terrorism and the United States failed to monitor both sides' compliance with the accord.

The intifadah was not a planned revolt, he claimed. But Arafat was willing to use violence for political ends. Still, the scope of the uprising surpassed even his own intentions.

As for Jerusalem, Rosenblum thinks a diplomatic solution, in accordance with parameters drawn up by former U.S. president Bill Clinton, is possible.

Israel and the Palestinians should divide the city on the basis of its Jewish and Arab neighbourhoods and continue negotiating the status of the Temple Mount.

Rosenblum also spoke to members of Canadian Friends of Peace Now in Montreal and met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa

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This Week

National

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Books & Authors

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Immigrants account for small rise in Jewish population, study finds

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Immigration has been – and likely will continue to be – the key to the growth of Canada's Jewish population, suggests the latest in a series of reports on the community's composition and direction.

"Without the mitigating effects of immigration, the Jewish population would have certainly experienced a decline rather than a slight increase," notes the report on immigration and language, part five in a series of studies by UIA Federations Canada based on the results of Canada's 2001 census.

Numbers would have fallen without newcomers

The census found that Canada's Jewish population rose by a modest 3.5 per cent between 1991 and 2001, to just over 370,000. It was one of the lowest rates of growth among religions and other ethnic groups, and sounded alarm bells among communal leaders on the need to increase the Jewish birthrate and boost immigration.

The study on immigration found that the same decade saw the highest total of Jewish newcomers to this country since World War II: 32,340, or nearly nine per cent of all Canadian Jews.

Half that number – 16,295 –

Continued on page 19

Letters to God

Post offices in Jerusalem are swamped every year with letters sent from all over the world addressed, in some form, to "God, Jerusalem," "God, Israel" or "God, Holy Land." Postal Authority Director General Yossi Shelly, right, gives a recently received batch of divinely directed letters to Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovich, who places them into the crevices and spaces within and between the stones of the Western Wall. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Cotler the Maccabian!

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, 65, will take a break from fielding shots in the House of Commons to compete in the master's table tennis event at the Maccabiah Games in Israel next month.

"I've been playing ever since I was a kid, but I haven't played for a long time. I may end up being an embarrassment to the game, but my enthusiasm will be there," Cotler told *The CJN*.

The master's division in Maccabiah table tennis is for competitors over 35.

Cotler did not have to qualify because he was the only Canadian entrant for the event, said Maccabi Canada national athletic committee chair Allen Gerskup.

Continued on page 30

CJN wins Rockower Award

The Canadian Jewish News received a Rockower Award for excellence in editorial writing from the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) at the organication's annual conference last week.

The CJN was awarded second place for "No longer forgotten refugees" (April 8, 2004).

The AJPA is a professional association of Jewish publications and writers from around the world, based primarily in the United States.

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Israel concerned about new Iranian leader — see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Circumcision Record

TORONTO — The Jewish Russian Community Centre of Toronto flew in a specially trained mohel this month to perform a brit milah on three adults, including one 77-year-old who became the oldest member of Toronto's Russian Jewish community to be circumcised. The JRCC's Rabbi Yisroel Karpilovsky called it "a most beautiful and joyous occasion – a truly amazing thing." Many Jews from the former Soviet Union were never circumcised, and the JRCC offers to perform the ritual free of charge.

Lawyers Get Awards

TORONTO — Former Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy received the Law Society of Upper Canada's fourth annual Lincoln Alexander Award last week for his work for human rights and religious tolerance, the society said. The award is named for the former Ontario lieutenant governor. Ex-Ontario attorney general Charles Harnick and lawyer Linda Rothstein were among eight others who received the Law Society Medal for contributions to their community and profession.

Man Fights to Stay

TORONTO — An Israeli Arab who defrauded Muslims and Islamic groups, including terror organizations, is pleading with Ottawa not to deport him to Israel because he fears for his life. Nazareth native Mohammed Mustaf Agbareia, 39, is a career con artist who has already been deported from Canada twice. He is also wanted in Michigan and New York and has been convicted of fraud in England. Agbareia, who lives in Brampton, Ont., with his wife and son, is fighting a third deportation order. "I have self-admittedly been involved in criminal activities relating to the defrauding of monies from Islamic organizations, including Hamas and Al Aqsa Brigades," he said in support of his bid to stay.

Fund Fraud Alleged

TORONTO — The Israeli co-founder of Portus Alternative Assets Management misappropriated $3.2 million (US) of the hedge fund's money, its court-appointed examiner KPMG alleges. According to court filings, Boaz Manor, who fled to Israel in March after Portus' collapse and after a judge ordered him to speak to KPMG, put $2.5 million in offshore accounts and paid his lawyer with the rest, Bloomberg News reported.

WORLD

Deportation Upheld

CLEVELAND — Ex-Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk can be deported from the United States. A U.S. judge ruled earlier this month that Demjanjuk, 85, has until June 30 to appeal his deportation for serving at the Sobibor, Majdanek and Flossenburg camps, and lying about his service when he applied to enter the United States in 1952. Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian national who lives near Cleveland, was acquitted in Israel in 1993 of being "Ivan the Terrible," a notorious Nazi guard.

Kippah Suit Settled

PHOENIX — Blockbuster recently agreed to pay $50,000 (US) to an ex-employee in Scottsdale, Ariz., who was fired for wearing a kippah. Under terms of the consent decree with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the video chain also agreed to change language in its personnel policy, and to apologize to Leonard Teplitsky, who was 17 when he filed his complaint two years ago.

Priest Defended...?

PARIS — A group of priests defended their founder, saying he was not anti-Semitic, but rather opposed Jews' "capitalistic views." The defence came after the beatification of Leon Dehon by the Catholic Church was blocked because of his writings. The priests of the Order of Sacre-Coeur defended him in a Belgian magazine. The problem Dehon saw with the Jews, his biographer states, was with their capitalistic economic and social policies, not their "racial" character.

U.S., Israeli Jews Back Pullout, New Poll Says

NEW YORK — Most U.S. Jews and Israelis support the Israeli government's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, a Yeshiva University poll has found.

Some 65 per cent of American Jews support the withdrawal plan, with 21 per cent opposed, according to the YU Poll of Jewish Life and Opinion.

The poll surveyed 1,000 American Jews and 1,000 Israeli Jews on a range of issues, from the war in Iraq to U.S. President George W. Bush and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Among Israeli Jews, 54 per cent support the plan, with 41 per cent opposed. As well, 70 per cent of U.S. Jews and 59 per cent of Israeli Jews think Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is "genuinely interested in peace."

But 58 per cent of U.S. Jews and 80 per cent of Israeli Jews think Abbas must dismantle terrorist groups to jumpstart the peace process, and just 27 per cent of U.S. Jews and 28 per cent of Israeli Jews think he will do so.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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Canadian olim prepare to take the plunge

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

After months of support group meetings and activities for the kids, seven Toronto area families will join 200 other Canadians on July 12 in fulfilling a dream of making aliyah.

With one flight from Toronto and one from New York, two planeloads of olim will arrive simultaneously at Ben-Gurion Airport in Israel.

Throughout the summer, at least four more flights will bring olim to Israel with the help, support and guidance of Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization that charters flights and offers assistance to North Americans who are making aliyah.

This is the first time since Nefesh B'Nefesh began operating three years ago that one of its flights will be leaving from Toronto. In the past, Canadian olim would leave from New York, but this has changed because the number of Canadian olim has continued to climb.

Nicky Halpert, left, and Ruth Sherman pack their lives into boxes as they prepare to make aliyah, while Halpert's son, Kovi, inset, giggles with excitement. [Benji Feldman photos]

This year, the Jewish Agency for Israel's Toronto-based Israel Aliyah Centre expects that 400 Canadians, mostly Torontonians, will move to Israel.

Nicky Halpert and Ruth Sherman are two Canadian olim who are both excited and anxious to make the move. They've been preparing for more than six months using help from Nefesh B'Nefesh and the Aliyah Centre, and by arranging meetings with other new olim.

"The meetings have been ongoing since January as a way to offer the olim some guidance and support to make the transition from one life to another smoother," said Sherman, a mother of four.

The seven families' younger children, who ranged in age from six to 12, met every other Monday with four young Israeli women who came to Canada as teachers to fulfil their national service commitment as an alternative to serving in the army.

"It ended up being a way [for the kids] to learn more about Israeli society and learn about the army. They learned a couple songs, learned a few card games – basically things that other Israeli kids grow up with that our kids might be lacking," Sherman said.

"The idea originally was to do some Hebrew, so they would learn some more conversational Hebrew, play sports and games in Hebrew, but there ended up being way too many kids," Halpert added.

Although finding a teacher that would take on about 20 kids proved to be too difficult, the meetings continued for those who sought support.

"There's strength in numbers," Sherman said. "It helps when you're not the only one going through it."

Continued on page 20

Joseph (Joe) Lebovic (standing)
Wolf (Willy) Lebovic (seated)

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He fought for Israel's honour

From the editor's desk

When we read the pages of history, we tend to forget that the "macro" events of a nation's past were but the forward flows of the decisions of "micro" individuals. The stories of great moments – whether defined for ill or for good – therefore, are also always the stories of great men and women whose uniqueness of character nevertheless houses too, the imperfection of character that are both the flaw and the glory of all human beings.

One such great man was Yaacov Herzog.

Little known, let alone remembered these days, by two generations that have been born after the birth of the State of Israel, Herzog's all-too-short life was lived at the very centre of recent Jewish history. His decisions and indecisions, actions and inactions helped steer the course of that history.

His life's story is masterfully told by Michael Bar-Zohar in the recently published *Yaacov Herzog A Biography* (Halban Publishers Ltd.).

Bar-Zohar is the award-winning biographer of David Ben-Gurion, veteran Israeli author, teacher and former parliamentarian. Like all superior biographers, he simultaneously brings to life essentially two stories: that of his subject and of the momentous times and epochal events that were the backdrop, if also the very nub of his subject's life.

Yaacov Herzog was the younger son of the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi of the State of Israel, Isaac Halevy Herzog. His older sibling was the late Chaim Herzog, the former president of the state. The entire family, it could be said, was involved in helping to steer those events.

Bar-Zohar openly describes the nature of the family's dynamics and its impact upon Herzog's development and ultimate life's work.

Born in Dublin, Herzog lived totally and effusively in two worlds: in the traditions and scholarship of his faith and in the nuances and intrigues of international politics. Both realms infused his soul and left their ineradicable signatures upon his character.

Herzog's "political" life began, as he himself once said, "by chance" in 1946 when he was "initiated into the Haganah to help evaluate international affairs and to take part in intelligence work".

Bar-Zohar captures it all, from well before 1946 when Herzog helped his father rescue Jewish orphans from the slaughtered communities of European Jewry, through his pivotal work for Ben-Gurion and other key leaders of the nascent state, to his career as a diplomat, his breakthrough contacts with the Vatican and his many secret meetings with the late King Hussein and other Arab leaders. The biography is rich in detail.

For Canadians, there is an especially compelling aspect to this biography. For Yaacov Herzog served as Israel's ambassador in Ottawa for two years. Indeed the photo inset is that of the ever-proper Herzog stepping down from the official landau en route to visit the Governor General to present his credentials. The man's uprightness of posture, keenness of focus and pride of purpose are patently evident in this archival snapshot.

It was merely six months after the young ambassador had assumed his post that one of the most famous events in Israel's diplomatic history and in Canadian Jewish communal life occurred.

In January 1961, the renowned and much-revered British historian Arnold Toynbee at Hillel House, no less, at McGill University, reiterated earlier criticisms of the Jewish religion and of the young Jewish state. He said that Judaism was a "fossilized civilization" and, more egregiously, that the Jews of Israel had treated the Palestinians in 1948 the way the Nazis had treated the Jews from 1933 to 1945.

When he heard the slanders, "Herzog was appalled."

"I decided on the spur of the moment," Herzog later wrote to a friend, "to challenge [Toynbee] to a public debate, as I saw no other way to balance the impact, all the more as I couldn't stand the situation in which I have to read and listen to his slander without trying to debate him before public opinion."

Bar-Zohar notes that the established Jewish community in Canada was not pleased with the prospect of the debate, going "so far as to form a delegation… to call on the ambassador at home to dissuade him from the risky adventure." But the ambassador would not be dissuaded.

The debate proceeded. It was electric and electrifying and all observers and listeners agreed that the ambassador bested Toynbee in all respects.

"Herzog's challenge to Toynbee," Bar-Zohar writes, "was a spontaneous reaction straight from the heart. At that moment, he was not a civil servant and government official, but an untitled spokesman of the Jewish people fighting for its honour, which was why he did not seek permission."

The biography of Yaacov Herzog is an important book for anyone interested in learning of the birth pangs – domestic and international – surrounding the creation of the State of Israel. Herzog helped usher the reborn Jewish state into the modern world. Alas, he died far too young, on March 6, 1972, at the age of 50. It was a loss to the entire Jewish world whose reverberations, some say, we feel to this day.

– ***MBD***

SeeJN

EDUCATORS MEET IN NEW YORK: Alumni of the Day School Leadership Training Institute, sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary and Avi Chai, recently gathered for a weekend of professional development and networking in Tenafly, N.J. Alumni originally from Canada, seated, from left, are Lucy Cohen, head of United Synagogue Day School, Toronto; Frances Urman, director, JTS Day School Leadership Training Institute in New York, formerly of Montreal and Ottawa; and Elaine Cohen, assistant director, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, New York, formerly of Montreal. Standing, from left, are Mark Smiley, director of education, Associated Hebrew Day School, Toronto; and Amalia Bilek, principal, Epstein School, Atlanta, formerly of Montreal. [JTS photo]

Israeli venture capitalists meet Canadian investors

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Israel and the province of Ontario took a step toward greater economic co-operation last week as eight Israeli venture capital firms held talks with Canadian investors considering partnerships in high technology investments.

Ephraim Shoham, Israel's trade commissioner for Canada, suggested that as much as $50 million to $100 million in venture capital projects could result from the meetings, which took place at two investment forums in Montreal and Toronto. The forums were sponsored by Israel's economic mission to Canada in association with the law firm of Heenan Blaikie and Senvest Capital.

Shoham arrived at the figure following discussions with forum participants "and based on experiences in other countries."

He said the forums led to 65 one-on-one meetings involving Canadian investors and representatives of the eight Israeli venture capital firms.

The Canadian participants included banks, pension funds, private investment companies and hospital foundations.

Last week's business meetings marked the first time Israeli venture capital firms had come to Canada as a group to promote investments in Israel. Each venture fund maintains a portfolio of start-ups in Israel, and each is looking for investors interested in getting in on the ground floor in a high tech industry, Shoham said.

The anticipated success of the forums marks a bounce back from the depressed state of Israel's high tech industry that followed the Nasdaq tech implosion and the uncertainty created by the Palestinian intifadah. Coupled with Israel's Gaza disengagement and with a memorandum of understanding, signed in April by Premier Dalton McGuinty and Israel's minister of industry and trade, Ehud Olmert, the time is ripe for venture capital partnerships, Shoham said.

Forums led to 65 one-on-one meetings

Venture capitalists invest money in start-up firms and provide managerial and other advice with the goal of mentoring the company until it's ready to launch its product. It's a high-risk endeavour that can offer high rewards when the company can be made widely available in an initial public offering or through an acquisition by a larger firm.

The memorandum of understanding established a joint research and development fund of $2 million to provide seed money to Israeli and Ontario companies in the early stages of product development.

Shoham said Israeli firms have been active in venture capital since the late 1980s and Israel remains an attractive locale for high tech investments.

Speaker after speaker at the Toronto forum highlighted Israel's high tech credentials. Israeli companies have developed products that have become part of daily life, and many high profile American technology companies have important branches there.

Israeli firms are responsible for developing the technology that goes into such items as Pentium MMX and Centrino chips, voice mail, cable modems, call centres, chips in cellphones, computerized customer management, video conferencing, voice over Internet and instant messaging.

Israel is also a leader in bio-pharma and medical devices. One company, Given Imaging, designed a pill camera that, when swallowed, allows physicians to see a patients' internal organs.

Israel trails only Canada in the number of foreign listings on the Nasdaq stock exchange, and Israel boasts more engineers per capita than any other country. As well, at 4.8 per cent of GDP, Israeli has the highest rate of R & D investment in the world.

Joseph Cordiano, Ontario's minister of economic development and trade, told the forum that Ontario and Israel share a common vision of economic development that includes trade, technological innovation, investment in R & D, and promoting innovation clusters that take advantage of seemingly disparate knowledge and skills.

The memorandum of understanding "recognizes our shared interest in encouraging innovation and economic growth… as well as acknowledging and encouraging our growing trade relationship," Cordiano said.

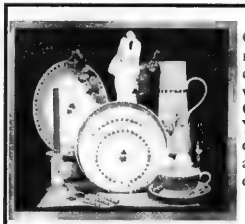
He recounted the cultural and business ties shared by Israel and Ontario, and added, "I want to see even more collaboration and partnership between Ontario and Israel. I believe for all of us, greater prosperity lies in the free flow of trade investment ideas and capital."

Later, in a brief discussion with conference participants, Cordiano referred to the Medical and Related Sciences (MaRS) Discovery District – a not–for–profit company founded by leaders of Canada's academic, business, and scientific communities – as "the jewel in the crown" that will help Ontario create the infrastructure to permit the private sector and scientists to collaborate in bringing innovative products to market.

Cordiano told *The CJN* that Israel "would be a fine fit" for projects developed through MaRS.

In 2002, two-way trade between Canada and Israel totaled nearly $1 billion, with 60 per cent of that involving Ontario.

The minister noted that trade between the two countries has increased 100 per cent since Canada and Israel signed a Free Trade agreement in 1997, eliminating almost all tariffs on manufactured products.



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Alumni of Zimbabwe school hold reunion in Toronto

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

As Zimbabwe lies in disarray with a fast-sinking economy and people leaving daily, one school continues providing its pupils with a Jewish education, as it has since its opening in 1961.

The Sharon School in Harare was celebrated in Toronto recently with an erev Shavuot reunion of former pupils, parents and principal, Sue Holmes, at the home of a former student, Mark Friedlander.

Excited to have had the opportunity to meet up with all these "old faces" during her brief Toronto visit, Holmes said more than 50 people had a "heartwarming and fabulous time."

Organized by Janice Benatar, who Holmes taught when she was in Grade 3 (some two or three decades ago), the reunion "had the personal touch," according to the newly retired principal, a devout Christian who continues to teach Jewish studies three days a week and runs all the Shabbat and yom tov programs for the 205 elementary school children, 18 of which are Jewish, currently enrolled in Sharon School.

The grown-up Sharon pupils were also treated to a trip down memory lane by Holmes, who had brought a Powerpoint presentation of the school as it is today. This presentation, put together by one of her current Grade 7 students, saw the now grown-up men and women remarking, "Look how that tree has grown, I remember that..."

The Sharon School in Harare was celebrated in Toronto with a recent erev Shavuot reunion of former pupils and parents.

Holmes said that it was a perfect chance for everyone to "see one another, catch up and reminisce about our very special little school in Zimbabwe."

Writer sheds light on Mideast reporting

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

There are five characters in this journalism story – the "parachutist," the "barman," the analyst, news agencies and the fixer – and all help mould news on the Middle East for the enjoyment of viewers and readers.

So says Matthew Kalman, senior correspondent from Jerusalem for *Time Magazine,* the *London Daily Mail* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among others. And earlier this month, he gave his audience at Holy Blossom Temple a description of each character, explaining their roles in reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Taken straight from the airport to the site of the story, the "parachutist" usually "hasn't the faintest idea what's going on," Kalman said.

These reporters are "just dropped into a story," arriving right in the middle of events.

For example, Kalman said, when CNN reporter Christiane Amanpour was covering the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, she spent most of her live broadcast answering, "I don't know" or making off-the mark guesses in response to anchors' questions.

In another instance, while on a press bus once, Kalman heard a fellow journalist telling some "parachutists" that the road the bus was on – Route 60 coming out of east Jerusalem – was known as "Sterile Road," because it's forbidden to Palestinian vehicles.

Knowing this to be a lie, Kalman watched as three Palestinian vehicles overtook the bus. He was waiting for the reporter to correct himself, but he didn't.

The journalist telling that story was the character Kalman referred to as "barman," because he spent more time at bars than out in the field, and thus had to rely on second-hand information from others.

While noting that in news reporting, analysis is essential, Kalman said that in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, analysts are problematic.

Using CNN analysts as an example, Kalman said that on the Israeli side, independent ones are usually used to provide context, while on the Palestinian side, politicians who are "players in the game," are, more often than not, the ones used as analysts.

In all cases, the merit of a story is inevitably decided on by a news agency whose "word is the word of God," Kalman said.

If an agency reports on an incident, it's considered to have happened. If not, it didn't. "Both what they do and don't report is crucial," he added.

All news outlets use the agencies as a measure for what is and isn't newsworthy, he said.

Continued on page 14

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Charity watchdog to weed out 'bad apples'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Tzedakah is one of the most important mitzvot in Jewish life. And Toronto, asserts Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah and secretary of the Vaad Harabonim, is known as a community that wants to help those in need.

But while most charity collectors are honest and honourable, there are unfortunately "a few bad apples," said Rabbi Tradburks and Tzvi Richman, chair of the newly formed Toronto Vaad Hatzdokah. Some exaggerate or even outright lie about the cause they are collecting for. They might be collecting for a perfectly genuine cause, but don't send the money where it is supposed to go.

To help donors determine if a cause is genuine or worthy, the Toronto Vaad Hatzdokah, with the encouragement and sponsorship of the Vaad Harabonim, has designed a certificate that all *meshulachim*, (charity collectors) must carry. The certificate is laminated so that the signature can't be tampered with, said Rabbi Tradburks, includes the collector's photograph and is issued for only one to four weeks at a time.

People who are approached to give money should demand to see this certificate, and if the collector doesn't have it, or if it is not current, they should not respond to the appeal.

Most of the door-to-door charity collectors come from Israel, Richman said. The Vaad Hatzdokah put ads in Israeli newspapers, inviting applications for certification. When the application reaches the organization, the credentials are checked carefully. "We contact people we know in Israel, or other honourable people, and make discreet inquiries. They have the reputation of being honest, so we can trust their judgment," said Richman.

They also check the institution that the collector says he is representing to ensure that it is a real institution and that the collector is authorized to represent it.

If the person is collecting for someone with a medical problem, Richman said, he calls the hospitals involved to make sure the story is correct.

If the collector fails to apply for certification from abroad, he can register once he reaches Toronto, but he has to wait until his credentials are confirmed before the certificate is issued and he can begin his efforts.

The Vaad Hatzdokah has also established an apartment where the collectors can stay during their time in Toronto. While not luxurious, Richman said, it is comfortable, and the cost is reasonable: $20 a night or $25 including a meal. "We aren't trying to make a profit," he said. "We just need to cover our costs, such as the janitor and the laundry."

Toronto is not the only city that has an organization such as Vaad Hatzdokah. There are between 18 and 20 in the United States and England, including Teaneck, N.J., Chicago, Baltimore and London, England. "We are in the process of forming an association of all the groups," Richman said.

Vaad Hatzdokah's board consists of Kurt Rothschild, Larry Zeifman, Josh Frankel, Joe Bitton, Bernie Heitner and Phil and Jeremy Weitz. "We work hand in hand with the Vaad Harabonim, setting policy, or dealing with tragedies," Richman said.

To contact the Toronto Vaad Hatzdokah, call 416-913-1774 or e-mail torontovaadhatzdokah@hotmail.com.

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Disengagement and the Diaspora

In a matter of weeks, the government of Israel will undertake what is probably the most painful policy initiative – apart from a declaration of war – that any of the country's prior governments has had to implement in the state's 57-year history: the evacuation and relocation of the Jews in Gaza and four West Bank communities.

The individual and collective anguish of the impending evacuation can be felt throughout the country. The eviction and compensation laws have been passed by the Knesset, upheld by the Supreme Court, and the army stands at the ready to execute the orders to forcibly evict any families refusing to leave voluntarily. Although many, if not most, Gaza Jews have indicated they will leave of their own volition, the atmosphere is tense and growing more tense each day as opponents of disengagement step up their campaign of disruption and violent protest.

How the protesters hope to derail the process is not clear. Their strategy appears to be to cause maximum mayhem and hope the Knesset will reverse itself or at least suspend disengagement. If successful, their strategy has dangerous implications for the long-term viability of the country's democratic institutions. But one can understand, if not condone, agitated and anxious Israelis acting this way against their own government.

One cannot understand, however, let alone condone, anxious Jews of the Diaspora actively taking steps to undermine the legitimate authority of the duly-elected government of Israel. And yet, that is the effect, if not the expressed purpose, of a campaign recently announced by some of our fellow Diaspora Jews as typified by an advocacy pamphlet that was inserted in last week's issue of *The CJN* titled "Deconstructing the Disengagement."

The pamphlet is in the form of a restatement of "myths and facts" concerning disengagement. This editorial does not relate to or respond to the 10 specific items contained in the pamphlet except to broadly observe that they are framed in a self-serving, disingenuous and even deceptive way. It is not the merits of the "myths and facts" that are at issue, for they are really a statement of opinion. Reasonable people, as long as they are acting in good faith, will be entitled to differences of opinion.

And we certainly do not question the "right and even the moral obligation of every Jew," as the pamphlet states, to question the course of the actions of the government of Israel. But we do question the true end to which the pamphleteers are trying to steer us. Is it to recruit Diaspora Jews to support disruption and protest by Israeli Jews? If so, this is most inappropriate. And why do the pamphleteers not answer the one ultimate and irremovable question that lies at the heart of the disengagement policy? Irrespective of the accurate demographic trends between Israelis and Palestinians that the pamphleteers openly challenge, how should Israel deal with the Palestinians of Gaza without disengagement? Shall they all become Israeli citizens?

The status quo can no longer remain. This is not a matter of fiat by the international community. It is a matter of painful reality, of urgent planning by the Israeli government today to ensure its Jewish future tomorrow.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Dry Bones

WITH A NEW ANTI-AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN IRAN
HAVING U.S. TROOPS ACROSS THE BORDER IN IRAQ COULD BE A REALLY GOOD THING.
OR MAYBE A SERIOUSLY BAD THING.

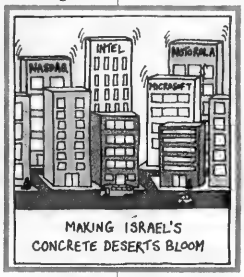
Editorial Advisory Board: **Isaac Apter, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Daniel Heid, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Keith Landy, Andrea Most, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Michael Stroh, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks**

Jewish refugees from Arab lands

As the founding chairman of the Ontario region's and the national committees for Jews from Arab Lands of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and as a founding member of the World Organizations for Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC), with former speaker of the Knesset, Mordechai Ben Porat, I was delighted to see that the Canadian government, represented by our prime minister, as well as the international Jewish community, represented by a new entity, Justice for Jews from Arab Countries, clearly recognize the claims of the Jewish refugees from Arab countries and seem to be prepared to do something about it ("Canadian Jews to join campaign for refugees from Arab lands," *CJN*, June 16).

It is sad, however, that this important issue lingered unheeded by our government, by the international Jewish community, by the State of Israel and by "the powers that be" at Canadian Jewish Congress for some 30 years.

Despite resolutions, sparked by the committees that I headed and passed at several national plenary sessions of the CJC, despite public lectures by spokespersons for WOJAC, both in Toronto and Montreal, despite countless meetings, that I had with a succession of federal ministers, and despite articles in your newspaper, nothing whatsoever was done over these three decades to advance the cause of our refugees, by any members of our government or the Canadian and international Jewish communities. By default, the only refugees recognized were those Arabs who left what was Palestine and then Israel, plus their children and grandchildren who have always lived in the inhospitable Arab countries in squalid camps. These countries meant to use them as pawns in the fight by the Arabs against the Jewish state.



Now, perhaps, with Canada recognizing this issue and being the "gavel" of the multilateral committee on refugees from the Middle East and a meaningful intervention from Jews across the world, the tragic deprivation of human rights, the torture and the dispossession of Jews who lived in Arab countries will finally be addressed in a meaningful way.

Judy Feld Carr
Toronto

* * *

March of the Living 'flaws'

This is in response to Rabbi Dow Marmur's column of June 16 headlined "March distorts Poland's image." Clearly, no program is perfect, but to describe the matters raised by Rabbi Marmur as "flaws" is inaccurate. They are more precisely important issues that can be addressed through proper preparation and planning, and that is what we do. Our participants must commit to many hours of intensive study and discussion of the very issues raised by Rabbi Marmur, as well as many which he didn't raise. In this way, we minimize if not eliminate the potential negatives, so that the overall effect of the March is that it, as he puts it, "strengthens the participants' Jewish identity. The experience has brought many of them closer to Judaism and the Jewish people." Rabbi Marmur should take comfort from the fact that the Canadian March of the Living is, as he suggests it should, "showing the way."

Moishe Kesten
Chair, Toronto March of the Living 2005

* * *

Yiddish and Hebrew names

In the column "What's in a name?" by Rabbi Leigh Lerner (*CJN*, June 2), he implied, or perhaps I inferred, that Yiddish names are of lesser significance than Hebrew names: "We should all become conscious of our Hebrew names, not simply our Yiddish ones."

I immediately thought of the zaide (patriarch) of Hebrew/Yiddish literature, Sholom Jacob Abromowitsch. After 10 years of writing in Hebrew, he felt the need to write in the language of the Jews with whom he was most acquainted – the Jews of eastern Europe. Accordingly, he adopted the pen name "Mendele Moykher Sforim" (Mendele the Bookseller). While he continued to write in Hebrew, he began to write regularly in Yiddish.

This is only one example of a Yiddish name playing a significant role in the annals of Yiddish/Hebrew literary history.

Sidney Z. Handel
Regina, Sask.

* * *

A reader's congratulations

I'm sure that your readers, like myself, share and *shep naches* that *The CJN* has been named the best overall specialty newspaper for 2004 by the Quebec Community Newspapers Association.

This great news item on the front page ("*CJN* wins award," June 16) is worth repeating. In conferring the award, the QCNA said: "Apart from filling a niche in its community, this is a great newspaper. The news and features are top rate and the newspaper is full of interesting and well-written opinions. A great package."

It certainly is a great weekly welcome package! Heartiest congratulations and mazel tov to the entire staff!

Monty Mazin
Toronto

* * *

A reader's criticism

I'll go one step further than your Toronto letter writer Henry Alkin: why, in the first place, must you print the cost of Philip Green's son's bar mitzvah, and Green's own birthday party ("Ostentation personified," letter, June 9)?

Are you a serious paper or a Jewish version of the *National Enquirer*?

Richard Samuelson
Westmount, Que.

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Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

info@cjnews.com

On the 35th anniversary of the passing of Cecil Roth

By SHELOMO ALFASSA

As one of the greatest Jewish historians of the 20th century, Cecil Roth was much more inclined to read a stack of books, going through them at a voracious rate, than do anything else while growing up.

Roth's literary idol was Edward Gibbon, the famed 18th-century historian of world renown. Roth once said, "I would gladly give up all the work I have done in return for the ability to produce one paragraph, or even one sentence, in the style of Edward Gibbon." But Roth developed his own brilliant style, which remains a shining example of prose written by a man who felt enthusiastically and emotionally linked to his subject matter.

His style stood out on its own, one that is, sadly, rarely found in modern non-fiction prose. Many in the 19th and early 20th centuries valued non-fiction works, much the same as fictional prose is today regarded in contemporary society. It was a period when readers and writers valued wit and clarity of expression. Gentle mentions of current events would be sewn into the work for comparisons without taking away from the content or purpose, but yet adding a special intellectual flair to the subject matter.

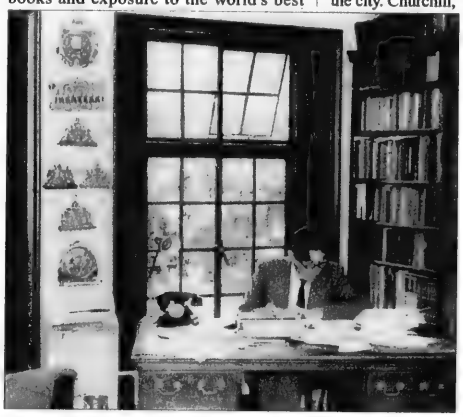
Roth was raised in England in a family that valued British proper manners and had an intense commitment to Jewish nationalism. Although the Roth family was descended from Reb Y.T. Roth of Poland, there existed a family tradition that they were descendant from Yossef Karo, the Sephardi author of the Shulchan Aruch, the code of Jewish Law. Roth, an observant Jew his whole life, adopted the Sephardi *minhag,* which he had learned in Florence, Italy.

He served in World War I in France and later would study at Merton College. As an observant Jew, Roth helped convince Oxford University, which was not overly receptive to matters regarding Jews, to allow Jewish students to take exams on Sundays instead of Saturdays. These Jews had to be sequestered so that they could not possibly learn what was on the exams, so many of them spent the time at the Roth home, a place popular among the students.

Until 1939, Roth had no permanent academic position and was thus free to travel the world, which he did extensively, writing at his leisure. He travelled to multiple continents, studying Jewish populations and becoming a desired visitor by many communities that hosted him. During this period, he developed quite a reputation as well as friendships that would last his lifetime.

In London, the Roth family played host to a who's who of Jewish and international society – personalities such as Angelo Sacerdoti, chief rabbi of Rome; Rabbi David Prato, chief rabbi of Alexandria; Nahum Goldmann, who would become the president of the World Zionist Organization; and Ehud Ben-Yehuda, who continued the pioneering work of his father Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (father of modern Hebrew language).

A historian with seven decades of experience, intimate with the rarest of Jewish books and exposure to the world's best minds, Roth was able to locate some of the most unique particulars of history. One of these involves Austria's Archduke Ferdinand. Roth said that before he was assassinated in an event that was said to have triggered World War I, Austria's archduke was travelling with his wife in Sarajevo on the way to the National Museum to view the Sarajevo Haggadah, a collection of Jewish scriptures written around 1314 in Spain and one of the most valuable books in the world.



Cecil Roth is at his desk in his home office in Oxford, circa 1940. The menorahs on the wall are now part of the Beth Tzedec Museum Collection.

Long before Hitler's name was commonplace in the newspapers of the world, Roth became concerned about the rising tide of Nazism in Germany, Which he felt would not retreat quickly. As early as 1933, Roth penned a letter of protest to the *London Times* against Hitler's declaration that he would boycott Jewish establishments. Roth wrote numerous articles and also developed books such as *The Jewish Contribution to Civilization,* which was written specifically because it had the potential to show the Germans and the world how the Jews have contributed greatly to society, and possibly have the side effect of mitigating maltreatment against the Jews. Many years after World War II, it was told that Roth obtained German documents – the plans to occupy London – plans that listed names and addresses of Jews. He was shocked to learn it was he who was at the top of the list, and that he would have been the first captured by the Nazis.

Cecil's tireless advocacy for the Jewish people is apparent in the remarkable story of the keys of Florence, which his wife told long after his death.

Upon the liberation of Florence, then-British prime minister Winston Churchill's office telephoned Roth who was in possession of the original and ancient keys to the city. Churchill, desiring to make a great impression upon his arrival in Florence as a victor, wanted to know if Roth, a fellow Brit, would allow him to return the keys during a ceremony with the mayor of Florence. Roth had a "shocked" reaction to this curious request. He told the office candidly: "Please tender my sincerest respects to Mr. Churchill... I realize the keys should be returned to Florence, and I have made arrangements that the keys will later go back to the city of their origin, but only when the time will be ripe. As things stand, I do not as yet feel disposed to give such a gift to a people who until so recently tolerated the anti-Semitic regime under which so many of my dear friends were liquidated."

Cecil Roth, circa 1935

Roth wrote on topics that included Italian Jewry, Sephardi experiences and important Jewish figures, and was an authority on both the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish art. He was a professor at Oxford from 1939 to 1964, and was a visiting professor at the New York schools, Yeshiva University and Queens College, splitting his time in later years between New York and Jerusalem. Roth became the mentor and teacher to many of the great Jewish scholars of the 20th century. His students included Haham Gaon, subsequently the *Haham* of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation of London, the *Haham* of the World Sephardic Federation, and later professor of Sephardi studies at Yeshiva University.

In May 2005, Joseph Roth, Cecil's nephew, issued a new book, a collection of Roth's papers titled *Opportunities That Pass*. The book is a fabulous tribute to the gentle scholar, a passionate educator who touched so many.

In it, a poignant story is told by Joseph Roth about a discovery he made in his uncle's personal archives – a tiny white book with thin paper. The book, in Russian, turned out to be a translation of his uncle's *History of the Jews*. Researching where the book came from, Joseph found that a Russian émigré to Jerusalem had given it to his uncle's wife, thanking her for all of the knowledge he had gained reading it and rereading it. The small volume filled with the history of the Jewish people changed his life; he later moved to Israel and eventually became a lecturer at the Haifa Technion.

No one knows who printed the small pocket-sized volumes that covered Jewish history from ancient times to 1967. It is known that many were produced, and a report out of Russia once told how police went house to house to confiscate them. Roth would have been proud to know his work became a springboard back to Judaism for countless persons living under the tyranny of Russia.

He never lived to see his final and most significant project, the development of the massive Encyclopedia Judaica of which he was the editor. The first volume went to print the day after he passed away.

At age 71, on June 21, 1970, Roth died, leaving a legacy of more than 700 published papers, articles and books. He was buried in the Sanhedria Cemetery in Jerusalem.

Today, Roth's books are readily available in almost every library in the world, where they continue to educate and inspire a new generation.

In addition to being a prolific writer and teacher, Roth collected objects of Jewish historical interest from an early age. In the mid 1960's, when he retired to Israel, Beth Tzedec Congregation acquired his extensive and world-renowned collection of Judaica. The University of Leeds, England, received his books and manuscripts.

Today, the Cecil Roth Collection of ceremonial Judaica forms the core of the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum. Part of the collection is now on view in the museum. Please call the museum curator, Dorion Liebgott, 416-781-3514, ext. 32, for more information.

Shelomo Alfassa is executive director of the International Society for Sephardic Progress. www.isfsp.org.

Opinions

Another long, hot summer?

Israel's planned departure from Gaza later this summer is providing pollsters and pundits from across the political spectrum with an abundance of copy and commentary.

But scratch the surface and you'll find relatively little substance to many of the analyses that are being touted as though they carry the imprimatur of thoughtful objectivity. In reality, the only agreement there seems to be is that there is no agreement – which is either disturbing or encouraging, depending on your perspective.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

For the doomsday set, predictions of a "third intifadah" – or merely a continuation of the second uprising – are widespread. According to this scenario, there is a high likelihood that the peace process, in whatever form it assumes, will stall after disengagement from Gaza is completed. Such an eventuality will likely fuel the unmet expectations of a majority of Palestinians and ignite fresh waves of suicide bombings that will demand a strong Israeli response. Blood will again flow, the blame game will again begin, and we might be back to the turmoil of just a few short years ago.

An alternative outcome is that the pullout from Gaza will be successful – with avoidance of civil strife from among the settlers and prevention of any major confrontations between Israelis and Palestinians. With this as a precursor, Israelis might expect that real advances be made toward the permanent cessation of hostilities and a more comprehensive resolution of the conflict. Palestinians, on the other hand, might look to substantive improvements in their living conditions, re-investment in their economy and some realization of statehood.

However, within the cauldron of Arab-Israeli relationships, and given the complexity of the evolving political landscapes on both sides, the second projection, even through the lens of an eternal optimist, would seem to be a long shot.

What we are therefore left with is the ominous spectre of the first scenario – or perhaps a less extreme version of it. Or there may be yet a further option, which is founded on the containment of violence while perceived gains on each side are consolidated.

Within the Israeli context, much will depend on whether Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is able to maintain his power base and how he plans to advance a peace initiative after the Gaza withdrawal. Even more will depend on PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who will need to control Palestinian extremists – such as Hamas – and reinforce his commitment to any reasonable peace negotiations that might emerge.

Volatility of temperament as much as of politics is a shared characteristic of Israelis and Palestinians, making predictability, even in the most ordinary of conditions, an inexact and exasperating construct. And as we approach yet another long, hot summer in the Middle East, conditions are anything but ordinary.

Uplifting words from an unlikely source

Every so often, for my own encouragement, I need to be inspired by the mysterious journeys undertaken by written words. Indeed, just a couple of weeks back, I was reminded of how one's own ideas and feelings, given concrete expression, can find their way into the hearts and minds of the most unexpected people.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

It was on the way over to the Machane Yehuda food market that I spotted Michael (not his real name) out of the corner of my eye as he neared the densely packed laneway to forage for his daily bread. The hour was late, not long before closing time, and the stall owners had begun setting out their over-ripe fruits and vegetables for the city's poor. Even at a distance, Michael's familiar hurried and harried gait, as though in relentless flight from some invisible demon, was unmistakable.

American by birth, Michael is one of the many homeless individuals who have come to populate the country's streets in increasing numbers in recent years. He can often be seen drifting aimlessly about our neighbourhood from one vacant perch to another, seated in a corner of the public park under a tree, or stretched out asleep on a bench. He owns but a single suit of clothing, which he refreshes with more recent acquisitions fished out of municipal refuse bins. And though our paths have crossed numerous times, our interchanges had, up until then at least, been limited to the occasional "Hello."

Now, catching sight of me across the street, he rushed over, positioning himself squarely and awkwardly in my path. I was forced to come to an abrupt halt.

"Hi there! Remember me?" he blurted out with effervescent enthusiasm.

"Sure," I said, somewhat unnerved by the sudden attention paid me by this near stranger.

"I just wanted to let you know," he went on, "that I saw you in print the other day. The pieče you wrote was absolutely wonderful!"

I was struck dumb. How in the world, I mused, could this indigent nomad of Jerusalem have permitted himself the extravagance of a foreign newspaper? And what were the chances it would be the *Canadian Jewish News*?

Then recalling that a local Christian charitable organization had extended him occasional assistance in his times of greatest need, I drew the most obvious conclusion. "Oh, you mean the one about Zechariah?" On account of its prophetic overtones, that particular column (Feb. 10, 2005) attracted interest in certain Christian Zionist circles. Perhaps they'd circulated it.

"No," Michael said, shaking his head. "No, it had nothing at all to do with Zechariah. I never read that one. I was referring to the piece on Auschwitz, about the old man and the candle [March 10, 2005]. I like to peruse [sic] the garbage bins and one morning, staring right up at me from down in the dark interior of a big one in the centre of town, from underneath a heap of trash, was your face. I recognized it right away! So I fetched it out, seated myself on the sidewalk and read it."

A few seconds of silence followed before he spoke again. "It was so very sad… and so moving. I actually cried you know."

Tears suddenly welled up in the eyes of this rootless, restless and homeless drifter who lives so far away and apart from the world and realities of Canada. The odyssey undertaken by my words – travelling across oceans and seas, only to find their way by return voyage to my own little corner of Jerusalem – was just short of amazing.

As I stood there stock-still, wondering in silence at this startling coincidence, Michael suddenly, and without warning, turned and scampered off. Just like that! The invisible demon had picked up his scent and was nipping at his heels.

But then, a few short paces away, as though feeling the urgent need to tend to some irksome, unfinished business prior to making his getaway, he mustered the necessary courage to scurry back.

Taking me into his embrace with outstretched arms, he pulled me tightly to his breast and whispered with heartfelt tenderness: "Please keep writing! It's so very, very important that you do so. More than you probably think."

Culiner@netvision.net.il.

Strategic lessons from the boycott fight

At the end of April, the governing council of Britain's Association of University Teachers, with more than 40,000 members, voted to boycott two of Israel's major universities – Bar-Ilan and Haifa. This was the culmination of a three-year campaign by a small group of obsessed and radical anti-Israel activists and the broader demonization of Israel that is prevalent in England, particularly on university campuses. After an initial effort to boycott all Israeli universities bogged down, and in what was to be the first stage of a process, Bar-Ilan and Haifa were singled out as being the most vulnerable.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

But this transparent strategy failed, Bar-Ilan and Haifa universities proved to be highly resilient, and a massive campaign reversed the outcome in less than six weeks. As a result, a new vote was called, and the boycott was rescinded by a large majority of the AUT council, without conditions. In the process, its promoters were widely ridiculed, with pictures of one of them, Susan Blackwell (a professor of English of little note at the University of Birmingham), wrapped in a Palestinian flag providing the dominant theme.

This was an important and rare victory in the political war designed to undermine the legitimacy of Israel, and its details, as well as its lessons, deserve careful attention.

First, the implications of this academic boycott were recognized – this was not a minor incident that would soon "blow over," but rather it was part of a concerted strategy and required a major effort to reverse the outcome. It was important to exact a high cost from those who supported the boycott, both actively and passively, in order to deter similar efforts in the future. In the process, the opponents threatened lawsuits against any academic engaging in a boycott, and were very active in writing letters and op-ed articles. For once, Israel's attackers, who have had the public relations arena largely to themselves for decades, were placed on the defensive.

This mobilization also highlighted the major ethical implications of the effort to violate free speech in pursuit of an ideological agenda. Bar-Ilan University's campaign for academic freedom emphasized that the open exchange of ideas and search for knowledge – without political, religious, or other boundaries – has been a central pillar of civilized society for centuries. The violation of this core principle in the pursuit of the anti-Israel obsession on many college campuses was correctly understood to be a danger that went far beyond the threat to Israel.

At the same time, it was also necessary to defeat efforts to justify an academic boycott by calling Israel the new "apartheid state," similar to South Africa, where various sanctions were employed. Indeed, the "apartheid" strategy against Israel, including the use of boycotts, was proclaimed in public at the UN's conference against racism, held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001. This orgy of hatred was the result of the combined efforts of many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN groups that exploit human rights and humanitarian claims to promote the destruction of Israel.

The Durban agenda – created by NGOs funded by the Ford Foundation, the governments of Canada (through CIDA) and Europe, and other sources – continues to promote a variety of anti-Israel boycotts. In the process, the heads of Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Christian Aid, etc., use their money and media access to paint highly distorted images of Israeli "human rights violations," and to promote boycotts. However, by directly confronting this great lie of Israel as a "racist state," rational people without an ideological chip on their shoulders were able to recognize the inherent immorality of this claim.

The success of this two-track strategy – combining the emphasis on academic freedom and the rejection of efforts to demonize Israel – is an important lesson for future battles in this deadly political war. Despite the difficult conditions, we have shown the ability to mobilize massively and quickly to defeat such efforts. Indeed, this political victory is no less important than any victory on the military battlefield.

The Kirshner File

Germany grapples with the radical right

Less than a week before the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe was officially opened in Berlin early last month, a court in Munich sentenced Martin Wiese, a 23-year-old neo-Nazi, to seven years in prison for his role in a botched plot to bomb a new Jewish community centre in that Bavarian city.

Sheldon Kirshner in Berlin

Wiese, the ringleader of Southern Comrades, an obscure paramilitary group dedicated to overthrowing German democracy and replacing it with a Nazi-style dictatorship, intended to destroy the complex on Nov. 9, 2003, the 65th anniversary of Kristallnacht, during which thousands of Jewish businesses and synagogues were burned, 100 Jews killed and thousands more sent to concentration camps.

Arrested before he and his accomplices could carry out their plan, Wiese was a typical right-wing extremist, young and poorly educated. He reminded me of the mainly 20something neo-Nazis that I randomly interviewed in Berlin on May 8, the 60th anniversary of the Allied victory in World War II. Barred from marching past the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and the Brandenburg Gate, they were confined by the police to a fenced-in area near a major subway station.

At least half the neo-Nazis I approached categorically refused to speak. The ones who deigned to answer my questions were self-confident and assured. They expressed a certain nostalgia for the Third Reich. They talked about resurrecting Germany's pre-war borders. They voiced opposition to immigration and asylum seekers. They professed admiration for the segregationist policies of the old South Africa. They denounced the German government as undemocratic. They described Germany's defeat in 1945 not as a day of liberation from Nazi tyranny but as one of its blackest moments.

My interviews with them left me with the distinct impression that, though relatively small in numbers, neo-Nazis in Germany are extremely ideological and dedicated, and will risk public opprobrium and imprisonment in the interests of propagating their ideas.

There are some 170 radical right-wing organizations and associations in Germany today, with a membership of about 50,000 in a population of 83 million. Of these, upward of 3,000 are outright neo-Nazis, many from the eastern part of the country, where unemployment levels run high. They disseminate their views through publications, the Internet, nation-wide rallies and marches and pro-Nazi rock bands.

The philosophy they espouse is fixed by the notion that ethnic affiliation with a nation or race determines the value of a person. They reject the universal principle of equality, as specified in Germany's Basic Law. They call for an authoritarian political regime in which the state and the people join together in a *volksgemeinschaft*, Nazi terminology for a national community based on shared racial characteristics. They maintain that Germans are superior and must be protected from racially inferior foreigners and Jews.

And as in the Wiese case, they are addicted to violence. Last year, more than 10,000 criminal offences, including the display of Nazi symbols and the distribution of anti-Jewish materials, were classified as extreme right-wing motivated crimes.

The number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in 2004 rose to 1,346, up from 1,226 in 2003. Included in that figure were cemetery desecrations, such as an attack last summer on a Jewish cemetery in Dusseldorf during which 45 gravestones were vandalized. Figures for 2005 are not yet available, but consider this: A vandal scratched a swastika into one of the 2,711 slabs of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe within hours of its opening.

Paul Spiegel

In general, visible minorities, ranging from Turks to Vietnamese, are the chief victims of neo-Nazi violence, noted Georgios Tsapanos, a spokesperson for the federal ministry of the interior in Berlin.

With the advent of German reunification in 1990, there was an upsurge of racially-motivated violent crimes.

In 1991, neo-Nazi skinheads armed with clubs, rocks and Molotov cocktails attacked a building in Hoyerswerda housing asylum seekers. A year later, skinheads in Rostock torched a hostel where gypsies and Vietnamese guest workers lived.

Attacks on foreigners peaked in September 1992, when 536 incidents were recorded. In 1993, skinheads firebombed houses in Moln and Sollingen, killing a total of eight Turks.

And the list goes on.

The most important far-right political parties in Germany are the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands (National Democratic Party of Germany), the Deutsche Volksunion (German People's Union), or DVU, and Die Republikaner (The Republicans). None has managed to send representatives to the Bundestag, the federal parliament. But the National Democratic Party (NDP) has 12 seats in the state of Saxony, won in last year's regional election. The DVU holds six seats in Brandenburg and one in Bremen. The Republicans have been shut out of office for some years now.

The NDP was founded in 1964. Its membership stands at 5,000. For several years, the NDP's undisputed leader was Adolf von Thadden, who died in 1996. Forging impressive gains in the late 1960s, he was dubbed the "new fuhrer." In 2002, a Cologne daily newspaper claimed, in a sensational scoop, that he had been a British intelligence agent.

Of late, the NDP has been led by Udo Voigt, who raised eyebrows last year by praising Adolf Hitler as a "great German statesman" and branding contemporary Germany as an "illegitimate system."

In an interview, Tsapanos, of the interior ministry, described the NDP as thoroughly neo-Nazi. "It is racist and talks about German blood. It idealizes the Nazi party. And at closed-door rallies, they say Jews don't belong in Germany. The NDP, in public, has learned to cover up its anti-Semitism with anti-Zionism. But anti-Semitism is a cornerstone of its ideology."

Last January, 12 NDPers in Saxony's parliament walked out in protest after a moment of silence was declared to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Shortly afterward, a court in Berlin convicted Claus Cremer, the deputy chair of the NDP in North Rhine-Westphalia, of incitement. Cremer was accused of taking a passage of the Talmud out of context by insinuating that Judaism endorses child abuse.

Germany has attempted to ban the NDP, but it has not succeeded for a variety of technical reasons.

The DVU, with 11,500 members, was established in 1987. A report issued by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution says the DVU "places special emphasis on xenophobia, anti-Semitism (and) anti-Americanism."

DVU leader Gerhard Frey has had links with Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, who was recently deported to Germany from Canada. Frey is also editor of the *National-Zeitung*, which has the largest circulation of any extreme right-wing publication in Germany. It has reportedly published articles condemning German restitution payments to Holocaust survivors and asserting that Jews are disproportionately represented in politics, the economy and the media.

Martin Wiese

The Republicans, under the leadership of Rolf Schlierer, have a membership of approximately 8,000, and were founded in 1983. Like the NDP and DVU, they oppose the political status quo and dabble to varying degrees in xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

Tsapanos believes these parties theoretically stand a chance of winning seats in the Bundestag, since they possibly command the allegiance of about 15 per cent of the electorate.

To win more than five per cent of the vote and thus qualify for a Bundestag seat, however, they would have to elect charismatic leaders and convince voters the current political system is profoundly ineffectual. " No one knows whether these conditions can be met," noted Tsapanos.

Micha Brumlik, a Frankfurt professor who monitors the right-wing scene in Germany, agrees with Tsapanos that parties such as the NDP could break through the five per cent threshold by softening their platforms.

"If the NDP moderated its views, dropped its obsession with the Holocaust and turned more to the problems of the present, it would have a better chance for national representation," Brumlik said.

One of the gurus of the far right, NDP strategist Horst Mahler, was once a member of the far-left Red Army Faction. Nearly six months ago, he was sentenced to nine months in prison for handing out leaflets that said hatred of Jews is an "unmistakable sign of solid mental health."

The German government claims it is doing its best to watch and combat right-wing extremists. But the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Paul Spiegel, says Germany can do better.

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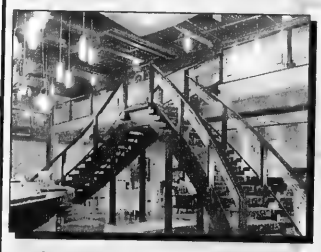

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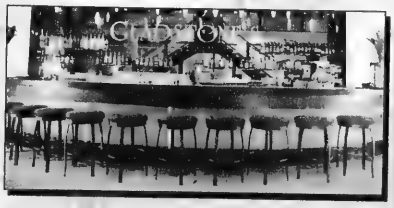

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Jewish Toronto

Toronto doctor buoyed by Qatar conference

Co-chair of UJA Federation's Medical Services Division addresses Arab conference

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

Dr. Michael Gordon, vice-president of medical services at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto was apprehensive about being invited to speak at two back-to-back conferences in Qatar.

Dr. Gordon, the co-chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Medical Services Division was concerned about being a Jew in an Arab nation, and reluctant to visit Qatar.

"My preconceived ideas about Qatar were dispelled upon my arrival at the conference and I began to feel quite comfortable," explained Gordon, a passionate Zionist. "Every where I could, in conversations with colleagues from other Middle Eastern countries I talked about Israel. With a Jordanian I talked about Eilat and how tourists crossed back and forth; with an Egyptian I talked about the equivalent thing and I found that Israel became a real connecting force."

Dr. Michael Gordon in Qatar with a spokesman for the Qatar Association for Retired Persons.

It was overwhelming to Gordon that his Arab colleagues, most of whom were Muslim openly accepted his Jewish heritage and his love of Israel. He was also surprised by the Westernization of many of the professionals he met, who were western in their dress and honest in their discussions of terrorism and Islam. In particular he was caught off guard when a Bahraini psychiatrist offered a blunt assessment of Palestinian terror in Israel.

"I was absolutely mesmerized by this physician, wearing traditional Gulf region dress," Gordon said. "He was speaking so candidly to me of the horror and futility of terrorism, the need for the Arab world to fight against it, to introduce democracy into its political infrastructure, and to stop looking backward but rather forward to succeed in the contemporary world. I left the conference thinking there is a real possibility for a future in this region."

Warren Kimel addresses NCSY

Warren Kimel, the co-chair, with Honey Sherman, of UJA Federation Campaign 2006, was the keynote speaker at Torah High's recent graduation ceremonies. Torah High is a credit-granting supplementary school for Jewish students, operating in 12 locations in the GTA.

(Pictured L-R) Rabbi Glenn Black, regional director NCSY; Warren Kimel, and Rabbi Yisroel Rabinowitz, principal of Torah High.

Prime Minister Sharon meets Toronto mission participants

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

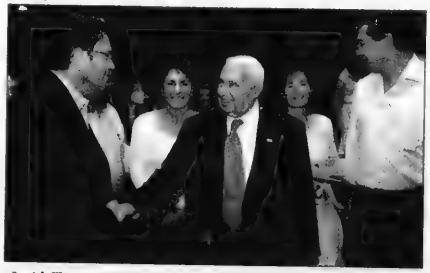
Forty of UJA Federation's leading supporters recently took part in a week-long Prime Minister's Mission to Israel, led by Campaign 2006 chairs Honey Sherman and Warren Kimel.

On the second day of the mission, participants met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a downtown Jerusalem hotel, just minutes after Sharon held an important summit meeting with Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas.

"This entire mission has been so wonderful and so uplifting and, of course, the Israelis are heavily debating the pros and cons of disengagement," said Ariella Rohringer, mission participant, and co-chair of UJA Federation's Top Gifts Division, with Fred Waks. "The fact that Prime Minister Sharon took the time to meet with us on the day of his important summit with the Palestinians, was incredible. He was very charming and appeared very relaxed. He was an absolute delight."

While introducing Prime Minister Sharon to the group, Yossi Tanuri, Director General of UIA Federations Canada in Israel, thanked mission participants for their presence.

"We need you here, we always needed you but I think that now we need you more than ever," said Sharon.



Jewish Toronto Tomorrow Central Campus Steering Committee Chair Peter Cohen (l) was among 40 UJA Federation Prime Minister's Mission participants who meet with Israeli PM Ariel Sharon.

Perspective

A journey of sorrow and pride

By Mark Friedman

Toronto's Mark Friedman, 16, recently made the sojourn to Poland and Israel as a participant on the March of the Living. Toronto's March of the Living delegation was sponsored by UJA Federation.

I recently joined 100 other teenagers from Toronto on a journey that will surely change our lives. The March of the Living is a program that takes Jews to Poland in order to pay tribute to the six million Jewish lives that were lost in the Holocaust, and then later to Israel for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

The day of the March is a day that I will remember forever. Since all four of my grandparents are Holocaust survivors, I was not only proud of their survival but I felt a newfound appreciation for my own life. In this sense, I found vengeance in being able to walk freely and prove to the Nazis that they were not able to eradicate the Jewish people.

Mark Friedman places a plaque in remembrance of his eight relatives who were murdered in Auschwitz on the soil where their ashes lay.

As I placed a plaque in remembrance of my eight relatives who were murdered in Auschwitz on the soil where their ashes lay, I was able to identify individuals who survived the horrors, and not just their numbers. Since my relatives had no burial graves, I felt that by remembering them on the sight where they died, I would be able to ensure that they would not be forgotten.

During the trip, I took an oath to never forget the atrocities that happened during the Holocaust and to do my best to prevent such annihilations from taking place again. As I reflect on that one day during our journey, I hope I can act upon that oath and do my best to live up to it.

Historic flight leaves Toronto July 10th

This July 12th for the first time ever, over 200 Canadian olim will fill their own plane to Israel departing from Toronto. The flight represents a record number of Canadians starting new lives in Israel at one time. The Jewish Agency Aliyah Centre in Toronto, in conjunction with Nefesh b'Nefesh, a private organization that helps North American Jews make aliyah, has worked hard to organize this flight. To celebrate this historic event UJA Federation is co-sponsoring a community send off in honour of the many Torontonians making aliyah this summer.

Four hundred members of the community are expected to attend the celebration at the Leah Posluns Theatre on July 10th which will boast live entertainment from the Israeli Tsofim Caravan. Israel Consul General Kobi Brosh will be among those addressing the audience of extended family members and the olim themselves.

"I am amazed at the level of encouragement we are receiving from the community," said Joseph Bienenstock who is part of the Toronto aliyah group. "My wife and I have always had a great passion to live in Israel and this was the perfect window of opportunity for our family. The level of support from Nefesh b'Nefesh and the Aliyah centre has been enormous. It has been a huge help."

Over 150 individuals from Toronto alone will be making aliyah this summer and the numbers are expected to grow.

"You need to be courageous as a Jew anywhere in the world," Bienenstock said. "But in Israel you are home."

The Bienenstock family readies themselves for their upcoming move to Israel.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

UJA Federation Campaign 2006

Focusing on youth at risk around the world

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation Campaign 2006, chaired by Warren Kimel and Honey Sherman, will be raising funds to assist young people at risk in Toronto, Israel and around the world.

The goal is to raise 10 million additional dollars within three years to create new opportunities for Jewish young people.

The Campaign 2006 action plan will concentrate on three areas:

- Social Justice - assisting Toronto's poor and vulnerable
- Re-building Israel - offering new opportunities to help relieve the impact of four years of terror.
- Helping Jewish youth return to Jewish life - Programs that will strengthen the attachment of Jewish young people to Israel and the Jewish community.

Among the initiatives that Campaign 2006 will help to fund are increased financial assistance for Toronto's Jewish poor, residential care and counseling at Israeli youth villages for disadvantaged young people who cannot live at home and expanded participation by Jewish university students in Israel action activities.

Honey Sherman and Warren Kimel, chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2006.

"As Jews, it is our responsibility to help one another. As it says in the Torah, we are supposed to be there for each other," says Kimel. "And helping each other can come in many forms, including volunteering, and, of course, helping financially."

"We are at a crossroads both here in Toronto, in Israel, and abroad, and together we can make a difference," says Sherman. "We are committed to helping Israel's youth recover - socially and emotionally - from four years of terror. We are committed to helping our own next generation of young adults to solidify their participation in a life lead 'Jewishly'. And, finally, we are committed to social justice - caring for the poor and vulnerable here within our own community."

UJA initiative addresses special needs

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is undertaking a comprehensive initiative to raise awareness about and assist people with specials needs in the Jewish community. The initiative includes a recent conference sponsored by The Jewish Foundation's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) about financial planning for individuals with disabilities.

The conference offered detailed descriptions of among other subjects estate planning for family members with special circumstances.

"Open communication is essential no matter what you do, what kind of plan you create," lawyer Mark Cohen explained. "Ask the person with the disability what he or she thinks if you can, discuss their needs and wants and also discuss the wishes of those individuals named and those they will be dealing with on an ongoing basis. Planning is better than not planning."

Stanley Kugelmas Chair of UJA Federation's Toronto Jewish Community Task Force on Inclusion.

UJA Federation's initiative also involves a task force on community inclusion for people with specials needs chaired by Stan Kugelmass. As a father of a child with special needs, Kugelmass speaks from personal experience.

"Our objective is to get UJA Federation to think about inclusion at all levels," he said. "We want people with disabilities to live full and rich lives in the Jewish community."

"Our second child who was born with limitations is vulnerable although competent." Kugelmass explained. "She had her bat mitzvah, she completed high school, she went on birthright israel and she is a counselor at camp which she adores. The role of our community is to make sure that when rights are given they are given to everyone."

A small endowment fund has been set up by the Jewish Foundation for people with disabilities.

A thirst for Israel

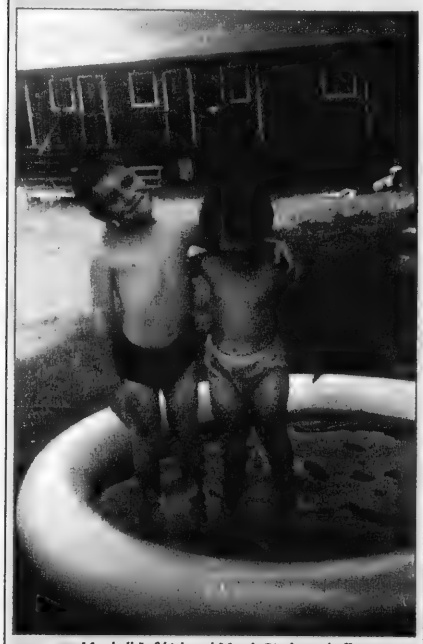
An estimated 15,000 community members took part in the UJA Federation Walk with Israel on May 29th, and apparently the 7km walk worked up the participants' thirst and appetite. An estimated 4,300 cold drinks were consumed helping to wash down 3,500 bags of potato chips and 3,800 hot dogs.

This photo was taken by Rafael Studios, which UJA Federation inadvertently omitted from a recent ad thanking our Wak sponsors. UJA Federation expresses its appreciation for the contribution of Rafael Studios to the Walk.

Hundreds expected to reunite at Pontypool

During the early to mid-20th century, Pontypool, Ontario - located 70 miles northeast of Toronto in the Kawartha Lakes region - was a thriving resort area that catered to Toronto's Jewish community.

During this period, Pontypool was the equivalent of the Catskills, providing first generation Jewish Canadians a reasonably priced family vacation. In addition to offering fresh air, a beach, recreational activities and kosher cooking, some of the resorts were able to draw famous personalities from the city such as the comedy team of Wayne & Shuster.



Marshall Lofchick and Mandy Pinsler cool off in a wading pool at the Lofchick resort.

In order to acknowledge the contribution that the resort and cottage industry made to the community, the Manvers Township Historical Society and Friends of the Pontypool Grain Elevator, will be holding a reunion on September 14 from 2 - 7pm. The event will be open to the families and their descendants who either owned resorts in Pontypool or vacationed there.

"We wanted to take this opportunity to honour those Jewish families who turned Pontypool into a resort," Doris Manetta, Vice president of the Manvers Historical Society explained. "The Jewish community of Pontypool helped with reforestation and was instrumental in boosting the economy. They were a real gift to the area."

The event will also mark the unveiling of an historic mural depicting a scene from the resorts. Everyone associated with the resorts is encouraged to bring and possibly donate photographs and mementos of their summers at Pontypool to the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Ontario Jewish Archives at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street. Copies of the photographs can be made for family members as well as the Historical Society.

If you are interested in attending the event, please RSVP by August 15, by calling The Ontario Jewish Archives at 416.635.2883 ext. 170 or e-mail oja1@ujafed.org

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

More questions than answers on road to 9/11

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism, anti-Western attitudes, and the possibility of democratic reform in the Arab world were the subjects of *The Road to 9/11*, a one-hour documentary introduced by Danielle Smith on Global, June 17.

The documentary included interviews with a wide range of experts, and, drawing upon archival footage, covered a great deal of historic ground in an attempt to place the growth of Islamic extremism in a broad context.

The role that Islam itself plays was the subject of debate. Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International*, said the problem is not "Islam as a whole" but rather "the Middle East and the Arab world in particular. This is not inherently a religious issue, which is therefore unanswerable, but a political and historical issue, which has very specific roots and causes, and can have specific cures."

Others saw a powerful religious component at the centre of extremist attitudes toward the West. Prominent Iraqi dissident Kanan Makiya remarked: "Islam stepped in where secular intelligence here failed. It provided the solutions. It became a very conservative force that pulled the Arab world back with them."

New York Times columnist and author Thomas L. Friedman said the United States' dependence on inexpensive Mideast oil has helped keep repressive Arab regimes in power: "For the last 50 years, we basically treated the Arab world as a series of just big gas stations. And all we cared was that you keep the pump open, the price low and be nice to the Jews and you can do whatever you want out back. You can treat your women however you want. Teach whatever you want in your schools."

Friedman appeared to be blaming U.S. foreign policy for the extremism in countries such as Saudi Arabia. But what about Syria, Algeria and, to a lesser extent, Egypt? These Arab countries that have little or no oil and are still repressive toward their people.

Friedman's claim that the Arab world was "nice to the Jews" is surely fatuous. If anything, anti-Semitic sentiment has risen sharply over the years. This constant anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda conveniently deflects attention from the inherent failures of Arab autocrats.

As author and Princeton University professor Bernard Lewis explained, the Arab-Israeli conflict "provides the perfect safety valve. It is the licensed grievance. People [in the Arab world] are justifiably angry with their rulers and this is the one thing [over which] they can really let off steam."

But Fawaz Gerges of Sarah Lawrence College argued that westerners fail to appreciate "the depth of the grievances that the Palestinian conflict really plays in [the] Arab imagination. It's seen as part and parcel of the continuing onslaught of the West against Arabs and Muslims."

Zakaria raised the question of what the United States can do to help advance reform in Arab countries: "What America has to ask itself is, can it do something to get at the root cause of 9/11? And by root cause I don't mean poverty or something generic like that. I mean the frustration and political extremism that has developed in the Arab world. Can we help reform the Arab world? If we don't do that you're likely to see the same cesspool of stagnation from which [Al Qaeda leader] Osama bin Laden came. And if bin Laden is gotten rid of and Al Qaeda is destroyed, some other similar organization will come along."

The documentary certainly provided more questions than answers. It remains to be seen is whether substantial democratic reform is possible in a region where autocratic regimes and the repression of human rights have long been the norm.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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CABINET MINISTER MEETS SENIORS: Immigration Minister Joe Volpe met with residents of Baycrest Centre's Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community recently. The minister was a guest speaker at the seniors' building at 2 Neptune. He spoke to Monty Mazin, front, and another resident after his speech. Past speakers at Baycrest have included former Toronto police chief Julian Fantino and *Toronto Star* publisher Michael Goldbloom.

'Anonymous unsung heroes' are most important people

Continued from page 6

But the most important people in a foreign correspondent's world, according to Kalman, are "fixers" – the "anonymous unsung heroes of Middle East reporting."

They're people such as bodyguards, drivers and interpreters – the "contacts who get reporters into places where journalists like to go."

Right now in Israel and the Palestinian areas, most fixers are Arab Israelis, since they speak both Arabic and Hebrew.

This is problematic, because "the Palestinians don't have a free press," said Kalman, who used the terms "Palestinian" and "Arab Israeli" interchangeably.

All three main daily Palestinian newspapers are controlled by the Palestinian Authority, and Palestinian reporters view their journalistic purpose differently than westerners do, he said.

While Western journalists strive to dig out the truth, Palestinians see their role as foot soldiers in a national struggle.

"We're not going to be seeing the whole picture if these are the people we use as our fixers," Kalman said. "The main problem is that reporters just don't know who to believe."

He related the story of a Danish journalist who went to Rafah after Israel bombed Palestinian houses on the Gaza-Egypt border that had been hiding underground smuggling tunnels. On finding an elderly Palestinian sitting on a carpet in front of a blown up house, the journalist was told the Israelis bombed so quickly that he wasn't even able to empty his fridge, and the full fridge was now buried under rubble.

The journalist and his cameraman began to dig through the debris to get a photo of this man next to his full fridge, only to retrieve it and find it empty. After questioning the old man, they realized the house wasn't even his.

"It took a journalist with 20 years' experience to literally dig up the truth," Kalman said. "We believe what we are told and why not? We are reporters, not detectives or forensic experts."

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Adam Fuerstenberg, *Executive Director*
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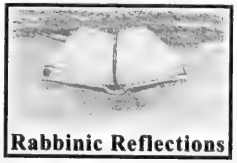
Jewish Life

Korach: rebel without cause

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

Why should anyone be a second class citizen? This reasonable complaint is the argument made by Korach, a prominent Levite, who rebels against the leadership of Moses. He suggests that the Jews do not need his leadership, "for all the nation are holy, and God is among them, and why should you lord over the nation of God?"



Indeed, as the Midrash notes, Korach's complaint seems to be supported by the previous passage in the Torah. At the end of the previous Torah reading, the commandment of tzitzit, the fringed prayer shawl, is mentioned. As Jacob Milgrom (JPS Torah commentary, Numbers 15:37) points out, the tzitzit are similar to royal garments. They contain *tchelet*, a blue dye that was primarily used for royal garments (such as the uniform of the High Priest). In addition, fringes were attached to higher class garments. The Talmud (Gittin 53a) tells about an extremely wealthy man who lived in the first century, who was nicknamed "the one with fringes on pillows" because he was so wealthy that the fringes of his garments were carried on pillows by servants to prevent them from dragging on the floor.

Both the *tchelet* dye and the fringes on tzitzit indicate that they are a royal garment, worn by Jews because of their holiness. Tzitzit are an emblem of the Jewish people's exalted stature as a nation of priests, and their design would seem to substantiate Korach's complaint. So what was wrong with his argument?

Korach's mistake was that he forgot about responsibility. He assumed the special status granted Israel was a privilege, one that turns all Jews into royal princes, leaders who are purely autonomous, without any need to accept the direction of Moses.

However, if you refer back to the tzitzit, you will see that they are symbols of an exalted status that is based on service and responsibility. The Talmud (Menachot 43b) compares the tzitzit to a stamp made by slavemasters on the corners of their garments. This is quite an unusual interpretation for an otherwise regal garment. Yet this is precisely the message of tzitzit: "That you look upon them and remember all the commandments of God, and not follow your hearts and eyes which lead you astray."

What the tzitzit tell us is that even though Jews are given a royal garment in recognition of their holiness, it is a garment of responsibility, not privilege. Being one of the chosen people does not give Korach (or anyone else) the right to engage in self-centered or arrogant behaviour. It only makes one "chosen" for greater responsibility.

Korach's mistake is one which is repeated by many throughout history. Some see chosenness as an excuse for insular chauvinism and disregarding our responsibilities to the world. Others feel that they are the ultimate arbiters of what it means to be Jewish, and like Korach, don't want to hear about any of the demands made by Moses and the Torah. Both of these misunderstandings forget that greater responsibility is the foundation of what it means to be a holy nation and a chosen people.

Rabbi Steinmetz is spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

Are we answering students' burning questions?

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

It's report card season, and while kids and their parents tally up the year, it seems appropriate to grade the people who teach them.

How are we faring?

This question is, on one level, impossible to assess. There are many kinds of schools and students, and often the results may not be seen for years. And there are many teachers who maintain my awe and admiration for their knowledge and ability to inspire. But there are certain warning flags that should cause all of us concerned about the Jewish future to stand up and take notice. The most obvious is the incredibly difficult financial strain that day school puts on parents, but that is clearly outside the teachers' domain. Perhaps even more disturbing, however, is what exactly students are receiving for this investment.

Recently, a colleague showed me a fascinating article written anonymously by a graduate of a yeshiva high school in New Jersey. He writes that, ironically, schools like his are the breeding ground of heresy. His rationale for this surprising assertion is simple yet powerful. While the level of secular studies in his school had continued to grow in relation to the increasing maturity and sophistication of the adolescent student, the *limudei kodesh*, he said, provided "the exact same elementary level of education they have been exposed to their whole lives. Teenagers begin to think, to challenge their previous assumptions and the conventions they've been taught. No source of Torah rises to meet these challenges, to answer the questions that begin to fester."

An anomalous experience? Overly alarmist? Perhaps. And no doubt, secular studies can become overly romanticized when one becomes disillusioned with a *blat* (page of) Gemara. But the notion that much in Jewish education today lacks the sophistication – and worse, the courage – to meet students' probing head on, without apologies or denial or obfuscation or demagoguery, strikes me as not too far off base.

Many students complain that they simply do not receive satisfaction when it comes to getting their more skeptical doubts about Judaism answered in a satisfying fashion, and that the real gut questions – the "Why do we do this?" and "Why is this?" – are frequently met with formulaic dronespeak or some oratorical flourish meant to hide an appalling lack of ability to actually engage the question.

Perhaps the most tragic thing is that the Torah is quite capable of standing up to these challenges and, at the very least, giving a powerful account of itself. Jewish tradition is not afraid. It is we, the contemporary carriers of that tradition, who often flee the kitchen when the heat of post-Enlightenment inquiry begins to singe our insecure base of knowledge.

The first law of the Jewish student's intellectual charter of rights is "Do not patronize me." That is, "Do not respond to my questions with the utterly predictable answers that you, the teacher, learned as a child, or by placing me on the defensive by insinuating that my questions are the result of a weakened faith or a diminished intellectual grasp of the sources."

For Socrates, "I don't know" was the cumulative answer of a lifetime, a thought that would do us all well in the hallways of Torah.

Jewish Life

A man of many identities

***The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life* by Tom Reiss, Random House.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Who was Lev Nissimbaum – also known as Essad Bey and Kurban Said? Who could tell? In his short, exciting, many-sided, turbulent life of 36 years, fact and fancy were hopelessly intertwined.

The author of this spell-binding biography spent five years of intensive investigation, trying to discover the truth about this fascinating, often bizarre, personality.

Lev was born in 1905 to an oil-rich Jewish family in the Baltic port city of Baku. The family, forced to flee the Bolsheviks following the revolution, embarked on a terrifying journey across Turkistan and Persia, territory that supplied Lev with rich literary material and the seeds of a new identity.

The glories of Constantinople, which Lev reached in 1921, put the finishing gloss on his newly created persona – soon to be presented to the world as Essad Bey. Tom Reiss writes, "He would not arrive in Europe as a stateless Jew from the east; he would come dressed in an Ottoman fez or, when he felt like it, as a Cossack."

Young Lev, attached to the romantic world of Islamic history and culture, converted to Islam in 1922. He viewed his new faith as an enlightened path, fostering ethnic diversity between conflicting ideologies.

It isn't widely remembered that in the 19th and early 20th centuries, many European Jews felt a strong identification with Islam. The Arabs were considered historical cousins. Benjamin Disraeli refers to them as "Jews on horseback."

In Berlin where he settled, Nissimbaum, a gifted writer, at a furious rate, turned out more then a dozen widely read books. The most enduring of them was *Ali and Nino*, a fervent love story set in Baku at the time of the Bolshevik revolution, involving a Christian girl and a Muslim boy and the progress of their relationship as they mature. For many years, readers wondered who was Kubin Said, its mysterious author?

Reiss writes, "Faced with both Communist and Nazi oppression, Lev survived by countering brute force with the power of imagination. He was simultaneously a Jew, an Oriental and a German, but he never inhabited any one of these identities to the exclusion of the others – all were products of a defiant mind that refused to be branded or categorized from the outside."

Lev married a pampered Jewish dilettante whose father was a wealthy Berlin shoe wholesaler, became Mussolini's official biographer and travelled throughout Europe and the United States, telling everyone he was a Muslim prince, sometimes sporting a turban and flowing robes, or fur hat, bandolier and dagger.

Finally, abandoned by his wife, fearful of the Nazis, he ended up in Italy, intermittently starving and, in the absence of medical treatment, slowly dying of a rare blood disease.

He had several opportunities to save himself by going to live with his millionaire in-laws in New York, but he passed them all up. Little wonder, for the compelling thing about him was, Reiss concludes, that "he believed he could invent his way in and out of anything."

The Orientalist would be regarded as an impressive achievement, even if the author had confined himself to presenting the biographical details of the subject's complicated and unusual life. But Reiss is also an erudite and informed guide to the cultural realms and geographical locations in which Nissimbaum sojourned. All in all, this work of mingled scholarship and tenacious sleuthing is an astonishing book.

The 17th Maccabiah Games

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Seventy-three years ago, a few hundred Jewish athletes met to compete in a unique sporting event in Palestine, the Maccabiah. Since then the event has become the premier sporting event for Jewish athletes – and even a showcase for future Olympic superstars. In addition to athletic excellence, the Maccabiah has also been associated with politics, controversy and tragedy. As Israel prepares to host this summer's 17th Maccabiah, we look at the Games past and present on the World Wide Web.

The first formal Maccabiah took place in Palestine in the 1930s, but Jews have participated in competitive sports events as far back as the 14th century in Weissenfeld and the 15th century in Rome. More recently, two Jewish gymnasts, Alex and Felix Flaton, won golden laurels for Germany at the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Three decades later, at the 12th Zionist Congress in Carlsbad in 1927, the Maccabi World Union was created "to foster physical education, belief in the Jewish heritage and the Jewish nation, and to work actively for the rebuilding of our own country and for the preservation of our people." **[www.maccabicanada.com/about/history/]**

The first Maccabiah Games took place in Tel Aviv in 1932. The Games got off to a rousing start as Mayor Meir Dizengoff made an entrance into the stadium riding a white stallion. Those first Games welcomed 390 athletes from 18 countries. **[http://tinyurl.com/9p567]**

Here's a great piece of trivia from the second Maccabiah in 1935: "In defiance of the British government's strict limitations on aliyah, many competitors took advantage of their being in the Holy Land and decided to stay. Such was the decision of the entire Bulgarian delegation, which unanimously decided to make aliyah and shipped their musical instruments back to Bulgaria instead of themselves." **[http://tinyurl.com/7olv5]**

Over the years, the Games have attracted some talented though still unknown competitors. In 1965, an American swimmer named Mark Spitz won two gold medals in the pool. "The excitement of meeting Jewish athletes from around the world and sharing with them the universal spirit of sports competition was a matchless experience." **[www.maccabiusa.com/quotes.htm]**

In 1997, the Maccabiah hosted 5,500 athletes from 50 countries. But the 15th Maccabiah will always be remembered for the tragedy that caused loss of life and numerous injuries. Four members of the Australian delegation were killed and some 70 others injured when a footbridge collapsed as they walked over it to attend the opening ceremony. **[http://tinyurl.com/ceenp]**

Four of the five officials found guilty of negligence for the bridge collapse were sentenced to prison terms. But Australia's participation in that year's Maccabiah was in doubt until Israel agreed to pay $4 million in compensation to Sasha Elterman. The Australian tennis player had been near death after ingesting a poisonous fungus in the polluted waters of the Yarkon River. **[http://tinyurl.com/7swsp]**

The 16th Games in 2001 suffered from a different kind of problem. Israel was reeling from attacks, including the notorious suicide bombing of the Tel Aviv Dolphinarium. The number of confirmed Maccabiah participants was eroding, and a possible cancellation loomed. After last minute negotiations, shortened Games did go ahead, but with only 2,200 athletes from 46 countries. You can listen to a radio report with a *Jerusalem Post* reporter broadcast during those Games. **[http://tinyurl.com/8cye3]**

Some athletes appreciate the Maccabiah for the value its founders tried to instil. U.S. swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg won three gold medals in backstroke at the Sydney Olympics. Prior to the 16th Maccabiah in 1991, he made waves when he announced that he planned to skip that year's World Swimming Championships in Japan so that he could compete at the Maccabiah. **[http://tinyurl.com/azejr]** In addition, he said, he plans to work with Jewish and immigrant children. "I may be wrong, but there might be a perception that Jewish kids are not athletic. Maybe I can change that trend."

Well it seems that Krayzelburg really does like the Maccabiah! He's back this month as part of the U.S. delegation and honorary team captain. "I feel that since the 2001 Games, I have really become attached to the Maccabi movement." **[www.maccabiusa.com/]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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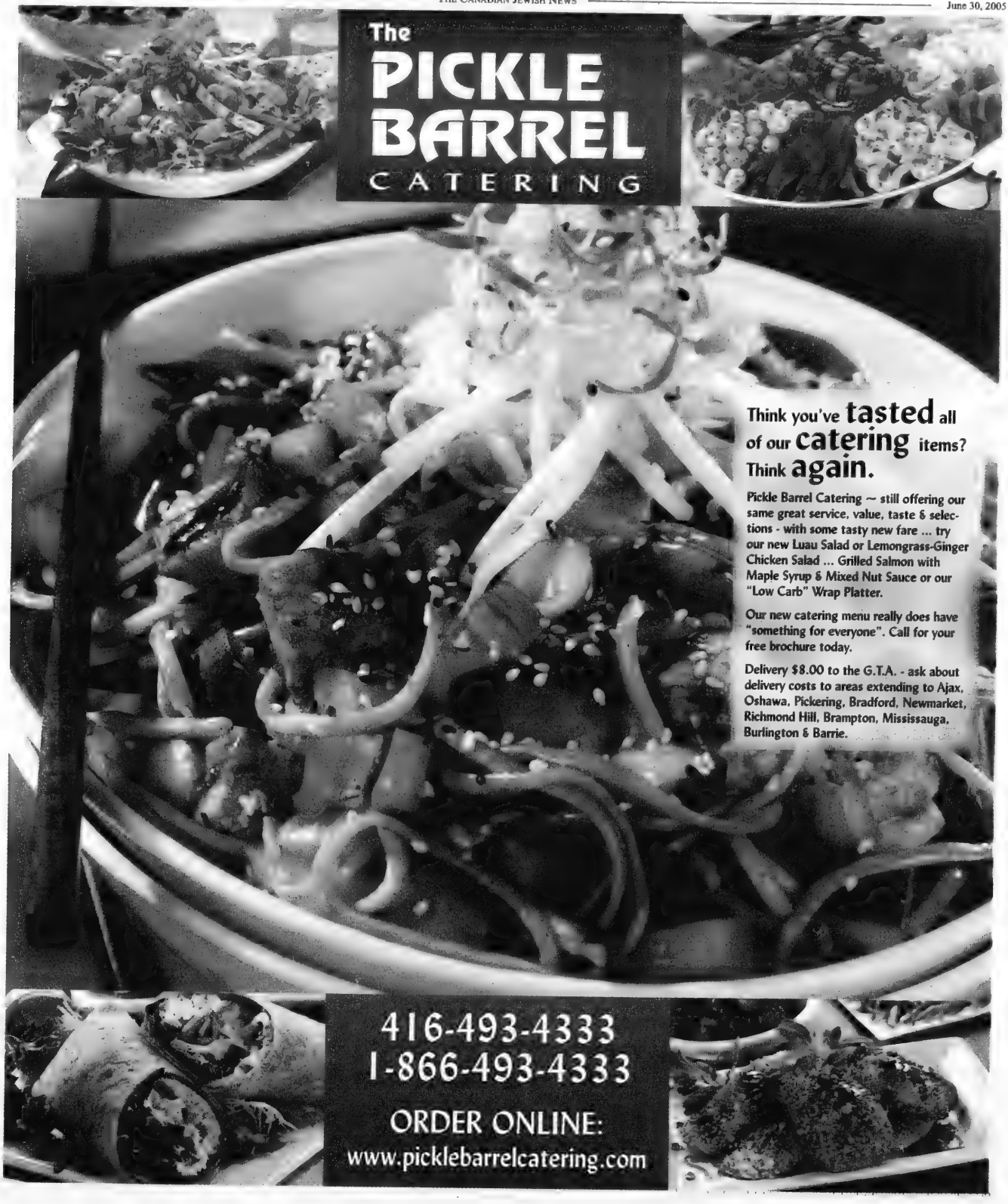
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Immigration key to growth of Jewish community

Continued from page 1

came from the Former Soviet Union (FSU). The study notes that the influx of Jews from the FSU represents the largest wave of Jewish immigration from a single country or region since the first quarter of the 20th century.

The next most productive source of immigrants was Israel, with 4,480 newcomers, followed by the United States with 3,000, western Europe with 1,550 and South America with 985.

The report suggests that a major reason for the "slow" growth of the overall Canadian Jewish population has been the "significant" attrition of elderly. Between 1996 and 2001, there were approximately 15,000 deaths in the Canadian Jewish population. Add to that an unknown number of Jews who left the country.

During the same period, there were 21,000 births in the community.

It is "clear," the study warns, that births alone cannot counter the effect of population losses related to emigration and deaths.

The report stresses the importance of reaching out to newcomers and helping them integrate.

"As the situation for Jews throughout the world becomes increasingly precarious," it says, "the role of individual [Jewish] federations and their affiliated agencies remains vital to successful transitioning. To truly welcome and integrate newcomers, we must practice and encourage the promotion of cultural sensitivity among ourselves, our children and our community, and embrace the richness of each new group as it arrives."

Regardless of country of origin, the report says, there are three factors influencing the successful transition of immigrants: education, employment and integration.

And like most groups, immigrants are concerned about the well-being of their children. "In the case of Jewish immigrants, providing children with access to the Jewish school system serves to pave the way for immigrant families to become involved in other aspects of Jewish communal life."

The study confirms that Canadian Jewry is an immigrant community: Fully one-third of Jews in this country were born elsewhere, well above the overall national rate of 19.3 per cent. And whereas Jews comprise 1.2 per cent of Canada's total population, 2.1 per cent of all immigrants in this country are Jewish.

Given the Canadian Jewish birthrate of just over two children per family – barely above replacement levels – immigration continues to be crucial, especially in light of past studies showing an aging community and a shrinking Jewish workforce, said the study's co-author, Charles Shahar of Montreal.

It's equally important to integrate them quickly. "There has to be a concerted effort to make them more involved," Shahar told *The CJN*.

Montreal, whose Jewish population has declined, and Winnipeg, where the community has not grown significantly, especially stand to benefit from immigration, he added.

Toronto continues to be a magnet for immigrants. In the period 1990-2001, nearly 20,000 Jewish newcomers settled there. The next most popular destinations were Montreal (5,875), Vancouver (2,400), Ottawa (900), Calgary (840), Edmonton (530), Winnipeg (475) and Hamilton (170).

The report found that Jews born in Poland are the oldest immigrants, with a median age of 77. Those born in Israel are the youngest of any immigrant group, with a mean age of 32.7 years.

The study found that about one-fifth of Jewish immigrants rely on government benefits for at least a decade after arrival.

Among newcomers, those from the United States have the highest income, at nearly $36,000 a year. Those from the FSU are the poorest, with a median annual income of $20,000. The research shows that three-quarters of Jewish immigrants from the FSU earn under $40,000 a year, as do a large chunk (69 per cent) of those from Israel.

Nearly half of recent Jewish immigrants have a university degree, compared to 42.6 per cent of all immigrants, and 26.5 per cent of recent Jewish immigrants have a graduate degree, versus 17.7 per cent for all immigrants. Jewish newcomers are replenishing the Jewish workforce with a "highly skilled" workforce, the study notes.

A separate analysis contained in the study shows that just over 8,000 individuals born in the FSU came to Canada from Israel between 1996 and 2001.

In a look at their Jewish identity, the analysis found that 65 per cent of this group identified themselves as Jewish (according to the criteria the census employs); nearly 17 per cent had no religious affiliation and did not consider themselves ethnically Jewish; and just over 18 per cent said they had another religion.

While two-thirds of this group consider themselves to be Jewish, "it is clear that some of the immigrants from the FSU who come here through Israel have tenuous roots to Judaism, and some are in fact married to Jews and are not Jews themselves," the study states.

It is "interesting," the report adds, that there are significant regional differences in the percentage of former Soviets from Israel who self-identify as Jews. For example, 73 per cent in Toronto said they were Jewish, versus 54.5 per cent in Vancouver and 40 per cent in Montreal.

Jewish communities in Vancouver and Montreal "have particular challenges ahead in terms of integrating these immigrants from the FSU and making them feel part of the fold."

Overall, the report shows that 27,790 Jews in Canada were born in the FSU. Of the USSR's 15 former republics, Russia has led the way as a source of immigrants, with 12,365, followed by Ukraine with 7,115, Belarus (1,375), Kazakhstan (180) and Georgia (65).

Long considered a sore point, at least among Israeli officials, is the fact that there are 13,545 Jews in this country who were born in Israel. Toronto is home to the largest number of Israeli-born Jews, at just over 8,000. There are also significant numbers of Israelis in Montreal (3,150), Greater Vancouver (840) and Ottawa (305).

By far the largest number of Jews from the FSU are found in Ontario (20,625 – two-thirds of these in Toronto), while the largest number of Jews from Morocco live in Quebec (7,295).

Toronto is also home to 6,425 Jews born in the United States.

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Catholic school students display Holocaust art

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

An art display called "Drawings of the Holocaust" that features hand-sketched portraits by students from Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School was launched at Beth Tzedec Congregation last week.

Michele Root, a Cardinal Newman art teacher, and Audrey Ferrer, a religion teacher at the school, were two of nine educators who were fully sponsored by Canadian Society for Yad Vashem to attend an annual teachers seminar at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in January.

"We wanted to do something right away once we got back from Yad Vashem. We were quite keen to share something with the school then," said Root, the driving force behind this exhibit, which features art by students from grades 9 to 12.

The assignment was for each student to find an archival photograph from the Holocaust and duplicate it as a pencil drawing.

Root said the art, produced by students as young as 14, was not the product of raw talent, but hard work and long hours. She said her students took the assignment very seriously, which is what led to such detailed, meticulous pictures.

"My students are quite ordinary students. I didn't know what I might get from them, but I asked them to do the best drawing they have ever done. I told them I wanted it to look like a photocopy," she said.

Although the Catholic school holds a school-wide assembly every November for Holocaust remembrance, Root and Ferrer wanted to do something for Yom Hashoah this past May, and they felt the art display would be the best way to engage the most students.

Audrey Ferrer and Michelle Root [Benji Feldman photo]

"I thought, let's have something for Yom Hashoah and we can invite the religion and history classes to research the photographs, respond to them, see what they do with the images," Root said.

"We had the art display put up and [the students] would go very quietly through it. We had the artists light six candles for the six million at the end of the day."

Root managed to engage her art students in the 15-hour project by making the horrors of the Holocaust relevant to today, as opposed to regarding the Shoah as an isolated incident that occurred 60 years ago.

"There was an article and a photograph in, I believe, *The Toronto Star*, and it was really frightening. It showed swastikas at an Italian soccer match.

"I told them, 'You know we had an assembly in November. You know I went to study at Yad Vashem. Look what was in the paper last week.' And their mouths dropped."

Ferrer said the assignment has spurred some students to take their knowledge of the Holocaust further.

"One student in particular wants to research the photos even more, and he would like to, as part of [Cardinal Newman's] co-op program next year, to travel with the photos and become a resource person to answer questions."

Some students even created bulletin boards to inform people about anti-Semitism.

"They really are more aware that anti-Semitism is still present and it is not just something that happened a long time ago. They know we have to be wary," Ferrer said.

The art display, which was sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, runs until July 6 at Beth Tzedec.

Anti-Semitism cited as a major reason for move

Continued from page 3

"One day we sat and had lunch together, just the women," Halpert added. "So we just discussed where everyone was at, what we were worrying about, what stupid stove to buy, but it all has to be done."

While they said that tying up all the loose ends before the big move has been overwhelming, they both agreed that the help from Dina Gidron, the regional director of the Aliyah Centre, has made the process less daunting.

Halpert described what typically happens when a family visits the centre to inquire about the process of moving to Israel.

"You have a meeting with Dina and you'll talk about where you want to go, what you want to do, about work, and she steers you to a community that might be suitable."

With Gidron's help, Sherman and her family decided to move to a suburb 10 minutes south of Jerusalem, while the Halperts, with their four boys, will move to a gated community called Hashmonaim.

Both women cited many reasons for wanting to move to Israel, but the main reason was the indescribable connection they felt to the land.

"My husband and I have always wanted to [make aliyah]. We went on a trip two years ago [to Israel] and that's when it clinched the deal," Sherman said.

"My kids were so happy there, and we just thought that we can't really deprive them of this. We started making plans a couple years ago to investigate and take the plunge."

While Halpert was not the driving force in her family behind the move, she also said that she couldn't deprive her husband and children of the connection they have to the Jewish state.

"My husband has always felt very connected. Whenever he goes, he comes back and says his soul is not alive here. He just feels empty and wants so badly to be there.

"We went on holiday two years ago and I saw how happy the kids were, and despite all the security issues, we just felt so comfortable."

Both Halpert and Sherman also cited a rise in anti-Semitism as a reason for wanting to leave Toronto.

"We definitely felt it as a family," Sherman said. "My kids had a few incidents, like being called names in the streets. When they were riding bumper cars [they were targeted and] were told, 'Die Jew.' My kids wear kippahs and are visibly Jewish."

Halpert, whose family is also observant, recalled how Jewish tombstones were toppled and anti-Semitic messages were spray-painted on Jewish schools and synagogues last year.

"It was really visible to my kids, and they were really upset by it."

Although anti-Semitism in Toronto was a major concern, Sherman stressed that she and her family are not running away.

"This is a real aliyah of choice. We're choosing a lifestyle. We work and our kids have vacation during Pesach and Sukkot and I end up having to juggle babysitters, figure things out and send my kids to their grandparents.

"But in Israel, we're living in a Jewish country, so we're all going to be off on Pesach and Sukkot. Little things like that – that the country's holidays are our holidays – [is why we're going]."

It may not be easy to start fresh in a foreign country, but saying goodbye to their home won't be easy, either.

"We're tearing away from the community here. We're leaving a great life. But the intention is to get a better life," Sherman said.

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Queen's Hillel member heads student government

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

He's smart, popular and outgoing – and he was the first non-Jewish member of the Queen's University Hillel executive committee.

Now Ethan Rabidoux is president of the Alma Mater Society (AMS), Queen's student government.

The fourth year politics major and drama minor says he is motivated to make a real difference in the lives of the 13,500 Queen's students, particularly in the area of improving external university student housing standards.

"I bring with me an attitude and desire to change aspects of the university and to make it better," he says.

After holding various other positions, such as student senator and arts and science student representative at faculty and AMS meetings, Rabidoux said the AMS presidency was the next logical step.

But in addition to his other positions, Rabidoux was also a student director on the Queen's Hillel governing council from September 2004 to January 2005.

As unusual as it is to have a non-Jew on the Hillel executive, Rabidoux made his presence felt.

Rabidoux became involved with Hillel through the Queen's Israel Peace Initiative, a pro-Israel campus group he joined in 2002 after reading about the Arab-Israeli conflict and finding that he supported the Israeli position.

He joined the Hillel executive last fall and immediately started organizing debates and participating in various other pro-Israel lobbying activities.

When he chose to run for AMS president and had to take a leave of absence from Hillel (as is required by AMS policy to ensure no conflicts of interest), a number of Hillel members joined his campaign, including Josh Kertzer, who became one of his campaign managers. Hillel also endorsed Rabidoux's campaign.

Outgoing Queen's Hillel president Sara Berger said Rabidoux was involved in Hillel for so long that when he decided to run for student council president, she and other Hillel members naturally supported him and worked on his campaign.

Ethan Rabidoux

The AMS presidency carries with it a great deal of responsibility, including being accountable for an $8.7 million budget.

Directly under Rabidoux are his communications officer, a vice-president of university government and a vice-president of operations.

Each of the vice-presidents, in turn, have their own area to run. The vice-president of university government is responsible for five commissions and 1,000 volunteers, while under the operations banner are three directors and 14 AMS services.

The Queen's AMS is the oldest student body in the country, having been established in 1898.

Rabidoux said he chose to run for president in order to give something back to Queen's, which he said has given him so much and has helped him to become a more rounded person thanks to its openness in dealing with a vast number of issues.

Mentioning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict specifically, he said Queen's has a history of dealing with the conflict in a very open and unbiased manner.

"They have never having taken a position on either side and have always allowed freedom of speech on both sides," he said.

Describing Rabidoux as "one of the boys," Queen's Hillel director Stu Woolley said he was "the natural choice for AMS president in every dimension."

Woolley told *The CJN* that Rabidoux is a "strong package" because he is "super easy to be around" and makes everyone feel comfortable.

Harris family donates $5 million to York U

A new research initiative at York University will build on new knowledge of the brain's development to help set children, including those with developmental disorders, on the path toward emotional and intellectual health.

York's Milton and Ethel Harris Research Initiative (MEHRI) is the first of its kind in Canada and uses a pioneering intervention approach known as DIR – or individual-difference relationship-based therapy.

The $5-million gift, made through the York University Foundation, is the single largest private research gift in York's history. Milton Harris, who died earlier this year, was president of Canadian Jewish Congress in the mid-1980s.

"This research initiative will allow us to deepen our understanding of how the minds of children develop," says Stuart Shanker, a professor of psychology and philosophy in York's Atkinson faculty of liberal and professional studies who will lead the initiative.

"An alarming number of children in our society currently suffer from developmental, learning, mental health or social disorders, and their numbers are growing. Ultimately, our goal is to benefit all children."

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Education key to treating diabetes

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The most important person on the team treating diabetes is the patient, says Ian Blumer.

Blumer is a doctor with a Durham Region practice specializing in the treatment of diabetes, and a medical associate at Mount Sinai Hospital.

He was speaking at a recent meeting of the Jewish Diabetes chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association, held at Shaarei Shomayim congregation.

To thrive, and not just to survive the condition, Blumer said you have to look after yourself. And to do that, you have to know what should be done to treat the disease, and insist that it is.

This is one of the reasons, Blumer said, that he considers diabetes education to be the single greatest advance ever made in the disease's treatment.

The dangers of diabetes are serious, he said. "Diabetics are at high risk of cardiovascular disease, including stroke and heart attack, blindness, kidney disease and amputation."

Blumer considers the incidence of diabetes to be an epidemic. "Seven per cent of the population of Canada have it. In Metro Toronto alone, there are enough [diabetics] to fill the Rogers Centre six times."

However, Blumer said, 70 per cent of complications are avoidable.

On the day of diagnosis, he said, 50 per cent already have complications. These can often be stopped, at least slowed down, or even reversed, provided there is proper medical care.

The care team is not just the doctor, he said. The doctor is often so overwhelmed by the amount of literature that there is and the number of patients he or she is responsible for, that he can't either stay current or treat patients as well as he would like to. Rather, the team includes the nurse, diabetes educator, endocrinologist, pharmacist, dietitian and podiatrist, as well as family and friends.

In his often hilarious talk, Blumer stressed several points. If it is your birthday and you have a piece of cake – or even three pieces of cake – forget about it. "No one ever died from three pieces of cake. Don't feel guilty – get over it," he advised.

Eat properly, he said. "Meet with a dietitian, and don't leave her office with a diet that is unrealistic for you."

While many diabetics need to lose weight, they shouldn't be daunted by the amount they need to lose. "Even losing a small amount, say five per cent of your body weight over the next 12 months, will lower sugar, improve cholesterol levels, make you more energetic and improve your well-being," he said.

It is essential to change a passive lifestyle into an active one. While walking is usually considered the best exercise, Blumer said, "the best exercise is one you like doing and will continue to do."

Blumer recommended weightlifting, and not necessarily at a gym. "While you are watching TV, take a can in each hand and do arm lifts for 20 minutes. Start with small cans and go on to bigger ones."

One of the most serious side effects of diabetes is eye damage, Blumer said. "On the day of diagnosis, 30 per cent already have some eye damage." If it is caught early, he said, it is usually treatable – if it is not treated, you could go blind.

Diabetics should see their ophthalmologist once a year if there is no damage, more often if there is, he said, adding that OHIP covers extra eye appointments for diabetics.

There is now a blood test, albumin creatinine ratio (ACR), which detects early kidney damage, Blumer said, although many doctors don't know about it. Insist on having it, he advised, and demand to know the results. "Ten years ago, there wasn't anything you could do about it. Now, it can be controlled by ensuring adequate blood glucose levels, and by taking ace inhibitor drugs, such as benazepril (Lotensin) or ramipril (Altace)."

The feet warrant extra attention. "Little sores should be treated as seriously as a heart attack." Blumer said. Check for calluses, numbness or tingling of your feet. Many diabetics lose feeling in their feet, and they may not be aware of wounds until they become infected.

Heart disease is the number 1 cause of death in those with diabetes, so special care must be taken to lower blood pressure to no more than 130/80; keep LDL, the dangerous cholesterol, under 2.5; take small doses of Aspirin every day; and ask your doctor about the statin drugs, such as Lipitor, Pravachol and Zocor, which lower the risk of heart attack by 30 per cent.

He also warned against allowing blood glucose levels to rise too high. "The latest target rates are four to seven before meals and five to 10 two hours afterwards, with seven being optimum. If your blood glucose level is eight instead of seven, you have a 40 per cent greater chance of blindness."

If diet alone doesn't lower the levels, ask your doctor for effective drugs, he advised.

Don't look at medicines as an anchor for the weak, Blumer said. "See them as a lifesaver."

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am curious to know what you think the emerging food trends are.

A. I am glad you asked. Fortunately, the low-carb craze seems to be slowing down, and I believe that the emerging trend will include whole grains, healthy carbs and complex carbohydrates. I think that people are finally willing to accept that we need carbs, but good ones, ones that are healthy and high in fibre. These foods fill us up and prevent disease, but like all foods, need to be eaten in moderation.

You will also see a continued increase in natural and organic foods, foods that are less processed and contain fewer chemicals. Keep an eye on the ingredients' lists of all the products in which trans fat has been removed. Some manufacturers are replacing trans fat with other bad fats such as lard or sugars like high-fructose corn syrup.

Q. I am a busy mom. I am often in my car in the late afternoon, and get hungry. Can you suggest a portable nutritious snack?

A. I think the best mid-afternoon snack, one that is nutritious and portable, is a handful of nuts. But eat no more than 20 pieces because they are high in fat – but heart healthy fat – and calories. Almonds or walnuts are best, along with a piece of fruit or a yogurt. Another great addition to the nuts is tomato juice or V8, which unlike fruit juice is low in calories, as well as being healthy and filling.

Q. My teenage daughter suffers from migraines and I know that some foods can bring them on. What foods are these?

A. The trigger foods can vary among people, but the common culprits are cheese, nuts, chocolate, citrus fruit, processed meats, fried foods and foods that contain monosodium glutamate (MSG) and nitrates, such as deli meats and hot dogs.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

הרפואה -ישראל לעומת קנדה

לא עובר שבוע שאינני קורא בעיתון ישראלי זה או אחר על "התמוטטות מערכת הבריאות בישראל". בכלל- בישראל כל הזמן מתמוטט מכל, רק לגלות יותר מאוחר שהמצב לא רע בכלל, ושישראל נמצאת במקום טוב מאוד בין אומות העולם. הבעייה האמיתית היא זילות המילה-אומרים, צועקים, מצהירים דברים שאין לחם שחר, וכוווווללם יודעים שהם לא נכונים.(ענו מלים לא עולות כסף).

בואו נסתכל על מצב הרפואה:

אם המצב כל כך קשה-אז איך זה שתוחלת החיים בישראל היא בין הגבוהות בעולם ותמותת התינוקות בין התמוכות בעולם? אלה הם המדדים הכי חזקים לבריאות הציבור.

בישראל, גם אם אתה נמצא באמצע הנגב-במקרה של התקף לב תוך שעה תהיה בבית החולים של באר שבע או אילת.

בקנדה-מלינוי אנשים ניגעו אחרי שמונה שעות נסיעה לתחנת בריאות שמאויישת באחות.

או הינה כמה דוגמאות אישיות:

מצלצלת אלי אם מישראל שלבן שלה יש תופעות מדאיגות. חמשפחה גרה במרכז הארץ, אך לא באמצע תל אביב. אחרי מספר ימים חלה חטבה ספונטאנית בסימפטומים, ואם שואלת אותי אם כדאי שיעשו את בדיקת ה MRI שתוכננה לילד. זוהי בדיקה יקרה ומדוייקת מאוד שתחליפה את הרנטגן, ופה בקנדה מחכים אנשים בתור לבדיקה הזו חודשים רבים. אני ענה לאם שחבל להפסיד את התור, וממילא -אין סיכון בבדיקה. ענה לי האם בביטול וכלאחר יד: "אין שום בעייה-אני יכולה לקבל תור חדש תוך כמה ימים".

דוגמא נוספת: בקנדה חולכות אימהות לרופא ילדים או לרופא משפחה לתת לתינוק חיסונים. בארץ עושה זאת אחות טיפת חלב, שגם ברדקת איך מתנחלת החנקה, מבקרת בבית לראות אם התנאים סבירים ומשוחחת עם האם על כל בעייה שמטרידה אותה. אם האחות מוחה בעיות, ולו הקלות ביותר-היא מפנה לרופא. כך יוצא שרופא הילדים הישראלי מתרכז בילדים חבעייתיים שבאמת זקוקים לו, ופה רואה הרופא אלפי ילדים בריאים שלא זקוקים לו, ולא אחת מחמיץ את הילד שצריך אותו באמת.

כמובן-חוזקה האמיתי של ישראל הוא בכך שהרוב המוחלט של תושביה הם יחידים, ופציינטים יחודים הרבה יותר מודעים למצבם הבריאותי. ומן הידועות היא שבכל אגא יחודיה מסותר פרופסור לרפואה.

אפשר לצחוק על זה, אבל בשיא הרצינות-פציינטים שיחדעים מה קורה מסביבם הם אלה שמגיעים לפתרונות יותר טובים.

והכל לפי הסיפור הידוע של שתי נשים בגיל מתקדם שנפגשות כל יום בחדר ההמתנה של הרופא. יום אחד-אחת מהן נעדרת. מצלצלת אליה השניה בדאגה לשאול מדוע לא הופיעה. אומרת לה הנעדרת: " לא יכולתי לבוא כי אני חולה חיום".

אבל שישאר בינינו.

על צירוף מקרים

אישה נכנסת לבר בבנימינה ומזמינה משקה קל. ניכר עליה שהיא שמחה ובאה לחגוג משהו טוב. בשולחן הסמוך יושב מָר רחוק שלא ראתה זמן רב, וגם הוא שתה שמח וטוב לב. שואלת אותו האישה מה הוא חוגג והוא מספר לה שאחרי חמש שנים שלא בקעו אפרוחים בְלול התרנגולות שלו-סוף סוף בקעו החודש מאת אפרוחים. אומרת לו האישה: "איזה צירוף מקרים! אחרי שמונה שנים של נסיונות סוף סוף הצלחתי להיכנס להריון".

אחרי שתי דקות של שתיקה שואלת אותו האישה: " מעניין, מה בדיוק שיעניק כדי שיוולדו אפרוחים בלול שלך?"

עונה לה האיש: "פשוט מאוד: חחלפתי את התרנגול...."

מסמיקה האשה עד שורשי שערה ומְמַלְמֶלת: "איזה צירוף מקרים".....

See JN

BEACH SYNAGOGUE TURNS 85: Members of the Beach Hebrew Institute carry Torahs to the synagogue in a rededication procession that took place on Kenilworth Avenue recently. At right is Rabbi Yossi Sapirman of Beth Torah Congregation. [Susan Litchen photo]

The Canadian Jewish news

CONGRATULATIONS

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

Please fill in the requested information and fax to 416-391-0949 or mail to 1500 Don Mills Rd, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone number _____

Date of wedding _____

Location of wedding _____

Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Congratulations to Leigh Brown & Avi Elzas on their upcoming marriage.

Happy first birthday Max Samuel. Love sister Emily, brother Benjamin, parents Wendy & Andrew Rotenberg, grandparents Nadine, Howard, Ruth Steinberg, Vivien & Ron Rotenberg.

Melanie & David Rouhi welcome Naomi, born on May 2. Grandparents, Evvie & John Craig, Helen & Harry Rouhi, great-grandmothers Rose Pascal and Rose Ghaltchi.

Congratulations to Shale Craig on his bar mitzvah, from grandparents Evvie & John Craig. We're very proud of you.

Happy birthday, Mommy! We love you so much. Love, Lory, Vicky, Jessi, Isaac, Mikey & dad.

Abe & Frances Wang and Stephen & Sharon Stein announce the engagement of their children, Jason Wang to Keryn Stein. Proud grandparents are Sam & Rose Potok.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

JNF
Say it with Trees
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
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from $10
416-785-1333

What's New deadlines: Monday, July 4, is the deadline for the July 14 issue and Monday, July 11, is the deadline for July 21 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Saturday, July 2

SHABBAT SERVICES

Join Kol Yisroel Congregation for weekly Shabbat services at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 9:30 a.m. 416-630-9444

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

Shabbat morning services resume today with **Rabbi Michael Dolgin** at the Orillia Country Shul. The schedule for services though July and August is: July 9, **Elliott Melamed**; July 16, **Lionel Sharp**; July 23, **Cantor Tom Schwartz**; July 30, **Stuart Hytman**; August 6 **Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb**; August 13, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**; August 20, **Rabbi Aaron Hoch**; and August 27 **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. at 151 Creighton St. S. 705-327-7069.

Sunday, July 3

GIANT BAZAAR & SALE

Soleil chapter of Jewish Women International is holding a sale of odds and ends for the whole family, including nearly new clothes, books, toys and kitchenware. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Sr. Proceeds to charity.

KISS THE MOON

Medina Theatre Ensemble presents an encore presentation of *Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun*, a comical play by Canadian playwright **Norm Foster** that tells the tale of friendship in uncertain times, and is a reminder that goodbye is just the beginning. 2 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. $5. For information, contact medina theatre@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, July 5

WOMEN'S TORAH CLASS

Join classes in weekly parshah, Chasidut, Tanya, Halachah and holy days with **Rabbi Uri Gelman** and **Rabbi David Bisk**. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., at 44 Edinburgh Dr. For information, call **Rachel Berkovitz**, 416-635-6313.

Other news

ITEMS WANTED

Jewish Women International is looking for donations of new and used items to sell at a charity garage sale. Call **Ruth** at 416-633-2873.

JEWISH LEARNING

Rabbi Kirsh teaches a number of classes throughout the week, including Jewish mysticism, Sundays at 10 a.m., and Jewish meditation, Tuesday at 8 p.m. 240 Crestwood Rd. For information, call 905-889-0793 or e-mail ohrpenimi@hotmail.com.

SINGLES BALL

Dance the night away at the Singles Ball (30+) at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Sunday, July 10, 7:30 p.m. 2 Simonston Blvd. $12. 905-889-4975.

YAD VASHEM EXHIBIT

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem exhibits "Drawings of the Holocaust" in the foyer at Beth Tzedec Congregation until July 6. The exhibit comprises sketches by Grade 9 to 12 students from Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Registration for Shaar Shalom religious school is open for September 2005. It offers classes for senior kindergarten through Grade 8. Classes are held on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Thornhill Secondary School. The Grade 7 class is held Saturday morning at Shaar Shalom Synagogue and Wednesday evening. For more information, call **Hava Greenberg** at 905-889-4975.

CLUB SIMCHA

Chai Tikvah Foundation is beginning a new program for people with mental health problems. Club Simcha will meet every Tuesday afternoon through August 30, 1-3:30 p.m., at National Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. for movies, board games and discussions. For information, call 416-665-0482.

Continued on page 25

Max Gold celebrates his 100th birthday

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Max Gold celebrated his 100th birthday on June 11.

At the recent Sons of Jacob Shalom Lodge's general meeting, Gold was honoured. His family and friends celebrated his 100-year milestone with an open house at the home of his daughter, Gloria de Hond, in Thornhill.

Gold's father, Shia Shalom (Zushie) Gold, was one of the early members of the Sons of Jacob. Max has been a member for more than 50 years. He says the organization was founded to provide cemetery privileges for its members and for social purposes. It also raises money for charity.

"The Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda shul was first conceived in my father's store, Gold and Gold Tailors in the Bloor and Dovercourt area," says Gold.

Born in New York City in 1905, Gold was one of five children. His parents came from Minsk, Russia, at the turn of the century. The family lived at 105 St. Patrick St. in the Dundas and University area in Toronto.

"The city has grown amazingly," says Gold. "I remember when University Avenue was a dirt road. At that time, I would go with my friend on a horse and buggy, and for three cents, we could take a streetcar to High Park."

He says that when he was a child, the Spadina streetcar only went as far north as Bloor Street. "There was a coal stove in the middle of the car and at Bloor Street the conductor went to the back of the car, which became the front. We were frozen and that was a modern streetcar."

Max Gold holds a citation he received from the Sons of Jacob Lodge. Gold has been a member for more than 50 years. From left are Cherry Cohan, Max's wife Helen Gold, Harold Cohan, Jack de Hond, Sheili Stummer holding Max Stummer, Rachel Stummer, Shonna Stummer and Gloria de Hond.

Gold learned to dance as a teenager. "We would get together at someone's house to dance because except for the YMHA on Brunswick Avenue at College Street, there were few clubs, and the big social clubs did not want to have anything to do with Jews," he says.

He belonged to the Workmen's Circle and recalls when they held meetings at Queen's Park "and the police would come on their horses and chase us away."

Gold attended Harbord Collegiate and night school at Central Technical School (then called Toronto Technical), where he received certification in aeromechanics.

He worked as an auto mechanic and moved to New York, where he learned the needle trade in his cousin's business.

Returning to Toronto in 1932, he married Esther Silverman and continued working in ladieswear. He became a manager, a position he held until his retirement when he went to help his brother, Ben, who owned Gold's Drugs at Dundas and Bathurst streets.

The Golds had two children, Gloria and Marty, who passed away 10 years ago. After being widowed for 14 years, in 1981, Gold married Helen Smith.

Gold's daughter, Gloria de Hond, says her father is hard of hearing, "but he really is on the ball. He even reminds me of my appointments."

She says she would go to her father and "ask him a question on any topic He had the answers to all of them. He even explained to me the workings of a car, so I could understand it.

"He was very wise. At 85, he bought a new Chrysler and drove it until he was well into his 90s."

Gold adds, "I don't wear glasses and I never had an accident, but I decided that it was time to stop driving."

He and Helen live in the recently opened Valleyview Residence. At the residence, he participates in exercise classes, plays bingo and attends music sessions. "I do whatever I can do, and we attend the Shabbat shalom programs."

Helen says that her husband "gets particular joy from Gloria, who volunteers at Valleyview and other places as a clown using the name Glori Be." De Hond is a professional clown who performs at birthday parties and other events and belongs to Toronto Clown Ally. "She is amazing and makes a lot of people very happy," Helen adds.

Gold says that looking back he can't believe that he is 100. "I went to school, got married, had children – time goes by and before you know it, you are old."

What's New

Continued from page 24

SHAW FESTIVAL TRIP

Join Beth Emeth Chai Shalom for a trip to Shaw Festival Theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake to see *Gypsy,* Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m. performance. $75 per person includes transportation. To reserve, call **Tema Wasserman** at 905-770-0355.

ISRAEL MISSION

Canadian Magen David Adom is hosting a health and wellness mission to Israel. For information, call 416-780-0034.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

CHILDREN OF SURVIVORS

Second-generation children of survivors of Bergen-Belsen are looking to connect with other individuals whose parents survived Bergen-Belsen, specifically those born in the displaced persons camp from 1946 to '50. Contact **Paulette Volgyesi** at pvolgyesi@rogers. com.

CALLING ALL BOOMERS

The Baycrest Heritage Museum, with guest designer **Ian Leventhal**, is looking for your memorabilia, including photos and objects related to your brit, bar/bat mitzvah, Jewish education, camps, weddings and travel, for an exhibit titled "Get Back: The Boomer Experience, Growing Up Jewish in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s," which opens in September. If you have items to lend, call **Pat Dickinson**, museum co-ordinator, at 416-785-2500, ext. 2802.

VISUAL ARTISTS GROUP

Visual artists between the ages of 18 and 50 who work in mixed media, painting and drawing and would like to network with other artists are invited to join a new group that plans on meeting weekly for social opportunities and artistic exchanges. Call 416-208-6940 or e-mail tralamina2000@yahoo.ca.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

How To Talk To Your "Ex": A two-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills in order to better deal with their former spouses and issues around parenting and the children. Begins Tuesday, July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Choices: A six-week group for young women, 16 to 18 years old, who would like to explore and understand how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Begins Tuesday, July 5, 4-5:30 p.m.

Living With Teens: Parenting your adolescent without losing your cool. A six-session group. Topics include setting limits, letting go, parents' rights and responsibilities, keeping the lines of communication open, realistic expectations, and the pressures of drugs, alcohol, dating and sexuality. Begins Wednesday, July 20 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Today's Woman: A six-week group for women wanting to discuss relevant issues and wanting to make a change in their lives. Topics include time and stress management, building self-esteem, assertiveness and improving communication skills. Begins Tuesday July 19, 7-9 p.m.

Fathering After Divorce: A four-week group to help single fathers understand the crucial role they play in their children's lives and maintain the important connection they have with their children. Begins Thursday, July 21, 7-9 p.m.

All programs listed take place at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Sunday dance, July 3; Casino Rama, Wednesday, July 27; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m; bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; conversational Hebrew classes Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

The Musical *Anne of Green Gables* at the Stage West Theatre, Wednesday, July 6. Members $50, non-members $55. Bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. Call for tickets.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, September 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Computer courses at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels begin in July. Beginners class, Mondays 10-11 a.m.; level II course, Mondays 11:30 a.m.; level III course, Mondays 1 p.m. All classes start July 18. Internet basics course, Tuesdays 1 p.m., starting July 19. Members $40, non-members $60. To register, visit the service desk or call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

Digital photography, scanning and storytelling, Thursdays 1-2:30 p.m., starting July 7. To register, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for fall classes in babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228

Registration is open for September 2005 for the morning preschool and full-day day-care. Programs include a morning school Tic Tac Two program, 9-11:30 a.m., two, three or four days a week; a morning nursery school, 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; morning junior and senior kindergarten 9-11:30 a.m. or 9-1 p.m.; and a full-day day-care for toddlers 18 months through senior kindergarten. Programs include music, fun centre gym, swimming, Hebrew for groups, three years of age and up, and Discovery Museum for preschool and up. For more information or to book a tour, call ext. 248.

TORAH FUND HONOURS WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT: Canadian Seaway Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism recently honoured its sisterhoods at its annual Torah Fund celebration at Beth David Synagogue. Standing, from left, are Ruth Shapiro, fund chair; Marilyn Cohen, Beth Tikvah Sisterhood; Ethel Machtinger, Beth Emeth Sisterhood; and Sonia Slobodsky, Beth David Sisterhood. Seated, from left, are Evie Weinstein, Beth Tzedec Sisterhood; Miriam Bester, Shaar Shalom Sisterhood; and Diane Glazer, Adath Israel Sisterhood. [Photo: Mollie Rothman]

JEWISH DIABETES CHAPTER RECEIVES AWARDS: The Jewish chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association received the Distinguished Dedication Award, recognizing the work the chapter has done to serve as a role model for others and recognizing its ongoing commitment to the association. Tito Massouda, president of the Jewish chapter received two awards. From left are Helena Seguin, volunteer development co-ordinator; Alan Marks, regional chair, Greater Toronto Area regional leadership centre; Massouda; and Gary O'Connor, area executive director, GTA/central south.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Sischy, Tilly	June 10/05	
Green, Stanley	June 10/05	
Rosenzweig, Ernest	June 11/05	
Wesfield, Lori A.	June 11/05	
Kotlyar, Julia	June 12/05	
Binder, Simmie	June 13/05	555 Sheppard Ave. W.
Jacobson, Betty	June 14/05	4 Goldfinch Crt.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Alex Flomen	Jun 10/05	57 Old Forest Hill Road
Fanny Pesses	Jun 10/05	1121 Steeles Ave. West
Alice Wiener	Jun 11/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Nathan Fishauf	Jun 12/05	18 Baintree Street, East
Helen Mandelcorn	Jun 12/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Sam Goldberg	Jun 13/05	645 Castlefield Avenue
Regina Steger	Jun 13/05	4383 Bathurst Street
Tova Diamond	Jun 14/05	83 Westgate Blvd.
Dorothy Gordon Buck	Jun 15/05	1166 Bay Street
Mitzi Lowy	Jun 12/05	4646 Sherbrooke Street, West
Bea Redburd	Jun 16/05	645 Castlefield Avenue
Rivka Abramson	Jun 15/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Ruth Koretsky	Jun 17/05	58 Dersingham Crescent
Adelya Lyakhovetzkaya	Jun 18/05	4455 Bathurst St.
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Ottawa federation honours Tamir Foundation

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Tamir Foundation has received the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's first annual excellence in service award.

Founded in 1980, the Tamir Foundation promotes quality of life, in a Jewish environment, for persons who are developmentally challenged. The award comes with a $10,000 allocation to support the foundation's work.

Since its inception, Tamir has grown tremendously in size and scope of services offered. Its first small group home opened in 1985. There are now three group homes, including two brand-new homes side by side that have recently opened. In addition, Tamir offers assistance to those in their own homes, as well as a variety of day programs and outreach services.

The Judaic Outreach Program, developed by Tamir under the leadership of Cantor Daniel Benlolo and director Leah Smith, has provided opportunities for the participants to live fully Jewish lives. There have been bar and bat mitzvahs; Jewish holidays are celebrated together; Shabbat dinners are held on a regular basis; and an ever-growing list of weekly study and interest programs are held.

Mark Palmer, Tamir's executive director, said the foundation is "recognized among Jewish developmental service organizations as a leader in the area of Judaic programming" for developmentally challenged Jews.

Allan Moscovitch, chair of the federation's allocations committee, which chose Tamir for the award, said the committee was "particularly impressed with their consistent record of introducing and extending innovative services to what had been an underserved group of people."

Outgoing chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (formerly the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir) Arnie Vered said that "it is so fitting that Tamir be selected the Jewish community of Ottawa's first recipient of the award of excellence. When it comes to best practices, Tamir leads the way."

Palmer said that one of the ways it does that "is by staying within its budget, while still managing to grow. The combination of having our internal house in order and determining the needs in the community keeps us strong."

Although Tamir is funded mainly by the Ontario Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services, the residential outreach program receives no government funding. "We have not run a deficit because we know how to control costs," said Palmer.

He credits the government as well as the Jewish community for allowing Tamir to constantly pursue more and better programming. "We thank the Jewish Federation of Ottawa for its support over the years and for its leadership among federations in support of Jews with disabilities."

Always striving for the highest standards of care and service, Tamir has also taken the initiative in setting its own standards. "Developmental services in Ontario have no accrediting body, so we have set our own compliance standards. That is innovative in organizational development," said Palmer.

Vered noted that "Tamir is highly regarded within the Jewish community of Ottawa for its important work, but more so highly regarded by the general community of Ottawa in its field of care.

"This is something we all can be proud of. Tamir extends its reach wherever it can in order to help those who have a hard time helping themselves."

Opponents 'scare-mongering' over gay marriage, says Cotler

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler said continued perceptions that faith groups will somehow be compelled to perform same-sex marriages come from "a lot of scare-mongering."

"I think unfortunately there's been a lot of [it] going on," he told reporters in his riding office in Cote des Neiges.

Cotler, speaking not long after same-sex marriage legislation – Bill C-38 – passed second reading in the House of Commons, said the bill is "one of the most studied pieces of legislation ever."

He recognized that the legislation is "understandably still a divisive issue," but he noted it is making "significant and substantive progress," including an all-party motion that affirmed religious freedom with respect to the legislation.

Orthodox Jewish groups nationally have strongly opposed the legislation.

Cotler has said he's committed to having the House sit for an extended period this summer in order to get the bill passed.

Speaking to reporters, he said certain fears about the legislation are "simply not true."

Among them are that religious institutions would lose their charitable status if they refuse to perform same-sex marriages, or that they would be forced to rent out their "sacred spaces" for same-sex marriage receptions.

He called these concerns "unfounded."

He defended the legislation for giving "expressed protection" not only to same-sex couples, but to faith groups that have opposed the bill.

"I would hope that with the passage of the law, people will realize that apprehensions they had simply won't come to pass.

"We can't pick and choose. If there are 12 prohibited grounds for discrimination, and one is sexual orientation, and we support the 11 other grounds, then we have to protect against sexual orientation."

On other issues, Cotler referred to the May visit to Canada of Palestinian Authority (PA) leader Mahmoud Abbas as "very significant," and he praised Abbas' stated commitment to non-violence, a two-state solution and the "road map" peace plan as the bases for negotiations.

Cotler declined to comment on whether he thought First Nations politician David Ahenakew deserved to be stripped of his Order of Canada award for referring to Jews as "a disease" and for defending Adolf Hitler's slaughter of millions of Jews.

Cotler said he could not comment because the case, in which Ahenakew is accused of inciting hatred against Jews, is still before the courts.

Controversial comic to be monitored

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Just as they did last year, Jewish organizations have pledged to closely monitor the appearance by an allegedly anti-Semitic French stand-up comic when he performs at the Just for Laughs comedy festival in the coming week.

Dieudonné M'bala M'bala – who has called Zionism "the AIDS of Judaism" – is slated to make five appearances at the festival as part of its *Juste pour rire* French-language programming: a July 4-5 show called "*Mes Excuses*;" a July 7 show called "1905;" and a July 8 and July 10 show called "*Pardon Judas*."

Both Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region (CJC-Q), and B'nai Brith in Quebec said they were "disappointed" by the decision to invite Dieudonné back to the festival – where he has appeared at least twice previously – this year.

"Dieudonné has made a name for himself in teasing the line between free speech and hate speech and, in doing so, testing the limits of our tolerant society," said CJC-Q president Jeffrey Boro.

Known informally only by his first name, Dieudonné, 39, has gained notoriety for offending religious and other minorities, especially Jews.

One of the most publicized incidents was a December 2003 sketch on French television in which he dressed like an Orthodox Jewish settler in Israel, raised his arm in a Nazi salute, and shouted "Isra-heil."

Jewish groups upset at vandalism sentence

Jewish groups that monitor anti-Semitism are disappointed at the sentences handed to two young offenders convicted of overturning cemetery headstones and vandalizing a synagogue and a Jewish school.

The youths were convicted of simple mischief in connection with a vandalism spree in the spring of 2004, which shocked the Jewish community. The original allegations included the more serious charges that the mischief was directed against religious property and was motivated by bias, prejudice or hate. However, trial judge Walter Gonet acquitted them of that count. He ruled the two young people, who were 15 at the time, committed the mischief in a bid to get themselves on television, not to promote hatred against an identifiable group.

The youths were sentenced to two years probation. They were also ordered to pay $2,000 in restitution (they caused $12,000 in damage), volunteer in the community and attend a Holocaust education program. In addition, they were ordered to write a letter of apology to *The CJN*.

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto called the sentence an insignificant deterrent.

"The sentence handed down in this case will never make up for the trauma these young men caused in Toronto's Jewish community and in the wider community as well," said CJC Ontario chair Joel Richler. "We don't believe this sentence is significant enough to act as a deterrent for serious crimes of hate."

B'nai Brith Canada called the sentence a "slap on the wrist."

"It is hard to see how this judgment will deter others who might choose to lash out in hate," said Brent Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada. "How can we buy into the argument that these youths were only intent on drawing attention to themselves, when their method of choice was to deliberately target one Jewish institution after another?"

However, Paula Rochman, the lawyer for one of the youths, told the court her client woke up the day after the incident "in complete shock at what he had done… He was almost physically sick."

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg Jewish museum facing cash crunch

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish Heritage Centre (JHC) is facing a cash crunch that may force the organization to close its eight-year-old Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada, said JHC president Rona Davies.

The JHC is facing a "double whammy," she said.

At the same time that its rent at the Asper Jewish Community Campus has been raised by $65,000, it has also lost a good chunk of its $100,000 annual subsidy from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.

The museum was created as a result of a $3.6 million federal government grant toward construction of the Asper campus. The grant was given on the condition that a museum be included in the community centre that opened in 1997.

The mandate of the Jewish Heritage Centre was to operate the museum and the attached Freeman Holocaust Centre, and to preserve the former Jewish Historical Society's extensive archives.

Over the years the museum has mounted several successful exhibitions, most recently an exhibit of photos of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp and a look at Winnipeg Jewish weddings over the past 100 years.

Davies said that 14,000 people toured the museum over the past year, even with its limited hours, and thousands more consulted the JHC's archives.

She said that the JHC has one full-time staff person and several part-time people who work for "minimal" wages, and that the organization relies on a large number of volunteers.

She added that at most, 40 per cent of the JHC budget comes from federation funds, and that the JHC has never run a deficit.

Jewish Federation of Winnipeg president Neil Duboff, said that the JHC's predicament is partly due to the community's successful campaign to attract more Jewish immigrants to the city.

More money is needed to fund English as a second language at the Gray Academy of Jewish Education, and for the Jewish Child and Family Service to aid the new immigrants who are largely from Argentina and Russia by way of Israel.

"We have had requests from our beneficiary agencies for more than $450,000 above their allocations," he said.

"We have had to rearrange our priorities to accommodate our new brothers and sisters."

Duboff said that this year, the JHC pulled out of the allocation process in which each beneficiary agency has to make a presentation before the federation's budget and allocations committee.

The JHC is in the process of restructuring, Duboff says, "so we suggested in that case that the JHC pull out of the process."

He said that the $55,000 that the federation is giving the JHC this year is interim funding while the restructuring process is still underway.

The JHC and the federation are continuing to negotiate, he said.

The most recent meeting was on June 20, he said, and "both sides are cautiously optimistic. I have a sense that the JHC leadership understands the importance of working with the general community, and that everyone is committed to making sure that the JHC has the necessary funding to carry out its functions in an appropriate manner."

Davies said that they are involved in delicate negotiations with the federation.

"However, we may have to look to other sources to make up for our funding shortfall.

"Hopefully, we will be able to find enough support in the community to keep the museum open."

JNF Negev galas raise $1.4M out West

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — This year's 2005 Jewish National Fund Negev Gala, held June 15, was about vision and leadership, partnership and community – all of which were exemplified by the late Israel Asper and this year's Negev Gala honoree, the Asper Foundation, which Asper and his family created.

In accepting the honour, Asper's widow Babs recalled that her husband's philosophy was to lead by example. His daughter, Gail, who has carried on his philanthropy, noted that her father, who died in September 2003, lived life to the fullest and left the world a better place.

Asper founded the Asper Foundation in 1983. Over the past few years, it has funded many Jewish and general community initiatives in Winnipeg, such as the Asper Jewish Community Campus, the I.H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba and a research wing at St. Boniface Hospital.

In addition, it has funded a program that takes junior high school students from across the country to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and it has backed the proposed Canadian Human Rights Museum to be built in Winnipeg.

The foundation has also supported educational and social initiatives in Israel, particularly in recent years a network of community action centres in partnership with JNF. There are currently three such centres – in Be'er Sheva and the development towns of Ofaqim and Mikdal Ha'emek.

They provide learning opportunities and serve as drop-in centres for disadvantaged Israeli youth. Funds raised at this year's gala and earlier ones in Edmonton on June 6 (where community leader Phyllis Adler was honoured) and Calgary on June 8 (where Lyle Oberg, Alberta's minister for infrastructure and transportation, presented JNF with a cheque for $1 million, Alberta's share of the new joint agreement on water management and irrigation research signed last month between JNF and his province) are earmarked for construction of five new community action centres in Israel.

Between the three evenings, the JNF raised a record $1.4 million, well above the original goal of $1 million.

The festivities for the 2005 Winnipeg Negev Gala began earlier in the day with a luncheon for major contributors, volunteers and out-of-town attendees. Among the latter were Sharon Marcovitz Hart, president of JNF Canada; Joe Rabinovitch, JNF Canada's national director; Esther Weinstein representing Keren Kayemet in Israel; Oberg from Alberta; a group of Black Hebrews from Dimona in Israel; and two Ethiopian Israeli youths from the Winnipeg Community Action Centre in Be'er Sheva.

At the luncheon, Hart spoke of the JNF's work in resource management and water conservation and desalination. She also commented on the Asper Foundation's "trailblazing" initiatives in human rights, social justice and social action.

Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, spoke briefly about Israel's pending withdrawal from Gaza, the difficulties in bridging the gap between Palestinians and Israelis, and the relationship and shared values between Israel and Canada.

In thanking organizers, Gail Asper was particularly effusive in her praise for Rami Kleinmann, the JNF's shaliach for the prairie provinces.

"Rami has changed the way we view the JNF here," she said. "He has built bridges with other communities. And he seems to have more energy than my father ever had."

The gala evening attracted more than 1,700 people, a record for the community's largest fundraising event. Speakers include Marcovitz Hart, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer, Kleinmann and Len Podheiser, JNF's president for Manitoba/Saskatchewan.

After the speeches and presentation, the audience heard a concert by Duet, made up of Russian-born Israeli opera singer Yevgeni Shapovalov and Shlomit Aharon, one of Israel's top singers. They were accompanied by Habibi, Aharon's backup band.

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Israel concerned by newly elected Iranian president

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Few people in Israel expected a positive turnaround in Iran, but the election of hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president of the Islamic Republic has raised eyebrows among even the more pessimistic pundits.

Even before giving his first media conference, the fundamentalist mayor of Tehran made clear there would be no new approach toward Israel.

"I will strive to expand relations with everyone, with the exception of Israel," he told the Saudi newspaper *Okaz* on Sunday.

That was no surprise in itself, as political leaders in Iran must parrot the policies of the religious clerics.

But under the outgoing president, the reform-minded Mohammed Khatami, there had been an internal domestic tension that benefited Israel. Khatami even hinted that Tehran could soften its stance on the "Zionist enemy" in the event of a satisfactory Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Ahmadinejad is no moderate. A reserve officer in the Basij militia, which suppresses any signs of Western modernity, he enjoyed a sweeping victory in the weekend election, leading Israeli experts to reassess the strength of the reform movement in Iran.

"The surprise in itself is a very troublesome 'mishap,' as Iran is Israel's primary strategic threat, and a situation in which the election of a certain president comes as a surprise to Israel and the West cannot be tolerated," wrote Alex Fishman, the defence correspondent for *Yediot Achronot*.

Fishman predicted increased Iranian efforts to sabotage the recent Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement, through Tehran's Shiite proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah, and the terrorist cells Iran sponsors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even Israeli Arabs are in Iran's sights, Fishman said.

"The Iranian efforts to penetrate radical groups among Israel's Arabs will be deepened, as will the espionage and subversion within Israel," he wrote.

But that threat pales in comparison to Iran's nuclear program, which Israel believes will be capable of producing weapons within months. According to Meir Litvak, an Iran expert at Tel Aviv University, Ahmadinejad has no real control over the program, as it is entirely in the clerics' hands. "They will decide on the continued development of nuclear weapons," Litvak said.

But the president-elect is not expected even to exert rhetorical pressure to rein in the program. He has already declared the pursuit of nuclear capability – he claimed it was for peaceful purposes – a national prerogative.

And he said Iran had "no significant need" for relations with the United States, a sure sign that he will not shy from a future fight to defend his country's nuclear ambitions.

Israel has long tried to keep relatively quiet in international efforts to prevent Iran getting the bomb, but on Sunday Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom spoke out.

"Faced with the Iranian nuclear threat, the international community must, more than before, formulate a unified and stern policy toward Iran," he said. "We must ensure that modern Western countries do not become hostage to Iranian radicalism."

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From left to right: Sara Vered; Zeev Vered; Gilles G. Patry, President, University of Ottawa

"We strongly believe in the University of Ottawa's plans to build a sustainable program of scholarship in Jewish Canadian Studies on a national scale."
Sara Vered

Bielski named to head Jewish Agency

By CHARLOTTE HALLE
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERSUALEM — Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski was unanimously elected chairman of the Jewish Agency last week, after former cabinet minister Natan Sharansky's candidacy was vetoed in a controversial move by the Agency's most senior panel.

The nine-person advise and consent committee, comprising the Agency's key financial backers, reportedly objected to Sharansky because of his vocal opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan, fearing he would use the post of Agency chairman to undermine the plan. Sharansky recently resigned from the government over the withdrawal plan.

The Agency committee – which speedily endorsed Bielski when his candidacy was proposed by the prime minister last month – was thought to want to avoid ruling on Sharansky, knowing the Agency would be criticized for being seen to interfere with the democratic process and failing to approve a candidate of such high standing in the Jewish world.

Indeed, criticism of the Agency committee was virulent, with the majority of the World Likud faction of the Zionist General Council boycotting the vote. Yitzhak Chen, chairman of the council – whose 117 members were eligible to vote in the election – called the committee's decision "intolerable," while World Likud chairman Jacques Kupfer vehemently condemned the "maneuvering" employed to elect Bielski and questioned how Sharansky – "a hero of Israel and the Jewish People" – could possibly be considered unsuitable for the post.

Likud representative on the World Zionist Organization (WZO) executive, Danny Danon, accused the committee of causing an "earthquake" in relations between the two bodies, and blocking Sharansky's candidacy under pressure from the prime minister.

Sharansky said he views the committee's veto of his candidacy for Jewish Agency chairman as an "unprecedented violation" of the Agency's democratic process. He told *Ha'aretz* that he studied the organization's rules and was sure he could win the race.

"This committee was created to prevent petty Israeli politics from influencing the appointment of candidates, but what happened here – perhaps for the first time – is that it was used to introduce Israeli politics and influence the outcome of the election."

The one-time refusenik insisted he would have kept politics out of the Agency had he been appointed – "just as I fought off many attempts to let Oslo play a role in the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum when I headed it."

In response to claims that his candidacy was never viable because of the WZO's balance of power, and that he was simply used to bash the prime minister, Sharansky said: "If it was so obvious I would lose. Why [veto me] and embarrass the prime minister and damage the prestige of the Agency? They all knew I had a very good chance of an easy victory."

Sharansky, who did not rule out running against Bielski for the post in a year's time, said the episode improved his position in the Likud party.

Sharansky supporters threatened to challenge the decision in court.

Bielski, a moderate in Likud, was expected to win the elections even if Sharansky had competed, as he was backed by the majority of factions within the Zionist General Council, including the biggest faction of Labor-Meretz, the Reform and Conservative movements, the Confederation of United Zionists and Herut. But most members of the WZO executive – including those who supported Bielski – were angry that Sharansky was not permitted to compete.

Israeli passport apology ends diplomatic spat

By YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WELLINGTON, N.Z. — Israel's apology for two of its citizens illegally obtaining New Zealand passports is proof the men were spies, Prime Minister Helen Clark said Monday.

In a letter released Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom apologized for the involvement of Israeli citizens in criminal activities and vowed to take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again.

"We believe there was a very good reason for the apology. The apology has been offered and I think it speaks for itself," Clark told reporters a day after Israel apologized, allowing the two nations to restore full diplomatic relations and end an 11-month spat.

"It is an acknowledgment that these people were associated with Israeli intelligence agencies. That's always been our belief," she said.

Israeli sources emphasized that Shalom's letter did not accept Israel's responsibility for the acts attributed to the Israelis. As in other recent affairs of Mossad agents being arrested in Cyprus and Switzerland, Israel at first refused to assume responsibility or apologize, but at a later stage did so.

Israel's relations with New Zealand deteriorated in March 2004, when two Israelis believed to be Mossad agents were arrested for attempting to obtain a New Zealand passport fraudulently. Uriel Kelman, a dual Israeli and Canadian national, and Elisha Cara – who were working with two other agents, according to New Zealand police – applied for the passport using the identity of a quadriplegic man.

In their interrogation, the two denied working for Israel and insisted they were private businessmen. However, after Israel hired local attorneys on their behalf, they reached a plea bargain and admitted to some of the charges.

They were tried for attempting to obtain a passport fraudulently, but not for spying. They were sentenced to six months in jail and fined some $50,000. After serving three months in prison, they were released and sent back to Israel.

New Zealand authorities have issued an arrest warrant for a third member of the group, New Zealander Tony Resnick, and Interpol has been alerted, Clark said.

Resnick, who fled New Zealand when the others were apprehended, is believed to be hiding in Israel.

It transpired during the police investigation and from statements of New Zealand cabinet ministers that the group was involved in a Mossad operation to obtain New Zealand passports, which they had planned to use in future operations of an unclear nature. The investigation also revealed that Cara had served as a department head in the Mossad for more than 20 years, but quit and joined a private company at the beginning of the year.

The New Zealand government said two other Israelis were involved in the affair. One was identified as Ze'ev Barkan, a former Israeli diplomat who served in Israel's embassies in Brussels and Vienna. The local police were also searching for a citizen of New Zealand, Resnick, who was believed to have assisted the Mossad agents. All three managed to flee the country before they were caught.

When Israel refused to apologize for the affair, New Zealand suspended all high-level contacts with Israel. It barred President Moshe Katsav and Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi from visiting New Zealand earlier this year, on their way to Australia.

Clark said New Zealand has changed its regulations for issuing passports, and if Israel managed to obtain passports prior to the arrests, it would be foolish to use them because they've been voided.

The announcement followed several months of diplomatic negotiations between the two countries. Israel's agreement to apologize and submit a commitment that such acts would not recur constitutes a victory for Clark and her cabinet, who demanded this from the moment the affair erupted.

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Cotler competes in Maccabiah

Continued from page 1

He will not be the oldest member of the 390-member Canadian team going to the games, which will run from July 10 to 21. Gerskup said there will be at least one master's tennis player in the over-75 contest.

"We are really proud and honoured. How often do you get a member of Parliament and a cabinet minister competing in the Maccabiah?" Gerskup said. "I'm told he was a pretty good player."

Gerskup added that Cotler has been a longtime supporter of Maccabiah and was an honorary member of the Canadian delegation at the 2001 games, when he marched into the stadium during the opening ceremonies.

Gerskup expects Cotler will have some pretty stiff competition.

"It all depends on the draw," he said.

Abbas not weak: Olmert

Mahmoud Abbas cultivates a false image of weakness, Israel's deputy prime minister said. Abbas "is in love with his image of weakness, because he believes that this helps him mobilize international pressure on Israel to make more concessions," Ehud Olmert told the *Jerusalem Post*, referring to the Palestinian Authority president's claims that he does not have the power to crack down on terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza as required by the U.S.-led "road map" peace plan. Olmert said Abbas is actually in a position of strength because he is supported by the Arab world and in charge of Palestinian security forces.

Thankful for small mercies

Ariel Sharon thanked Micronesia for its support of Israel. The Israeli prime minister hosted Micronesian President Joseph Urusemal in Jerusalem and vowed to bolster bilateral co-operation in agriculture, medicine and education. The tiny South Pacific island federation is an unswerving supporter of Israel at the United Nations, a trend attributed to the pro-Zionist tendencies of its overwhelmingly Christian population. Urusemal, on the third visit to the Jewish state by a Micronesian president, said his country condemns all terror against Israeli targets and backs the upcoming pullout from Gaza.

Bill Gates to visit Israel

Microsoft founder Bill Gates will visit Israel in October. The Israeli business newspaper *Globes* reported the visit is part of Gates' annual tour of Europe, where Gates meets with government and market leaders. He is scheduled to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Islamic Jihad in the sights

Israel has decided to resume "targeted killings" of Islamic Jihad leaders. The decision was made after attacks by the Palestinian terror group killed two Israelis, security sources said. Israel suspended its track-and-kill operations against terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza as part of the truce Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in February. Earlier, Israel arrested 52 Islamic Jihad operatives in the West Bank.

Gay pride parade cancelled

Jerusalem called off this year's gay pride parade in the holy city. Mayor Uri Lupolianski wrote to organizers of the annual parade, saying he had decided the event offended the sensibilities of Jerusalem's religious population and should not go ahead next week as scheduled. The Jerusalem Open House, which represents gays and lesbians in the capital, petitioned the High Court of Justice, demanding it reverse the decision. Media reports said the parade's organizers had vowed to keep participants attire modest to avoid causing offence.

Zionism's quiet supporters

Most Israeli Arabs back the idea of a Jewish state, a survey found. According to the poll released as part of a Jaffa conference on race relations, 70 per cent of Israel's Arab citizens said Israel has the right to exist as a democratic Jewish state, and a quarter voiced support for government efforts to maintain its Jewish majority. About half of Arab respondents said they did not trust Israeli Jews, while 60 per cent of Jews said the same about their Arab compatriots. The survey found that 25 per cent of Israeli Jews believe Arabs should not enjoy full civil rights, and that 70 per cent of Jews avoid travelling to Arab towns in Israel.

Fatal train wreck

Seven people were killed in a train wreck in southern Israel last week. At least 120 were believed injured after a train hit a truck near Kiryat Gat. The train was travelling to Be'er Sheva from northern Israel when the collision occurred. Officials said it was one of the worst train wrecks in Israeli history.

With files from JTA

Conservative Jews face crossroads

By CHANAN TIGAY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Analysis

It has become axiomatic in certain circles to say that the Conservative Movement is at a crossroads as it considers its future.

With the recent announcement of the upcoming retirement of Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, longtime chancellor of the movement's flagship Jewish Theological Seminary, elements of that future are now slightly less clear, and may hinge in large part on who is selected to succeed Rabbi Schorsch.

"I think it's a turning point," said Rabbi Neil Cooper, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in suburban Philadelphia. "I think that when the chancellor took over 20 years ago, the challenges facing the seminary and the movement were very different."

Roundly praised for bolstering what he calls "serious Jewish education" among Conservative Jews, Rabbi Schorsch is retiring at a time of uncertainty for the movement as a whole.

During his tenure, the number of Conservative day school students jumped, as did the number of students at JTS itself, and the seminary established a large graduate school for Jewish education.

Yet insiders say the movement today is in the throes of an identity crisis, facing dwindling numbers of Americans identifying as Conservative, internal debate over the place of gays and non-Jewish spouses in the fold and difficulties speaking in a unified voice. How the movement resolves such contentious issues will be significantly impacted by the next chancellor.

It seems clear that those charged with choosing a new chancellor would be well aware of candidates' stands on these issues, and that their selection could be a bellwether for the future direction of the movement.

"I think that the next chancellor is probably going to be addressing those issues more directly," Rabbi Cooper said. "All of those kinds of things are pulling at us."

In a June 15 letter to the JTS community and supporters, Rabbi Schorsch said he would step down officially on June 30, 2006, some 20 years after taking the reins.

"I do so with more than a tinge of sadness, because throughout my tenure, I have found my work deeply fulfilling," wrote Rabbi Schorsch, who will be 70 when he retires. "But I decided long ago to step down while still in top form."

Under Rabbi Schorsch's watch, the movement's camping and day-school arms have grown, with 25,000 students now attending Conservative Schechter Schools and an additional 25,000 Conservative students in community day schools – non-denominational Jewish academies. Conservative students, JTS says, now comprise 25 per cent of the national day school population.

The JTS student body also has grown, jumping from 500 students in 1994 to 700 today. The school's faculty has increased from 90 members in 1994 to 120 today.

In 1996, JTS established the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, which the seminary says is the largest school of its kind in the country. Rabbi Schorsch has also worked to bolster the Conservative Movement's affiliates in Russia, Argentina and Israel.

He has raised $500 million in annual campaign dollars and more than $265 million in the school's capital campaign that ended in 2004 alone.

Under Rabbi Schorsch "we consistently have strong annual campaigns, a balanced budget and effective financial management," a seminary spokesperson said in an e-mail.

That's despite news reports that emerged in December indicating that JTS was in debt and was selling off buildings and instituting a hiring freeze to cover loans. JTS denies it froze hires, and continues to maintain that its financial position is strong.

As JTS vice-chancellor for institutional advancement, Rabbi Carol Davidson often is on the road with Rabbi Schorsch, raising money for the school. Although he is 20 years her elder, she said, when she's tired after a day of strenuous fundraising, Rabbi Schorsch still has the strength to debrief and analyze the day's events.

That's indicative not only of his "boundless energy," but also his "laser vision about just how important serious support of the institution is," she said.

Since its inception, the Conservative Movement has walked a fine line between adhering to Halachah, or Jewish law, and embracing modernity and a modern approach to religious observance. Rabbi Schorsch, for his part, often has come down on the side of tradition, a stance that has not been without controversy.

"It's much easier to join a movement that doesn't have norms," he said in a recent interview. "The challenge of Conservative Judaism is to be in and of the world without surrendering the importance of norms and boundaries."

Among these boundaries is the movement's policy precluding the ordination of openly gay rabbis and against allowing its rabbis to officiate at same-sex weddings. Some have said privately that it was unlikely these policies would be changed as long as Rabbi Schorsch was at the seminary's helm.

Rabbi Schorsch, for his part, dismisses the argument.

"I don't exaggerate my influence," he said. "I think I've been a voice. I'm not sure I've been a determinative voice. The debate will continue."

In March, the committee on Jewish law and standards of the movement's rabbinic arm will meet to examine several tshuvot, or responsa, on the place of homosexuality in the Conservative Movement. Those with knowledge of the committee's workings say it could pass tshuvot both in favour of and opposing an easing of the movement's restrictions on homosexuality.

A tshuvah that garners the votes of one-quarter of the committee's members is considered an official, halachically tenable opinion, even if another responsa gets a majority of the votes.

In such a case, they say, the new chancellor will play a significant role in determining which tshuvah to rally around and, by extension, how the movement approaches the issue in the future.

The role of women in the rabbinate may be another area in which a new chancellor could make strides, observers say. Conservative women rabbis are paid less than their male counterparts, occupy fewer senior positions and are more likely to be unmarried, according to a movement survey.

A new JTS head could work to ensure that those arenas that are supposed to be egalitarian "are truly egalitarian," said Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles – and could work to move gender issues into the public eye.

בעז"ה

DIRECTOR

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Panache is packed with pantastic recipes

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

When I first moved from Montreal to Toronto in 1997, I was fortunate enough to meet Shawna Goodman-Sone, a well-known cooking teacher and chef. She became my link to the local culinary community, helping me connect to the food mavens of Toronto – a melange of cooking teachers, cookbook authors, caterers and food stylists who all shared my passion for food.

We still stayed in touch when Shawna moved from Toronto to Philadelphia. She later moved to Montreal and initiated a cookbook fundraising project for the Jewish General Hospital. Over 100 volunteers from Montreal's Jewish community gathered, submitted and tested recipes for *Panache*, which took two years to create.

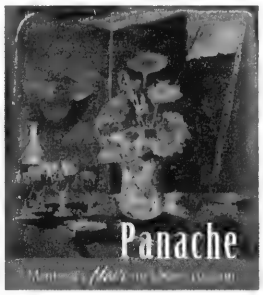
Panache: Montreal's Flair for Kosher Cooking (Auxiliary of the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital) is an exceptional collection of more than 175 mouth-watering kosher recipes from some of Montreal's best cooks. You'll find delicious recipes for starters, soups, hors d'oeuvres, main courses and desserts.

The recipes combine fresh, easily-available ingredients and the step-by-step instructions are clearly written and easy to follow. You'll find helpful tips to help you with preparation and presentation, along with beautiful photographs that almost leap off the page and onto your plate. There are many favourite restaurant dishes that you can prepare simply and successfully in your home kitchen. This is truly kosher fare with flare, reflecting the fabulous flavours of Montreal.

Recipes include Spinach Salad with Mangos and Candied Pecans, Baked Phyllo Chicken Spring Rolls, Hoisin London Broil with Sauteed Mushrooms, Chicken Provencal, Moroccan Tagine with Chickpeas, Rustic Plum Galette, Cranberry Pistachio Crisps...and much more!

Panache is a must for any kosher cookbook-collector. For information on purchasing a copy, call Susan Puritz 514-340-8216 or email co-pres@aux.jgh.mcgill.ca http://www.panache.com. You can also visit their website at http://www.panachecookbook.com. http://www.panachecookbook.com.100 percent of the proceeds from Panache are going to support the JGH Emergency Department.

For elegant but easy summertime entertaining, here are some pan-tastic dishes to add your repertoire. They are fabulous for a Father's Day brunch, a simple summer lunch or supper, a bridal shower or any special occasion. The salmon and asparagus recipes can easily be multiplied for a larger crowd. Enjoy...



OVERNIGHT FRENCH TOAST WITH BLUEBERRIES

So simple to prepare and yet so delicious, friends will think you run a bed and breakfast in Vermont! Heat leftovers, if there are any, in the microwave.

Caramel:
1 cup packed brown sugar
½ cup unsalted butter
1 tsp. cinnamon, optional

Toast:
12 thick slices challah or brioche
1½ cups fresh or frozen blueberries or raspberries

Custard:
5 large eggs
1½ cups milk
1½ tsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. salt

For the caramel, bring the brown sugar, butter and cinnamon to a boil in a small saucepan and stir with a wooden spoon. Let boil for 2 minutes and turn off the heat. The caramel will be brown, thick and bubbly.

Drizzle the caramel evenly over the bottom of a 9 x 13-in. (3.5 L) baking dish. Cover with 6 slices of bread. Scatter the berries overtop. Place the remaining 6 slices of bread on the fruit.

For the custard, whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla and salt in a medium-size bowl. Pour this evenly over the bread. Press down lightly with plastic wrap so that the bread absorbs the custard. Refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 350. Remove the plastic wrap and bake the French toast uncovered for 40 to 50 minutes until puffed and golden. Cut into squares, invert to show the caramel and place on a serving platter. Serves 6 to 8

Variation: Sliced bananas, raspberries or a combination of both may be used instead of the blueberries.

Chef's Tip: To clean the dried caramel from the pot, fill the pot with water and bring to a simmer. Let sit and then clean. Residue will wash away quickly.

PEPPER-CRUSTED MAPLE-GLAZED SALMON

An elegant no-fuss classic. This can also be prepared with chicken or very firm tofu. In the summertime, grill the marinated fish directly over hot coals for about 3 minutes per side.

¾ cup pure maple syrup
¼ cup soy sauce
4 6-oz. (175 g) salmon fillets, skin removed
¼ cup coarsely ground pepper
½ tsp. peanut or other vegetable oil, or a fine mist of oil spray

In a small deep bowl, or resealable plastic bag, mix together the maple syrup and soy sauce. Arrange the fillets so that the marinade completely covers the fish. Marinate in the refrigerator for 30 to 60 minutes.

Preheat oven to 400. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Rub oil over the foil. Place the pepper on a small plate. Remove the salmon from the marinade and pat the top side only into the pepper to coat. Place the fillets, pepper side up, on the prepared baking sheet. Bake on the top rack of the oven for 7 minutes. The syrup may cause the fish to smoke when cooking so don't be alarmed. If it starts to burn, loosely cover with foil. Serve with Oven Roasted Asparagus (below). Serves 4.

OVEN-ROASTED ASPARAGUS

Add to any antipasto platter, frittata or salad – these are so good there may be none left when it comes time to put them on the platter!

2 lb. (1 kg) asparagus, stems trimmed
2 tbsp. olive oil
kosher salt
freshly ground pepper

Preheat oven to 400. Line a baking sheet with a silpat mat or parchment paper. In a large bowl, toss the asparagus with the oil and add salt and pepper to taste. Spread the asparagus in a single layer on the baking sheet. Place in the oven and roast until the asparagus is vibrant green, soft and starting to wrinkle, about 10 minutes, depending on thickness. Serve warm or at room temperature. Serves 4.

Variation: Trimmed green beans, Brussels sprouts and broccoli can all take the place of the asparagus. Just remember that all the vegetables should be cut the same size to ensure even cooking. Reduce the cooking time for thinner vegetables such as green beans.

Chef's Tip: To snap the tough ends off the asparagus, hold the spear about 1 inch up from the bottom. Bend the spear until it snaps.

TIRAMISU

An Italian trifle that is often made with stale sponge cake soaked in espresso and brandy. When translated literally, tiramisu means "pick me up" – and it certainly does! This version is made without eggs. For a sophisticated finale, prepare the tiramisu in individual martini glasses.

2 lb. mascarpone cheese, at room temperature
1½ cups heavy cream (35%)
1¼ cups sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2½ cups cold strong espresso coffee
¼ cup brandy or dark rum
1 14-oz. package ladyfinger cookies (about 40 cookies)
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
shaved semisweet chocolate, for garnish

This can be prepared either in a large trifle bowl or a 9 x 13-in. dish.

In a large stand mixer bowl, beat the marscapone, cream, sugar and vanilla for 2 minutes until thick and creamy.

In a shallow bowl, mix the cold coffee with the brandy or rum. Lightly dip half the ladyfingers into the liquid one at a time and place them very close together in the trifle bowl or dish.

Spread half the mascarpone mixture over the soaked ladyfingers. Sift half the cocoa powder over the mascarpone through a fine mesh sieve. Top with the remaining ladyfingers, dipped in espresso mixture, then with the remaining mascarpone to make another layer. Sprinkle with the cocoa powder again.

Cover the dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate for several hours. The longer it rests, the more flavourful it will be. Just before serving, remove the plastic wrap and sprinkle some shaved chocolate overtop. Makes 16 to 20 servings.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com

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German scholar studies Jewish Canadian writing

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

MARBURG, Germany — In an improbable juxtaposition, Fabienne Quennet holds forth on Jewish Canadian writers in this quaint town of half-timbered buildings some 90 kilometres north of Frankfurt.

A 39-year-old lecturer on Canadian and American literature at Philipps University – Europe's first Protestant institution of higher learning – she is virtually the only scholar in Germany who has seriously immersed herself in this topic.

Within the framework of the university's inter-disciplinary Centre for Canadian Studies, which was established four years ago, she has taught seminars on Jewish Canadian, American, British and Australian novelists and short story writers.

As well, she has written an introductory essay on Jewish Canadian literature for the centre's annual publication, *Ahornblatter,* the cover of which is adorned with a smattering of red maple leafs.

Later this year, at the University of Strasbourg in France, Quennet is scheduled to deliver a lecture on Toronto novelist Lillian Nattel.

And recently, she contributed an essay for a book on Canadian literature the University of Ottawa Press plans to publish in the near future.

Quennet, who has been on staff of Philipps University for the past decade, discovered the Jewish Canadian novel in the late 1990s after reading *Fugitive Pieces* by Ann Michaels.

"I thought it was a wonderful work," she explained in a recent interview. "I was interested in memory, and that's what she dealt with. And from a German perspective, I thought it was daring to write a novel about the Holocaust."

Her appetite whetted by Michaels, Quennet segued into the novels of Mordecai Richler, whose humour she found appealing.

"He imparts a sense of understatement and self-deprecation, which is not particularly German," observed Quennet, who conducted research on Jewish Canadian literature at the University of British Columbia several years ago.

Quennet has also delved into Canadian prose by Norman Levine, Matt Cohen, Naim Kattan, Henry Kreisel and Howard Engel, and Canadian poetry by Abraham Moses Klein, Leonard Cohen, Eli Mandel and Irving Layton.

In general, Canada is on Germany's cultural radar screen, and major Jewish Canadian authors have been translated into German. "They're well represented in the book market," she said.

Yet only a handful of German and other European academics have explored this genre, notably Albert-Reiner Glaap of the University of Dusseldorf and Eugen Banauch of the University of Vienna.

According to Quennet, Jewish Canadian writers struggle more with their position in society than their counterparts in the United States.

"Americans feel more secure, but with Canadians, there is a vague sense of insecurity. In Canada, Jews are more distinctive. In the United States, they have blended in to a greater degree."

In her essay in *Ahornblatter*, Quennet argues that Jewish writing in Canada, due to waves of immigration, has been subjected to many linguistic and thematic influences.

As she puts it: "Mainly the literature appears in English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew, but in the past some writers have chosen to use the language of their origins and written in, for example, German and Hungarian."

Fabienne Quennet

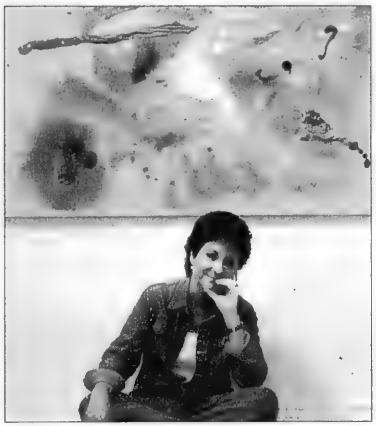
Citing young and upcoming writers such as David Bezmozgis, Nancy Richler and Nora Gold, she claims Jewish writing in Canada is not only thriving but occupies a central place in the contemporary Canadian canon.

Quennet, who was born in Munich and is of French and German origin, believes Germans are generally interested in Jewish culture.

"It's not a question of guilt but of genuine interest," she said, referring to Jewish history and food and klezmer music.

Quennet, whose grandfather was a member of the Nazi party and whose grandmother admired Hitler, acknowledged that German history will be stained by the Holocaust for generations to come.

But she is of the view that young Germans are much more open to different cultures and traditions than their parents and grandparents.



Judy Singer

Abstract artist's new exhibition 'Worlds' presents a visual and narrative calm

ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

In a world filled with doom and gloom, a walk through Judy Singer's artwork is a welcome relief.

Her art, which has been described as spontaneous and uplifting, is a reflection of an outlook that is both upbeat and positive. And with 18 solo exhibitions and 28 group abstract showings to date, Singer is clearly a very talented painter.

"Worlds," her current show, at the Moore Gallery, is a continuation of a 30-year career of creating abstract paintings that use colour, texture and balance to present a visual and narrative calm that borders on the spiritual.

"Religion definitely expanded my outlook on life," she said in an interview at her sunlit studio lined with paintings as large as six feet high stacked side by side.

"I was always interested in spirituality but became more involved in Judaism when I met my husband, Henry Gotfryd, who is observant," she added. In 1990, she produced a collection called "Paintings Inspired by the Writings," a series of works based on biblical passages.

Looking back on a 30-year career that has positioned her as one of Canada's leading female painters, Singer talks about her teachers as having been inspirational mentors.

Continued on page 34

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JUDEN FREI FOCUSES ON HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN SHTETL

Moscow filmmaker **Michael Masterovoy**, who was in Toronto last month for the Hot Docs and Jewish film festivals, is in the finishing stages of *Juden Frei*, a 52-minute documentary about the history of the Ukrainian shtetl Brailov and the fate of one of its families, the Kemelmans. "It's basically about the shtetl life in the 20th century," he said.

The film was made for Russian TV, but Masterovoy's company has hired **Chaim Topol** to provide English narration to make it accessible to North American audiences. He's currently in negotiation with the American TV network PBS and expresses hope the film might also enjoy a theatrical release.

Masterovoy, who studied film in New York and had a previous documentary in the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, found a lot of rare stock footage of Ukrainian Jews in state archives in Kiev and elsewhere. Soviet filmmakers recorded many scenes of police closing down synagogues, he said. "Now access to all the archives is open. You can easily get anything you want – if you have the money, of course." He's already planning future projects about the Jews of Georgia and Bukhara.

While in Toronto, Masterovoy visited relatives in Richmond Hill, and was impressed by the high concentration of former Russian Jews along the north Bathurst corridor. "It's like the Brighton Beach of Canada," he observed, "except that it's probably more civilized."

* * *

Toronto Summer Chamber Music Festival: This debuting musical event features artists from Canada and Europe in concert, July 5 through 8. Artistic directors are **Michael Guttman** and **Marilyn Gilbert.**

The peripatetic Guttman makes his Canadian premiere as solo performer and member of Belgium's **Arriaga Quartet** at the festival. He is also a guest professor at the Tel-Aviv Music Academy, Hiroshima University, Aspen Music School and Gent Conservatory. At the invitation of Queen Sofia of Spain, the quartet recently performed on four Stradivarius belonging to the Spanish Crown.

Julian Kuerti

"Precocious Geniuses Who Died Young" is the theme of the July 5th concert, featuring pianist **Richard Raymond**, violinist Guttman, bassist **Joel Quarrington** and the Arriaga Quartet. The July 6th concert focuses on **Brahms** and features violists **Rivka Golani** and **Douglas Perry**, cellist **Yegor Dychkov** and Arriaga.

The theme is "Composers Inspired by Folk Music" on July 7 and" Sounds and Colours of French Music" on July 8. All concerts at the Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. W., 8 p.m. $30 each, $110 for all. 416-205-5555, www.mgam.com.

* * *

Book News : Toronto publishing house McClelland and Stewart recently reprinted **Dr. Stephen Speisman's** 1979 book, *The Jews of Toronto: A History to 1937*. Speisman, former director of the Ontario Jewish Archives for 28 years, based the book on his doctoral dissertation in history at the University of Toronto. Except for a new cover, the reprinted edition is identical to the original: it was reproduced photographically, a process that forbids revision.

Now the executive director of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park, Speisman said he's working on a second volume to bring the history closer to the present time. However, publication is not imminent. "It's a work in progress, so don't expect it tomorrow," he said.

* * *

Names in the News: Torontonian **Julian Kuerti,** 28-year-old son of pianist **Anton Kuerti** and cellist **Kristine Bogyo**, conducted the **Berliner Symphoniker** last week for his diploma concert at the University of Berlin, where he has been studying for three years. He also conducts the Tanglewood Music Festival's season-opening concert on July 3 and plans to spend the summer studying music at the Boston-area retreat. He was recently appointed assistant conductor of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, beginning September 2006.

Thornhill resident **David Zvi Epstein**, a grade 12 student at Bnei Akiva Yeshivat Or Chaim, was a finalist for the second time in the Kaplun Essay contest and attended the annual luncheon and awards ceremony last week in New York

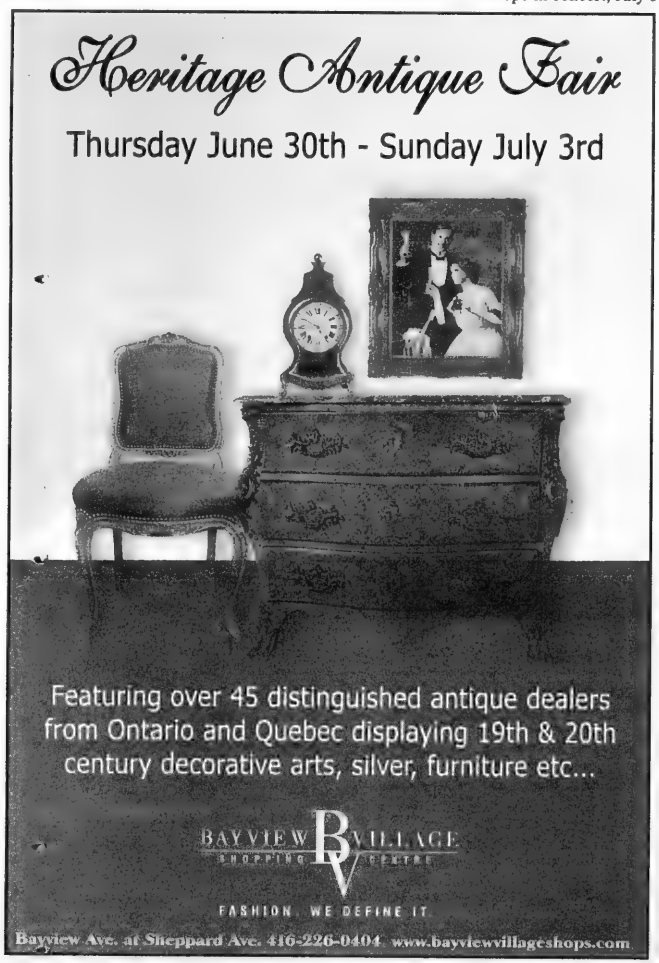
Playwright **Jason Sherman**, who scripted the current Stratford production of **The Brothers Karamazov** from **Dostoyevsky's** novel, joins **Nicolas Billon**, **Peter Hinton** and **Dan Needles** in a panel discussion on Canadian drama as part of Stratford Festival's 2005 Celebrated Writers series. $25. Sunday July 3. 800-567-1600, www.stratfordfestival.ca.

* * *

At the Galleries

• A series of 30 images of the Holocaust, drawn by students from Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School, are on view in the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St., until July 6.

• "Worlds", an exhibition of paintings by **Judy Singer**, continues at the Moore Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave. Suite 404, until July 16.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A walk on the calm side

Continued from page 33

As a young child, Singer believed that creative girls could become either fashion designers or interior decorators. Her turning point came at age 15, when she decided to enrol in a neighbourhood art school. It was Morton Harris, her first art teacher at the MSH Studio School of Art, who suggested that she pursue a commercial career in art.

"But I decided to go to university for one year to try it out," Singer said. There, she met people who opened up her world.

Art critic Ken Carpenter taught her how to see and analyze paintings. "Because art is such a visual language, you need to become fluent in that language," she said. "You need to know the grammar and vocabulary."

While at York University, she also studied with Tim Whiten and Ken Lochead. Before completing her degree in fine arts, Singer had her first lucky break.

In 1974, during her fourth year of art school, her work was presented at a Young Canadian Artist display at a Beth Tzedec Congregation fundraiser. A dealer named Jack Pollock happened by and offered her a show in his gallery.

"It gave me instant credibility," Singer said.

In 1982, Singer was one of two artists chosen to represent Canada in the Carnegie International, a travelling exhibit of 63 artists from 27 countries.

Besides teaching art part-time at York University, Singer has also experimented with fabric painting and owned a bakery. Singer notes that each experience has had a positive learning element to it.

"The bakery taught me a lot about business," she said. "Artists are notoriously bad businesspeople. And while I'm still an artist in the studio, I'm a little more professional in terms of the business side of my work," she said.

Despite her venture into other projects, Singer always comes back to her art. She's already planning upcoming shows for the next few years in other cities.

Her current exhibit, "Worlds," is on at the Moore Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 404, until July 16.

Local director takes her shows to Prague synagogue

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Toronto director/producer Judy Kopelow is taking her innovative productions of *Children of a Vanished World* and *White Rose* to Prague for the Three Rings Project Arts Festival.

Children of a Vanished World, staged originally in Toronto in 2002 and 2003, is a multimedia event that projects 70 of Roman Vishniak's powerful photographs onto a 10-by-14-foot screen, accompanied by narration and Yiddish folk music.

Vishniak's camera caught the faces of Jewish children and their families in Eastern Europe between 1935 and 1939, shortly before the community's destruction.

"After I did *Children* here, I wanted to do it in Eastern Europe, where these children lived and died," Kopelow said.

The performances will be at the Spanish Synagogue, a Gothic-style building built in 1868 in the Jewish quarter of Prague.

Kopelow said while it's always a challenge to mount a production in a new venue, this one makes it especially difficult. She said it will be an emotional strain to perform so close to where these people walked.

"Being in the synagogue, where many of these children sat, will be very moving. There's a real responsibility for us to respectfully remember those that lived there, and who ultimately perished."

Just a few weeks before the production in Prague begins – it runs July 3 to 6 – Kopelow has yet to see the synagogue.

"I was sent some floor plans of the building, so we are able to rehearse the production to scale," she said.

White Rose, which premiered in Toronto for Holocaust Education Week last fall, is a one-act opera by contemporary German composer Udo Zimmermann. Kopelow will direct and adapt the production to the synagogue. Sabatino Vacca conducts the Czech 15-piece orchestra.

White Rose tells the story of Hans and Sophie Scholl, who were members of the University of Munich's student resistance group, White Rose, in Nazi Germany.

Inside Prague's Spanish Synagogue.

"They were part of a group that wrote and distributed leaflets calling for an intellectual call to arms against the Nazi regime," Kopelow said. Approximately 16,000 leaflets were distributed before the group was caught and its members killed by guillotine.

"The opera tells the story of these two people as they sit in jail reflecting on their childhood, their family, friends and future as they face their death."

Kopelow is also making plans to take this production to other places, including Poland, Germany and Israel.

The Three Rings Arts Festival (www.threerings.com) is the brainchild of Harry Hurwitz, who worked on a previous Kopelow production. It examines Western culture through cultural events, including music and conferences.

Toronto-born poet wins PEN award

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to the CJN

Toronto-born poet Yerra Sugarman has won a prestigious American literary award for a debut collection of poems, *Forms of Gone*, which captures the experience of growing up as a daughter of Holocaust survivors in a north Toronto survivor community.

A university instructor who has lived in New York for more than 20 years, Sugarman received the $5,000 PEN American Center poetry prize at an awards ceremony at the Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater in late May.

The 28 other prize winners included Jewish playwright and actor Wallace Shawn for drama and the late Paul Celan, a Holocaust survivor and poet.

Although trained as a visual artist, Sugarman said she decided a few years ago to attempt to express herself by writing. She worked on her poems through a sequence of writing workshops at Manhattan's 92nd Street "Y" in the late '90s.

"I knew I couldn't say what I had to say in painting and that the art world is not that receptive to certain subject matters," she said. "I knew that somehow, if I wanted to convey this, I couldn't do it visually," she said.

"[Writing poetry] feels to me very closely related to making visual art such as collage or sculpture – I can play with the shape of it. Poetry is very visual on the page, so it felt very natural."

Her parents, Sam and Pearl Sugarman, came from a town near Krakow, Poland, fled to the Soviet Union and France during World War II, and arrived in Canada with a son in 1951. Yerra was born in 1955 and grew up immersed in the large survivor colony in north Toronto.

She attended William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute and studied visual arts at Concordia and Columbia universities. Her parents, who were members of Clanton Park Synagogue, both died in 2000.

In a short essay, she described the theme of *Forms of Gone* as "bearing witness to loss that affected me daily, that I had inherited, yet experienced vicariously or 'at a remove' from the actual events that had been its agent and marked the lives of those about whom I wrote."

Sugarman has completed – but not yet published – a second collection of poetry called *Glass* and has begun a third. She has also penned literary criticism and articles for several publications, including the Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature.

A resident of Greenwich Village, she teaches creative writing and advanced poetry workshops at City College and New York University. Her course at NYU is titled Creative Writing of Remembrance and Witness.

Although she won a Discovery award for poetry in 1998, Sugarman said she was "totally shocked" when she won the PEN award. "I knew that I liked writing, but I didn't know that I would be a poet," she said.

Now, as a result of winning the award, she has been admitted into the august ranks of a distinguished writers' organization.

PEN American Center, the U.S. branch of PEN International, was founded in 1922 and has a present membership of about 2,900 writers, poets, editors and translators. Legendary past members have included James Baldwin, Willa Cather, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Thomas Mann, Arthur Miller, Susan Sontag and John Steinbeck.

Forms of Gone was published by Sheep Meadow Press of Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York.

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A writer comes of age: Henry Kreisel's wartime writings

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

The prestigious American literary magazine *PMLA* publishes what it calls "little-known documents" – discoveries from library and private archives whose contents vary from Gertrude Stein's table talk to the early drafts of Soviet literary revolutionaries.

Among the little-known documents of Canadian Jewish literature that deserve a wider readership is a remarkable diary written by Henry Kreisel, when he and his father were interned in a New Brunswick "enemy alien" camp.

Kreisel and his parents escaped from Nazi Vienna to England shortly before the onset of World War II. In the spring of 1940, with the young Kreisel working in a London garment factory, the two men were caught up in what Kreisel recalled as an effort by the British government "to reassure its own population that it was on guard, alert to the dangers posed by potential fifth columnists."

In a deal struck with the Canadian government, hundreds of these imaginary enemies, along with actual Nazi prisoners of war, were transported across the sea to the woods near Fredericton. At Camp B, as it was called, Kreisel spent a year and a half.

Though Kreisel made youthful efforts at writing before being forced to flee Austria, he viewed his camp experience as "central to [his] own development" as a writer. Among his fellow internees were numerous Jewish academics, writers and musicians, including Emil Fackenheim, Peter Oberlander and Max Stern, whose contributions after the war in the areas of philosophy, visual arts and city planning would prove influential.

Among such impressive compatriots, Kreisel wrote of receiving "a liberal education in many ways more remarkable than the article available in universities."

Kreisel's *Diary of an Internment* is an excellent historical source for a strange and uniquely Canadian chapter of World War II. In his view, the internees were treated reasonably, and when they did work, the Canadian landscape presented them with respite.

In a diary entry from June 1941, Kreisel wrote: "A very beautiful day. We worked directly at the little brook still farther away from the camp. When we entered the camp, it reminded me of animals being let into a big cage."

He embarks on a Kafkaesque struggle to receive permission from the camp commander to send his early efforts at fiction out for consideration: "To think that I need the consent of such a fellow, who has, I am sure, not read 20 books in his whole life."

And the young internee even finds sympathy for a Fredericton rabbi who arrives to give a speech that tells the camp inmates not to "grumble at being interned."

"I don't blame him," Kreisel writes, "he had to do it."

Cutting wood in the camp's surrounding forest, Kreisel's literary ambitions are fuelled by discussions with his compatriots: "I felled one tree only; the other time I spend discussing with my friend H.A. Lissauer about writing. I think of writing a new short novel…"

In the immediate postwar years, Kreisel studied English at the University of Toronto and began, in 1944, at the age of 23, to sketch the material that would take shape as his first novel, *The Rich Man*.

Published in 1948 by McClelland & Stewart, it is among the first major works on Jewish themes by a Jewish writer published in Canada by a mainstream publisher. Kreisel did not exaggerate when, late in his career, he told an interviewer that he saw himself as "one of the first people to bring modern Canadian literature the experience of the immigrant."

The Rich Man's action begins in the College and Spadina neighbourhood, where Kreisel lived upon settling in Toronto. It portrays Spadina-area streetscapes and sweatshop work, and paints a rather down-beat portrait of the Jewish immigrant experience. The novel's startling narrative leap takes shape as the novel's main character – an immigrant from Vienna who works in a local factory – decides to make a return trip, at great cost, to see his family.

The bulk of the novel then, captures the creeping state of dread and helplessness experienced by Viennese Jews shortly before the war. The returnee from the *goldene medine* is mistaken for a rich man, and awkwardly allows his European relatives to believe he has made a great success of himself in Canada.

Kreisel did not publish another novel until the 1964 appearance of *The Betrayal*, which again takes up themes of double lives created by the challenge of immigration and exile. He devoted much of his energy to a long and productive scholarly and administrative career at the University of Alberta.

As an Edmontonian, his writing embraced the particularity of the prairie landscape, though prewar Europe and the Holocaust continued to haunt his fiction and memoiristic writing. His *Diary of an Internment* has never had a wide readership.

It appeared first, in 1974, in a small Edmonton-based journal, and was reprinted a decade later in a volume entitled *Another Country: Henry Kreisel*.

In the diary's crisp, stoical prose, we see a young man's artistic consciousness taking shape under the shadow of exile. At the same time, the diary provides us with a prelude to the appearance of one of the first Jewish voices in mainstream Canadian fiction.

Norman Ravvin's most recent novel is Lola by Night. *He is co-editor of The* Canadian Jewish Studies Reader *and chair of the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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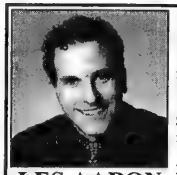

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$519,000 Bathurst/Clark 5+2 bdrms, baths, LR/DR comb, mn flr fam rm f/plc, office, eat-in SOLD 96.5% OF ASKING ut to fncd grdn, fnshd bsmt, entry frm dbl gar., almost 3, sq. ft. of living space.

$439,900 Bayview/Greenlane 4+1 bdrms, 4 baths, eat-in kitchen, walkout from family room t SOLD IN ONE DAY y's suite, cvac, cac, circuit breakers, main floor laundry, double garage.

$429,000 Bathurst/Clark 4+ SOLD 96% OF ASKING aths, entry frm dbl gar, mn flr lndry, w/out frm mn flr fam r fnshd bsmt, walk to shuls.

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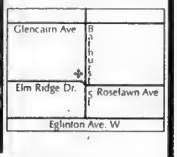

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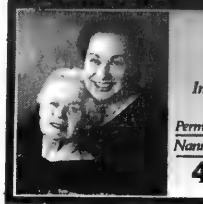

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Dr. Michael offers cure for lonely hearts

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

When Michael Horowitz first made the move from Toronto to Vancouver four years ago, the eligible, young bachelor asked himself, "Where are all the single Jewish girls?"

Since he posed that question, Horowitz, a 31-year-old chiropractor, decided that if he was going to find his soul mate in Vancouver, he was going to have to do something about bringing young Jewish singles together.

With a Jewish population of only 25,000 in Vancouver, compared to Toronto's 200,000 and Montreal's 100,000, Horowitz was determined to add an element of cohesion to the city's Jewish community.

"A few months after the move [to Vancouver] I decided that since I didn't know that many people, I wanted to develop a network of friends, I wanted to go to some Jewish events. I was kind of disappointed to see there was not much going on. And what was going on was not really catered to young Jewish singles or young Jewish professionals," Horowitz said.

He decided that instead of whine about it, he was going to take the initiative and plan the exact kind of party he had been looking for.

Horowitz came up with a concept that he felt was sure to strike a chord with his brethren in the 25 to 40 age group.

He called his first party the "I hate being a single Jew on Valentine's Day" party, which was later renamed Jewish Love Potion.

It was nothing like Shabbat dinner at the rabbi's house.

The venue was chic, the music was loud, the booze flowed and the Jews came.

The turnout for this party was even better than he had hoped.

"I was blown away with 250 people. I guess that's the thing about Vancouver. If there is something going on in the Jewish community, friends will tell friends and it will spread very quickly," he said.

"I was shocked and it was just so exciting and for the first time in my life I thought, 'Wow, there are actually some young Jewish people around here.'"

With the success of what was supposed to be a one-time event, he knew it wasn't going to end there. He created Dr. Michael Events, posted a website, lured sponsors and spread the word like wildfire all over North America.

Since then, Horowitz has organized events with names such as Jewtopia, JEWCY, Jews Gone Wild and Schmoozerella.

"After doing four or six parties in Vancouver, I thought, 'Hey, I recall there's quite a few Jews in Toronto. I want to be able to come back and visit family a few times a year anyway, so why not make an excuse to see what can happen in Toronto,'" Horowitz said.

Encouraged by great turnouts in Toronto, Dr. Michael Events expanded to Montreal, New York, Florida, Seattle and Portland.

Horowitz recently organized a party at the Sugar Lounge in Toronto called Jewlicious, which featured a performance by a belly dancer, and he said he has plans for another party at the end of the summer.

Despite the success of his parties that draw crowds ranging from 150 to 400 people, Horowitz understands the stigma surrounding "Jew-dos," and the pressure to marry within the faith, which often turns people off from attending his parties.

Michael Horowitz [Benji Feldman photo]

"It's kind of tough because people don't like going to Jew-dos. I never liked going to Jew-dos. I'd like to think of it more as a networking framework. A great way to meet new friends and to connect with previous friends. But of course, there are going to be some singles cruising as well."

Horowitz also understands the difficulty that young North American Jews face when trying to romantically connect with other Jewish youths.

"Although our parents would love us to meet a Jewish mate, it's not so easy. I think there are a lot of Jewish people in their 20s and 30s who want to feel that it would be a good idea to, but we live in a society that it's not that easy to connect with someone. These parties have become an opportunity for people to connect," Horowitz said.

"Jewish people want to meet other Jewish people. We have a common bond. We have tradition and we understand each other in a way that others cannot."

While Horowitz has yet to connect with his soul mate, he is proud to announce that five marriages have come out of his parties, which motivates him to continue offering this public service to Jews around the continent.

While he plans these parties as more of a hobby rather than a way to make money, there is usually an entry fee to cover the cost of renting the venue. If he does make a profit, he always donates 10 per cent to a Jewish charity or organization.

"It can cost as much as $3,000, or $3,500 to throw a party, and I've lost money before. So, I don't mind when I make some money. But when I hear that people are connecting, getting engaged and married, it's awesome. It's what it's all about. It's about bringing Jewish people together," he said.

For more information about the events, past, present and future, visit www.drmichaelevents.com.

REMEMBERING JERUSALEM: From left, Robyn Grunberg, Laurenne Kredenster and Elianna Weiss pose in front of their Jerusalem project in the Israel Interactive Centre at Bialik Hebrew Day School. Students in grades 4 and 5 work at the centre to research various topics related to Israel, such as its culture, architecture, geography, water and weather. They then build models and other representations of the concepts they've studied.

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Maccabiah hoops tourney a homecoming for three Canadians

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For basketball players Liav Peled, Neriya Tsur-Shalem and Perez Goldstein, the march into Ramat Gan stadium during the opening ceremonies of next month's Maccabiah Games will be something of a homecoming.

Assistant coach Glen Grunwald, formerly the general manager of the Toronto Raptors, expects it will be "magical" and "something special," while for businessman Gerry Schwartz, one of the Canadian team's honorary chefs de mission, the thought of it brings a smile to his face.

All are key components of the Canadian basketball entry into what promises to be a knock-down, drag 'em out competition in one of the more hotly contested sports at the games.

Peled, Tsur-Shalem and Goldstein are all natives of Israel who have moved to Canada and are continuing their infatuation with the sport. Grunwald, of course, is the high profile assistant coach with an NBA pedigree, while Schwartz, who is a big man in business if not the basketball court, is the guy who has sponsored not only the Canadian basketball team but the entire Maccabiah hoops tournament.

Gerry Schwartz

Grunwald is confident the Canadians will have what it takes to compete in Israel. They're going with the expectation of earning a medal, he said.

Grunwald, who was recruited to the team by senior Maccabi Canada official Sid Greenberg, said the Canadian team has shown a good attitude in practices.

The Canadians will likely adapt their style to the contingencies of play, but for now Grunwald expects them to push the ball in transition to create offence and take good early shots if possible.

"We can run until we get a good shot," Grunwald said, keeping in mind the 24-second clock.

Grunwald expects the Canadian team will get a boost with the participation of big man Alex Bougaieff, whose been playing professionally in Italy for the past five years. Before that, the 6-11 centre played at Rice University in the United States.

Peled, 25, is a native of Petah Tikvah who played in the Maccabi Tel Aviv system for much of his youth. In Israel, professional teams sponsor youth squads in various age groups, he said.

Four years ago, after being spotted at an NCAA evaluation camp in Salt Lake City, Peled was recruited to Alberta, where he was offered a scholarship to play for the Lethbridge College Kodiaks.

"The college offered a scholarship and I took a chance," he said.

A 6-1 point guard with limited knowledge of Canadian geography, Peled at first thought Alberta was a city. He spent three years playing and studying in Lethbridge, where, he surmises, he was likely the only Jew under 80. Last year, he moved to Calgary, where he played for the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) Trojans. He's been a four-time all-star in the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference.

Studying management with a major in accounting, he learned to enjoy his western Canadian experience and he became, by default, something of a goodwill ambassador for Israel. Often he would be asked to explain the country's security situation, and he would offer inquisitive locals something other than the CNN narrative.

Every year at Rosh Hashanah, the community's remaining octogenarian Jews would open the town's shul and he would be honoured to read from the Torah. He was told his Hebrew inflection was something they hadn't heard in more than 30 years.

It was about one year ago when one of the community members e-mailed him with information about the Maccabiah Games. He subsequently inquired of head coach John Dore whether he could help the team as an assistant, but instead he was asked to come for a tryout. Last August, he made the team.

"Basketball brought me here and basketball is bringing me back," he said on the phone from Calgary, where he's lived for the past year.

The return to Israel will be especially emotional for him, as he hasn't been home in four years. What's more, his sister, Sapir (Sapphire in English), who was 11 when he last saw her, will also participate in the opening ceremonies. She'll be one of the dancers providing entertainment to the thousands of spectators.

"It's exciting," Peled said. "I haven't seen my family for some time."

As for the competition itself, Peled expects a tough grind. Canada will play the United States, France and Moldova in one round robin group, while the other four teams are Israel, Germany, Australia and Brazil.

Canada's first game is versus the United States, whose team is likely to be stocked with NCAA players, he said.

The Israelis, for their part, are sending an all-star team from their elite professional league, some of whom were on the country's under-21 team that finished second in Europe four years ago.

Still, he said, the Canadian team has good talent, good character and a strong work ethic. "It seems like a good team."

Tsur-Shalem, 23, has played for the last four years at Humber College in Toronto. A 6-6 forward, he learned about the games at a shoot-around at his old stomping grounds, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

He's been working out with the rest of the team, many of whom live in the Toronto area.

Practising under Dore and Grunwald has been a satisfying experience, Tsur-Shalem said. "When you first hear about it, it gets you excited. It's good to know you're playing with experienced coaches. It's nice to have them in your corner."

Liav Peled

Dore has been the head coach of Concordia University since the 1989-90 season. He has taken the Stingers to the national championship tournament eight times, winning the national crown in 1990 and placing second in 1995.

Tsur-Shalem expects each Maccabiah game to be intense, even "warlike... Every game is going to be crucial."

With the Humber Hawks, Tsur-Shalem has gotten used to pressure. This past season, the Hawks were crowned Ontario college champions and they finished fourth in all of Canada.

When he first moved to Toronto in high school, it took him a while to adjust to the North American style of play. In Israel, they play a European game, play-based with a high value on shooting accuracy. "People there understand the game, rather than push and dunk. But it's less intense," he said.

Schwartz, meanwhile, will be accompanying the team and expects to sit in on the Canadian games. As the team's – and tournament's – financial sponsor, he has a natural interest in the outcome.

A basketball fan and player since he was a kid, he became involved with the Canadian Maccabiah team thanks to the influence of his friend, filmmaker Robert Lantos. Lantos once participated in the games in water polo and is sponsoring this year's Canadian entry in that competition.

Schwartz said there are many aspects of the Maccabiah Games that attracted him. "It celebrates Jewish athletes from around the world and that's different than the stereotype of Jews bent over and studying. I like that image of strength and vitality."

"It brings young Jewish kids to Israel and exposes them first-hand to Israel, which is always a wonderful experience."

And, he continued, "it's a way to show the Diaspora that Israel is able to hold a major international event. That was more important during the intifadah, but it's still important."

Tikkun olam and kindness

It seems as if everywhere I turn these days, there are strong messages of tikkun olam, in which people of all ages are encouraged to repair the world through acts of social action.

Even *The CJN* hosted a town hall meeting last month at which a panel of social activists and charitable entrepreneurs talked about how easy it is to make a difference in other people's lives. I left that meeting feeling inspired. After all, I'm young and don't have any real responsibilities yet. I'm at that point in my life where it would be exactly the right time to start something new, something meaningful that could help hundreds around the world. With my head full of ideas and a heart full of humanity, I walked out of the meeting and into the world determined.

By SANDIE BENITAH

But naive little me – it was the real world I walked into.

Today, my heart is hardened and my stomach is turning in disgust. I realized that while some are stitching a bandage over the world's aches, a lot more people are giving a hard kick to just about everybody who crosses their path.

Sounds a little harsh as I'm sure most of us pat ourselves on the back for giving tzedakah and even volunteering some of our time. But please, take a moment to consider this true story.

Two weeks ago, about a hundred people, including patients, doctors, social workers and nurses, were sitting around in a Toronto-area hospital emergency room. A young woman in her 30s walked in, limping, grasping onto overflowing garbage bags full of her possessions with tears streaming down her face.

"I need to use a phone," she screamed. "Help me!"

Patients looked at her with mild interest, momentarily distracted from their own pain. Nobody got up of course. Not even a nurse approached her. After everyone paused for a brief moment, everyone got on with what they were doing.

The woman limped over to the nurse's station, sat down in front of a phone, shaking so badly she couldn't dial. The nurse sitting at the other end of the table barely looked up at her. As her howls continued to draw the stares of onlookers, another nurse quietly spoke to her and told her the hospital was not in the business of helping drug addicts.

"Fine!" screamed the woman, crying so hard she was losing her breath. She wobbled out of the hospital, still clutching on to her bags.

"I'm going to go find a bridge and kill myself."

Everyone sat and stood where they were, quietly watching her leave before turning back to what they were doing.

"The things you see at a hospital," chuckled one woman to her friend, before going back to flipping the pages of her magazine.

I'm not sure whether she was talking about the crying woman or the fact that not one person in the room got up to stop the woman who had just yelled out she was about to commit suicide.

It's easy to look back and shake our head with disbelief but can any of us honestly say we would act any differently? I'm sure each of the hundred people in that room would like to think they'd react differently, too.

Often, when the gesture of tikkun olam is discussed, we talk about ending a plight or finding a solution to a large issue. But as we set out to save the world, it seems as if we're forgetting all about the spirit of kindness. Our kindness doesn't mean much at all if we ignore the man stranded with a flat tire without a cellphone, or the woman struggling with bags of groceries and a quick elevator door. Our kindness didn't mean much at all to the crying woman who walked out of the hospital and onto oncoming traffic.

TEXAS SLAW

1 pkg. cole slaw (cello pkg. in salad dept., of grocery store)
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup distilled white vinegar
1/4 cup vegetable oil
shredded carrots and green peppers

Whisk sugar, vinegar, and oil to blend in large bowl. Add remaining ingredients and toss to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover tightly and refrigerate at least 4 hrs., tossing occasionally. (Can be prepared 2 days ahead. Keep refrigerated.)

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About Life

Dear Ella

A good friend of mine is marrying off her daughter. I just received the invitation and the wedding is on the long weekend in August.

We all work very hard all year and we only have a handful of weekends we can spend as a family together, and this is one of those weekends. We own a cottage that is very under-utilized. The summer long weekends are very special times for us to get together and catch up with the kids and grandkids. I'll never understand how people can assume that everyone would like to ruin their long summer weekends by being stuck in the city for a four-hour wedding. I would love to decline this invitation, but I'm afraid it would start irreparable bad feelings between us. Do you think I could get away with this?

Untimely Wedding

Dear Untimely Wedding

A wedding is a "simchah," a happy occasion. Simchahs are not meant to cause inconvenience or stress to the invited guests. Unfortunately, having a wedding on one of our few long weekends in the summer is not going to be a popular decision with many people. The family making that kind of decision will have to allow for a larger-than-usual regrets list.

That being said, people invite you to join in their simchah because you are important to them. Weddings are expensive, and guest lists are made with much thought and careful consideration.

I understand that your weekends are important to you, but there are social commitments that we are all required to fulfil from time to time. Perhaps your friend chose this weekend so that her out-of-town guests could also come. Whatever her reasons are, you must weigh the pros and cons of your choices. Maybe you could cut your weekend short at the cottage and enjoy a bit of both events? But whatever you decide, don't do it with resentment. Don't give up your weekend at the cottage and then walk around crabby at the wedding. If you choose to go, enjoy yourself. After all, it's a simchah!

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Doctors: a lofty calling

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Maimonidies was one of the greatest Jewish minds ever. He was also the physician of the Saladi, the Egyptian ruler (12th century CE). About health, Maimonides said, "Since maintaining a healthy and sound body is among the ways of God – for one cannot understand or have any knowledge of the Creator if he is ill – therefore he must avoid that which harms the body and accustom himself to that which is helpful and helps the body become stronger."

URBAN WRITER

Maimonides' statement seems to say, maintaining our health is a Godly obligation. If so, it seems logical that those who care for our health are involved in a holy endeavour.

From my own experiences, I have always believed that physicians are frequently special people walking on a sacred path. Of course, parents who want to marry off their children have known this for years.

My introduction to doctors was as a child when our family visited our general practitioner in Elmira, Ont. – the late Dr. Wyatt. The adventure began in the parking lot where we parked next to Mennonite buggies. Once in Dr. Wyatt's office, I saw a giant of a man (actually he was average size) who appeared draped in a white coat with a magical stethoscope hanging around his neck. How curious I was as he listened to the drumbeats of my heart and then peered into my eyes, ears and throat. I remember feeling relieved but safer when he completed his examination, as though I had been repaired by someone with special powers.

Over the years I have been honoured to interact with many physicians and discovered that the characters I once saw as mythical are indeed soulful human beings with masterful skills.

An illustration of this is my personal physician today, Dr. Stephen Gottesman, a truly descent human being with an assuring bedside manner and a progressive approach to medicine. He is a compassionate man who has actualized his commitment to medicine by tending to the elderly in our homes for the aged, as well as impoverished villagers in the rainforests of Guyana.

I have worked with Dr. Howard Price, a specialist – a gastro-enterologist – and former chair of Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. He is an individual who personifies a deep love of the Jewish people and humankind and his living legacy includes a tenacious commitment to fixing the world. Howard is the co-founder of the Maimonides Society, a United Jewish Appeal affinity group.

I have witnessed the brilliance of Dr. Michael Silverman, of Lakeridge Health Centre, whose academic study in rural Africa has shown that $7 (Cdn) worth of pharmaceuticals can decrease transmission of HIV/AIDS from pregnant mother to child more than 50 per cent of the time.

Doctors often do act as divine assistants. Dr. Carrie Beallor is a prime example. As a tropical medicine doctor she travelled to Sri Lanka following the tsunami to supervise the re-organization of a mother-child clinic. Dr. Rachel Spitzer, a Toronto physician, delivered the much-publicized conjoined Zimbabwean twins and Dr. Sharoni Valin, an effusive native Israeli living in Toronto, developed a family-planning project on a medical mission to South America.

The list of gifted and tender local physicians is lengthy, including Dr. Jay Keystone, a world-renowned travel medicine specialist and Dr. Gordon Arbess, a beautiful man who cares for HIV/AIDS patients and the homeless in downtown Toronto.

Doctors have been kicked around a bit over the years, but at the end of the day we all know they are the ones we turn to when our internal ticking is off or a beloved family member needs to be fixed.

We should be forever grateful to those who chose this demanding vocation, as they are partners with God in the preservation of our health and privy to the secret of the physical and therefore many of the mysteries of the spiritual.

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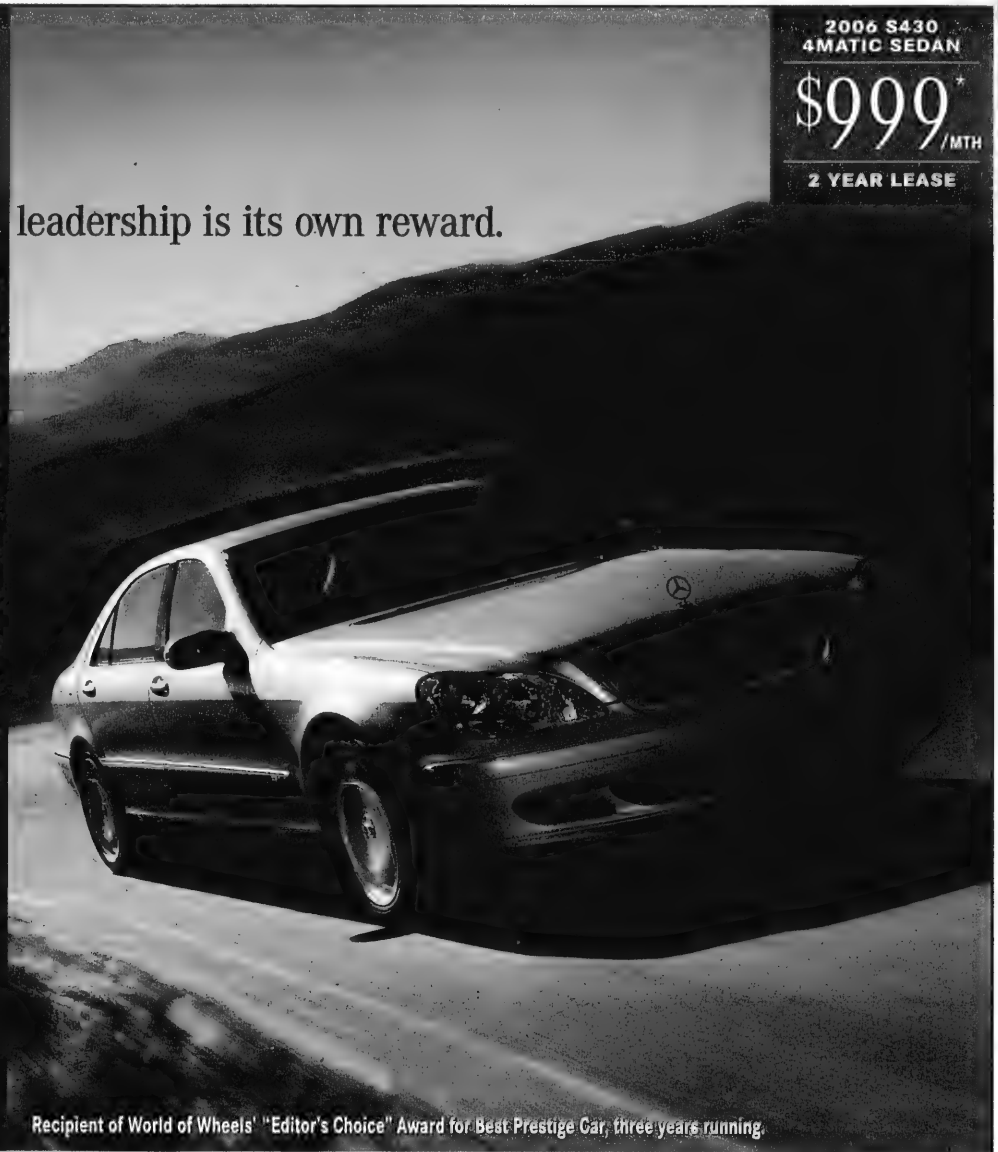

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National

New federation chair wants to foster leadership. *Page 5*

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Warmth of Edmonton's Jews helped IAF flyers feel at home

By NEIL LOOMER
Special to The CJN

EDMONTON — A six-week adventure for Edmonton's Jewish community came to an end June 24 with the conclusion of Exercise Maple Flag, the international air combat exercises held annually at 4 Wing Base in Cold Lake, Alta.

Israeli contingent was in Alberta for air combat exercises

This year, for the first time, Israeli forces joined pilots and technicians from Belgium, Germany, France, Britain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, the United States and Canada.

Israel's contribution included about 150 Israeli Air Force (IAF) personnel, 10 F-16's and a 707 tanker, which was used to refuel the fighter jets on the 10,000-kilometre flight from Israel to Alberta via the Azores and Bangor, Maine.

The Cold Lake range, located about 294 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, gives pilots 11,000 square kilometres of space for realistic training in a modern simulated air combat environment.

For Alberta's capital, the closest centre with a Jewish community, this meant a non-stop series of visits by high-ranking Israeli military officials and diplomats, in addition to IAF personnel taking part in the exercises.

Yom Hazikaron services took on additional meaning this year with the presence of two Israeli airmen who participated in a flag-lowering ceremony. Two days later, the community celebrated one of its most spirited Yom Ha'atzmauts ever, as 60 Israeli pilots and support personnel came down from Cold Lake for a dinner and concert featuring some of Israel's most popular singers, Yardena Arazi and Hanan and Shira Yovel.

For the Israelis, many of whom had never been so far from home, it was an opportunity to celebrate with new friends and feel the warmth that the Diaspora holds for Israel. With little to do in Cold Lake, many took the 3½-hour drive to Edmonton to enjoy shopping, sightseeing and nightlife, and many received home hospitality while in Alberta's capital.

Arrangements were also made with kosher food suppliers in Edmonton to provide the base's mess hall with meat and other meals for observant personnel.

Continued on page 24

Members of Edmonton's Jewish community mingle with the Israeli flyers. *[Neil Loomer photos]*

A Maccabiah first: Canada to compete in soccer

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For the first time since anyone can remember, Canada is sending a men's outdoor soccer team to the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Wish them luck.

The Canadians couldn't have picked a tougher draw for the first round of competition if they'd done it themselves. Canada will face the Netherlands, the United States and Argentina, three soccer powerhouses, and they could also face Israel if they manage to advance to the second round. How's that for jumping into the deep end?

Co-coach Salim Brahimi expects "stiff competition," but the team is travelling to Israel with the "intention of doing well."

He and Adam Mar, the team's other coach, have designed a game plan to neutralize opponents' strengths and take advantage of Canada's ability to strike quickly.

Brahimi, who is assistant coach for the McGill University Redmen, said the Canadian team will be "very disciplined," with an emphasis on positional play and leaving no gaps open.

"As much as possible, we will play an airtight defence and counterattack," he said.

"That requires a lot of discipline and an understanding of where to be on the field."

The 17th Maccabiah Games run in Israel from July 10 to 21.

The Canadian soccer team will rely heavily on its strength – "three terrific [goal]keepers" and strong forwards, Brahimi said.

In net, he and Mar, who serves as head coach of the Redmen, can choose from among Colin Berenhaut and Tomer Chencinski, who both have played for NCAA Division I schools, and Sean Kane, who suits up for the North York Astros of the Canadian Professional Soccer League (CPSL). Berenhaut attended George Washington University in Washington,

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Israeli cabinet rejects Gaza pullout delay — see page 27

The News in Brief

CANADA

Shul's School Certified

TORONTO — The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has recognized Beit Rayim Synagogue's Hebrew school as a "Framework for Excellence School," making it the first supplementary school in Canada to receive this certification. Certified schools must meet "rigorous standards in family education, curriculum development and professional development," and use "formal and informal educational programming to enhance students' Jewish education," the Richmond Hill, Ont., shul said.

WORLD

Kenyans Acquitted

NAIROBI — Three Kenyans were acquitted of involvement in the November 2002 bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel. The High Court in Nairobi ruled June 27 that there is insufficient evidence to link the defendants, all Muslims, to the suicide attack in Mombasa that killed 12 Israelis and three hotel staffers. An earlier case involving four other defendants also ended in acquittal. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the bombing and for a simultaneous attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner taking off from a nearby airport. No one has been charged in the latter case.

Pizzeria Attacked

PARIS — After being caught stealing, local Arab and African youths gathered to throw bottles at clients of a kosher pizzeria in Paris on June 20. A witness said several youths stole a cellphone off a table at a nearby café and were running by La Marina pizzeria when a customer gave chase. He retrieved the phone, but the youths returned five minutes later. Police made a number of arrests and several people received minor wounds. One of the arrested youths came back to the eatery a few days later and threatened to kill a man who filed charges against him.

Adviser Named

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force last week named ex-U.S. Navy chaplain Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff as a special assistant in response to charges of proselytizing at the Air Force Academy. He helped create a program at the Colorado Springs campus to deal with religious tolerance. The school has been criticized recently for creating an uncomfortable climate for religious minorities, including Jewish cadets, who said they felt pressure to choose their duties over expressing their religion.

Watchdog Appointed

LONDON — The BBC appointed award-winning journalist Jeremy Bowen as its first-ever Middle East editor to oversee its coverage of the region. The BBC's coverage has been fiercely criticized by some for an anti-Israel bias. Bowen, 45, a correspondent in Jerusalem from 1995 to 2000, will provide analysis and commentary on the situation. Before taking up the post, he met Jewish community leaders to discuss the BBC's coverage.

Nazis Outnumbered

YORKTOWN, Va. — Protesters outnumbered participants at a June 25 Nazi rally in Yorktown, Va. Some 500 protesters showed up at a historic battlefield in Yorktown, Va., to oppose 150 Nazi Party members seeking to honour founding U.S. president George Washington, who they say believed in racial segregation. Historians say he did not.

Adios to Hezbollah

MADRID — Spain ordered its satellite broadcaster to pull Hezbollah's TV affiliate from its Latin American service. Last week's order to state-controlled Hispasat to remove al-Manar from its broadcasts comes after French and U.S. decisions last year to remove the station from signals to Europe and North America. Al-Manar raises funds for the Lebanese terror group and broadcasts anti-Semitic libels.

Globe Issues Correction to Summit Story

TORONTO — The *Globe and Mail* issued a correction for errors in an article on last month's Israeli-Palestinian summit.

The *Globe* issued the correction for reporting that the June 21 meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas took place on "disputed home turf" in Sharon's "flag-draped residence in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City." The meeting was actually held in Sharon's residence in west Jerusalem.

The *Globe*'s June 22 report came from freelance reporter Carolynne Wheeler, who devoted two paragraphs to describing Sharon's residence in east Jerusalem, which she said "remains a stinging symbol for Palestinians." Wheeler, who is married to Mark MacKinnon, the *Globe*'s full-time Israel correspondent, also described participants at the meeting as "grim-faced," although she was not there.

"Obviously, it's a very embarrassing error," the *Globe*'s interim foreign editor, Guy Nicholson, told the *Jerusalem Post*. "We asked [Wheeler] for some background about where the story location was. Unfortunately, she was not actually at the scene of it. She wrote it off of television and wires."

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Israel, Canada part of high tech partnership

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Relations between Canada and Israel entered a new phase with Ottawa's announcement last month of a partnership aimed at promoting collaborative high-tech research and development with India, China, Brazil and Israel.

The creation of the International Science and Technology Partnerships Program – funded by $20 million over five years – puts Israel in a select group of booming economies with great potential, enthused Henri Rothschild, president of the Ottawa-based Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF).

Rothschild has much to smile about. He believes the new agreement is modelled on the success CIIRDF has encountered since its creation in 1994 to promote joint R&D between Israeli and Canadian firms, primarily in the high-tech sector.

In April, the mandate of CIIRDF was renewed for another five years with the visit to Canada of Ehud Olmert, Israel's deputy premier. At the same time, Olmert signed a memorandum of understanding with Ontario to work jointly in a number of scientific, industrial and technological areas.

The newest partnership "is a major development," Rothschild told *The CJN*. "It's one of the best validations of Canada-Israel relations we have."

Ties with Israel have been generally viewed in Ottawa within the context of the larger Middle East conflict, Rothschild noted. This agreement, which represents countries with a combined 2.5 billion people, "creates an environment that's more economic than political. For the first time, Canada-Israel bilateral relations are also seen from [the viewpoint] of trade and commercial relations.

"We have taken Canada-Israel relations to a whole new level."

He said the deal marks the first time Canada has allocated public funds to an international program that will promote multilateral co-operation in science and technology.

Funding for the initiative was contained in the 2005 federal budget. The money is expected to begin flowing this autumn.

Israel is now among a select group of countries that are among Canada's highest priorities, Rothschild said, noting that the red-hot economies of China and India could yield huge windfalls for the Jewish state.

A joint statement from International Trade Minister Jim Peterson and Industry Minister David Emerson explained that the program "will foster and support bilateral research projects between Canada and partner countries that have been proposed by companies and universities. It will also stimulate bilateral science and technology networking and match-making activities to further new partnerships and accelerate the commercialization of research and development."

Israel is especially well positioned to benefit, Rothschild said.

"Israel is one of the best partners in the world from which to gain experience on technological partnerships because it has such superb technology and a globally positioned business and research community. It's one of the most connected countries in the world. If you learn through partnerships with Israel, you can apply that to India and China."

At 4.8 per cent of its gross domestic product, Israel has the highest rate of investment in R&D in the world.

Areas covered in the partnership include biotechnology, aerospace technology, the environment, nanotechnology, energy and information, and communications technology.

Amid the flurry of economic activity between Israel and Canada was the visit last month by representatives of eight Israeli venture capital firms to Toronto and Montreal, resulting in projects that could reach values of between $50 million and $100 million.

Rothschild said Israel is looking to establish more collaborative projects with other Canadian provinces. In Atlantic Canada, Israel is said to be examining connecting its capabilities in unmanned air vehicles to the maintenance of offshore oil and gas systems.

Continued on page 24

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From the editor's desk

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Mature readers of a newspaper understand this. They therefore do not expect perfection in newspapers and errorless reporting of the news. Rather, readers expect honesty and fairness in reporting, the minimum qualities on which integrity and trust are founded.

When it comes to Israel, alas, reporting is often less than honest and less than fair. Personal hostility toward the Jewish state sometimes colours the facts that are represented as news. This has been more typically the case in Europe than in North America and certainly, in Canada.

Last month, the *Wall Street Journal* published an essay by Tom Gross titled "J'accuse: Anti-Semitism at *Le Monde* and Beyond," in which he explored the troubling phenomenon of the anti-Israel bias in some European print media. Gross used a groundbreaking ruling of a French court that found three writers for *Le Monde* and the newspaper's publisher guilty of "racist defamation" against Israel and the Jewish people, as a jumping-off point for an exposition on European media coverage of Israel.

His conclusions are upsetting.

"Responsible journalists strenuously avoid libelous characterizations of entire ethnic, national or religious groups," Gross wrote. "The exception to this seems to be the coverage of Jews, particularly Israeli ones…"

"If the misreporting and bias were limited to one or two newspapers or television program in each country, it might be possible to shrug them off. But they are not. Bashing Israel even extends to local papers that don't usually cover foreign affairs…"

In a recent lecture in Toronto (reported in *The CJN* last week) veteran Jerusalem correspondent Matthew Kalman shed some light on why news coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can so often be so flawed.

He identified a number of archetypes of reporters and reporting services and the specific accuracy failings that accompanies each. For example, Kalman cited, what he called the "parachutist," a reporter taken straight from the airport to the site of the story who usually "hasn't the faintest idea what's going on." And yet he or she files an authoritative story whose facts, the reader assumes, are reliable. In these "parachuted" circumstances surrounding the filing of the story – when it is written by someone lacking in requisite knowledge of background, context, or the more complex details of history – it is not surprising when the accuracy of the story is questionable.

Sometimes even bare, uncomplicated facts of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are misreported.

Such was the case two weeks ago in a story in the *Globe and Mail*. The error was so unusual that a story about the error appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* and JTA and has now even been the subject of an Internet report by HonestReporting.

Freelancer Carolynne Wheeler filed a story from Jerusalem about the summit meeting in Jerusalem between Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestine Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Wheeler wrote that "Palestinian leaders left the meeting in Mr. Sharon's flag-draped residence in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City grim-faced, appearing only briefly before reporters in Ramallah to announce their disappointment."

In fact, the meeting between the two leaders did not take place in "Sharon's flag-draped residence in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City," as Wheeler reported. The meeting took place in the prime minister's official residence in Rehavia, in west Jerusalem.

As far as I have been able to discern, no other reporter anywhere reported that the Sharon-Abbas meeting took place in east Jerusalem. But the error was compounded by Wheeler's two-paragraph-long political commentary in the middle of her story regarding "this meeting of just under three hours," which she erroneously reported "was held on disputed home turf." Wheeler added that the building "remains a stinging symbol for Palestinians struggling to hold onto Arab neighbourhoods in east Jerusalem."

The Globe published a correction the next day, setting the record straight that the meeting "took place in the official prime minister's residence in the Rehavia neighbourhood." There was also a sense in the correction that the editors were uncomfortable with the unsubtle implication from the reference by Wheeler to "disputed home turf." The correction included a statement that the east Jerusalem home "was purchased from its Arab occupants in 1987."

Guy Nicholson, the *Globe*'s interim foreign editor, told the *Jerusalem Post* that Wheeler "wrote [the story] off of television and wires." But this cannot be true since no wire service appears to have reported the meeting as having happened in east Jerusalem. Israeli television would have certainly not reported that.

Neither the *Globe*'s perfunctory correction nor the dangling excuse by Nicholson is satisfactory, let alone persuasive. The paper's usually high standards were egregiously compromised by Wheeler. The nature of her error combined with the gratuitously negative commentary about the east Jerusalem home suggest there was more at play in the reporter's work than sloppy inattention to detail. How can readers trust her reporting again?

We need the *Globe* to be trustworthy and reliable. Its handling of the flawed story by Wheeler falls far below the standards that will ensure that trustworthiness.

– MBD

SeeJN

SHARON MAY SPEAK IN TORONTO:

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, centre, has been invited to be the keynote speaker at this year's General Assembly of United Jewish Communities (GA) in Toronto. The invitation was extended by international GA co-chair Julia Koschitzky, second from right, who recently met with Sharon in Jerusalem. Sharon said he would make every effort to be at the GA, to be held in Toronto Nov. 13 to 15. Some 4,000 delegates are expected at the GA, which is taking place in Toronto for the first time in more than 20 years. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has so far recruited about 360 of the 700 volunteers needed to run the conference. Pictured with Sharon and Koschitzky are, from left, incoming UIA Federations Canada president Stanley Plotnick, UIAFC executive director Maxyne Finkelstein and outgoing UIAFC president David Goldstein.

Federation chair wants to foster leadership

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

"If you have the ability to give back, you give back," said David Engel. "And if you believe in issues and causes, as I do, and somebody asks you to get involved, you don't say no. You say yes."

The new chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, a 49-year-old business owner who succeeded Leslie Gales on June 8, first became involved in Jewish communal work in his native Montreal when he and his wife Judy were asked to join a Young Leadership couples program.

They continued their involvement in the Toronto community when they moved here 21 years ago.

Today, fostering leadership is one of the priorities Engel has set for his two-year term at the lay helm of what he said is the largest umbrella organization of its kind in North America.

"If you have stronger leaders, you have stronger agencies. We're in the business of community building," he said in an interview in his office at Innovative Graphics, the direct marketing company he launched 10 years ago.

"People told me to pick three priorities [as chair]," said Engel, a winner of several Jewish communal leadership awards. However, he concluded that seven items deserved priority:

- the federation's relationship with Israel and the broader Jewish community in Canada;
- Jewish education;
- fostering leadership in the federation and its agencies;
- the upcoming General Assembly of United Jewish Communities, which will be held in Toronto in November;
- the new community campus being built in Vaughan as part of the federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) initiative;
- the elderly; and
- furthering dialogue with agencies about communal issues and trends.

During his term as chair, there will be two new committees, both of which are in the process of being set up. One will deal with education, the other with issues related to providing social services and Jewish programming to the elderly.

The federation will examine what its role should be in terms of ensuring accessibility to quality Jewish education, said Engel, whose three children – now 23, 21 and 17, all attended Jewish day school.

Despite challenges like the high cost of Jewish education, he noted, Toronto is seen as "one of the shining lights" of Jewish education in North America.

As to the question of whether the $250 million JTT project further squeezes budgets for pressing needs including those related to education, Engel offered a different perspective.

He said studies in American Jewish communities have shown that "people who make a capital gift actually get more involved in the community and tend to give greater sums to the annual campaign – and it's happening here.

"People don't necessarily have the same desire to donate to non-capital needs," he said.

David Engel

The Vaughan project is an investment, said Engel. "We have to make sure as we develop that campus that it's accessible to the entire community. We have to make certain the community is aware of it and that the services are what's needed, and at the same time make sure we're fiscally responsible."

Both the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (formerly the Bloor JCC) and the new Wolfond Centre for Jewish Student Life – the first stage of JTT and a revitalization of the Jewish community downtown – are "booming" centres, he pointed out. "Was it the right investment? Absolutely."

Engel, who also serves as secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Marketing Association, said he gets back "far more" than he puts in as a community volunteer.

"I want to be an example that community work is accessible to all, and that you can run a business, be a parent and husband and be involved in the community all at the same time," said Engel, who stays fit by running.

He credits his parents for their example as volunteers, and also the values he learned as a student at the Jewish People's and Peretz Schools in Montreal.

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JNF embodies eco-Zionism: national president

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Sharon Hart, new national president of Jewish National Fund, took part in her first JNF Tu b'Shvat telethon in honour of her mother's birthday.

"My mother was born on Tu b'Shvat so when my Na'mat chapter was approached to take part in the telethon, I thought it would be a special thing to do. I never looked back," says Hart, who is taking over for Sandy Posluns, who served a four-year term.

Hart, a physician and her husband, Lawrence, associate professor of medicine at McMaster University, are past honorees of Hamilton's annual Negev Dinner.

Originally from Montreal, she has served as national vice-president of JNF Canada, was national chair of JNF's centennial committee, and represented Canada at JNF's world conference in Jerusalem. In 1998, she was awarded the Bernard Bloomfield Medal for Meritorious Service.

Her husband, a *Canadian Jewish News* columnist, is national president of Maccabi Canada and community relations chair of Canada-Israel Committee.

Sharon Hart

Hart says she has remained involved with JNF because "it embodies the Zionist ideal. It is the number one Zionist organization in Canada and maybe the world. Taking care of the land is something very special; people of all ages can relate to it."

Children, she says, develop their imaginations when they picture their tree as part of a huge forest in Israel. "To teenagers, ecology is an important concept and JNF embodies eco-Zionism, the balance between ecology and Zionism. JNF works in way that is sensitive to the environment.

"Adults relate to JNF because it is on the cutting edge of technology and it allows them to earn a living in an environment without harming it."

With about 220 million trees planted, she says, "Israel is the only country in the world that had more trees at the end of the century than at the beginning. It is natural that when we think of the organization we think of these trees, and also of [the JNF blue collections boxes]. JNF, however, is about a lot more than that."

Among the organization's many projects, it is involved in desalinating water, building reservoirs to save water, landscaping and development, paving roads, soil conservation, a number of tourism and recreation projects, and educational programs.

"No one turns on a tap in Israel without thinking of JNF. The Sea of Galilee is [one of the] only sources of fresh water in the country, and as the population increases, stress on the water system is high," she said.

Part of the organization's vision is to make the desert livable. "It covers about 60 per cent of the country's land mass, yet only eight per cent of the population lives there.

"[In order to attract people] JNF has to prepare the land – flatten the soil, bring in sewage and gas lines, build roads, and then build water reservoirs so farmers will have water."

Hart says that to her, "JNF is about a partnership between the people. It is an organization that connects all of us. Every person who puts a cent in the blue box – it is coming up on its 100th anniversary – is a partner. We're all partners in the land, and JNF is the caretaker."

During her term, which is renewable after two years, Hart wants to "rebrand JNF. We want people to realize that it is on the cutting edge of what is environmentally important."

She is planning a national mission to Israel in late October, in which participants will see JNF's work first-hand, she says.

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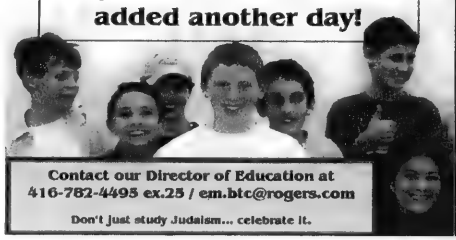

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AMBULANCE DONATED: David Feldman, fifth on the right, and his wife, Cara, standing in front of him, along with their family from Toronto, New York and Israel, recently donated a mobile intensive-care ambulance to the people of Israel in memory of their daughter Linda. A dedication ceremony took place in Toronto on Father's Day last month to coincide with Feldman's birthday. The Feldmans' grandson Erez Avishai, standing second from the right, was born 24 years ago in an ambulance in Israel.

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Iran, again

Was it only a coincidence that merely days after Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected president of Iran, a band of Hezbollah terrorists infiltrated into the Har Dov area of northern Israel? A series of firefights ensued with Israel Defence Forces soldiers who spotted them. IDF Cpl. Uzi Peretz, 20, from Be'er Sheva, was killed, and three Israeli soldiers were wounded in the engagement, which included mortar shelling by Hezbollah upon the Israeli army positions. The Israeli air force struck at Hezbollah bases in South Lebanon on Thursday afternoon.

Hezbollah are Iran's surrogate fighters against Israel, and the theocratic rulers of the Iranian republic are not reluctant to let loose their fundamentalist Lebanese Shia proxies upon the Jewish state whenever they deem that to do so serves Iranian interests.

The attack on Israel last week was probably a message from Iran's ruling clique that Ahmadinejad – known as a religious hardliner – would maintain the country's hostile policies toward the Jewish state. "I will strive to expand relations with everyone, with the exception of Israel," Ahmadinejad told the Saudi newspaper *Okaz* after his election. He also vowed to continue his country's fevered nuclear program although vaguely expressing his intention to resume efforts with European intermediaries to come to an agreement over the issue.

Not surprisingly, Israel is concerned. The Islamic rulers of Iran are unalterably opposed to a sovereign Jewish presence in the Middle East and are at the heart of the Islamic world's efforts to sabotage any peaceful accommodation between Israelis and Palestinians.

After Ahmadinejad's election, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom urged the international community to strengthen its resolve against Iranian efforts to develop a nuclear arsenal. "The results prove once again that Iran is moving towards more radicalism rather than toward reform and reconciliation. Faced with the Iranian nuclear threat, the international community must, more than before, formulate a uniform and stern policy toward Iran," Shalom said.

Last week, the U.S. administration announced that it was investigating whether the Iranian president-elect was involved in the 1979 seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran. A number of the former hostages have identified Ahmadinejad as one of the key leaders in the embassy takeover some 26 years ago. "Obviously his involvement raises many questions," President George W. Bush told reporters.

One of those questions must be how the western world will respond to Iran's worrisome Islamist policies. It is not only Israel that is at risk. Indeed, it is not only the West that is at risk. The Sunni sheikhs of Saudi Arabia should also be concerned.

The powers of the Iranian president are subordinate to those of the religious rulers. He has no truly independent authority. However, given that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is a mirror reflecting back to the world the severe image of Iran's mullah world, we must all play close attention.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

• Shimon Peres, the leader of Israel's opposition Labor Party, told a news conference in Montreal that resolving the status of the Gaza Strip was the key to salvaging negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

• Canadian Jewish Congress struck a committee to study the educational, cultural, religious and financial needs of Jews in small communities.

• Rabbi Shalom Messas, Sephardi chief rabbi of Jerusalem, arrived for a two-week visit to the Jewish communities of Montreal and Toronto. It was his first trip to Canada.

Dry Bones

IF YOU BELIEVE BIBI... THEN SHARON IS WRONG
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The Canadian Jewish community is lost

It pained me to read your editorial about supporting the Israeli government at all costs ("Disengagement and the Diaspora," June 30) I don't think there's any use in explaining further how I feel, since it's already apparent from the editorial direction that *The CJN* has taken vis-a-vis the "disengagement" that no one will change your mind.

I just thought it very, very suitable that in the editorial, you reaffirm your support for the expulsion of Jews from Gush Katif by an illegitimate government, and in the same issue, you report that immigration is the "key to growth of the Canadian Jewish community" ("Immigrants account for small rise in Jewish population").

Thank you for both the editorial and the article. It reinforces my decision to make aliyah 12 years ago. The Canadian Jewish community is lost and desperately trying to hang on. But hang on to what? It's time to move to Israel before it's too late. At least for your children and grandchildren, if not yourselves.

Joshua Grady-Share
Ariel, Israel

* * *

Apology to Pipes removed from website

In your June 23 edition, you noted that the Canadian Islamic Congress had issued an apology in its June 10 Friday Bulletin for publishing an article in a previous Friday Bulletin that compared U.S. commentator Daniel Pipes to Hitler and said he wanted to ethnically cleanse Muslims from America ("Muslim group apologizes for Hitler slur"). However, you did not note that the Canadian Islamic Congress has since removed that apology from its website. It would be interesting to know their reasons for removing this apology and retraction. Have they since changed their minds about it?

Jay Giblon
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

NIF supports anti-Israel organizations

Paul Lungen's article on the New Israel Fund ("New Israel Fund backs Gaza disengagement," *CJN*, June 9) and Isser Dubinsky's response ("NIF backs gov't disengagement decision," letter, June 23) both ignore the true nature of the NIF's activities. As the NGO Monitor website reported as recently as March 10, the NIF still supports radically anti-Israel organizations like Adalah and HaMoked, which engage in legal actions and invective that endanger the Jewish people. In fact, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, an organization that Dubinsky boasts about in his letter, spends large sums of money fighting against the separation barrier, a measure that experts agree has helped substantially decrease suicide bombings in Israel. Furthermore, according to the NGO Monitor, the organizations supported by the NIF routinely release reports that call Israel's policies "racist" and accuse Israel of countless crimes, including "war crimes" in Jenin and Nablus.

Dubinsky claims that the NIF promotes "democracy, pluralism, social and economic justice and civil rights." These ideals are in this case merely code words for the demonization of Israel. It is profoundly disturbing that an organization with so much potential and money does not have the moral sense to distinguish between promoting anti-Semitism and promoting democracy. Of course, the NIF would likely argue that what it considers the positive activities of some of the NGOs it supports outweigh the negative. That argument sounds eerily similar to the argument used by the European Union to justify support for some other "organizations," namely Hamas and Hezbollah, which also provide welfare assistance, medical care and other "humanitarian" activities. Just as we do not make excuses for these terror groups, accordingly, decent people in the Jewish community should certainly refrain from supporting the NIF as well.

Michael Tweyman
Toronto

* * *

Redirect funds for buildings to education

You reported that United Synagogue Day School, Eitz Chaim, and other day schools are experiencing declining enrolment ("USDS to consolidate its three campuses" and "Eitz Chaim to merge with Thornhill Talmud Torah," *CJN*, June 9). In the USDS article was the comment that one of the contributing factors is a tuition fee of $10,000. In the same issue, you had a column about the Ontario Liberal government continuing in its refusal to contribute funds to faith-based schools ("We can't forget what the Liberals did").

The $10,000 fee is simply too onerous for parents to make the commitment to pay these large amounts for many years of schooling, often for several children, and they have decided not to send their children to day schools. If the Ontario government refuses to contribute, then the Jewish community will have to redirect its own funds instead. If we can raise hundreds of millions of dollars for fancy new buildings, why can't we do the same for the people for whom these institutions are being built?

Michael Kinrys
Toronto

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Perspectives

AN APPRECIATION

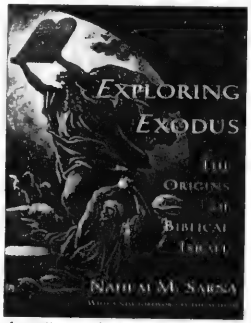
Nahum Sarna set the course for meaningful biblical scholarship

By JEFFREY H. TIGAY

The death on June 23 of Prof. Nahum Sarna at the age of 82 was a sad moment for Jewish scholarship.

Through his publications, his teaching and the disciples he inspired and trained, Rabbi Sarna was one of the most influential Judaic scholars of the second half of the 20th century and one whose contribution to the appreciation of the Bible among English-speaking Jews was unsurpassed.

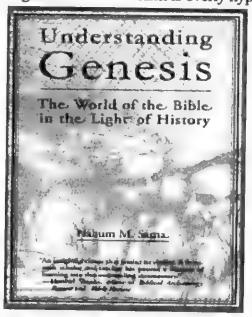
His scholarship was notable for the lucidity of his thought, the breadth of his learning, his exegetical acumen and his unsurpassed sensitivity to the ethical and spiritual dimensions of the Bible and its commentaries.



Rabbi Sarna was a distinguished member of a small group of American and Israeli scholars who guided Jewish biblical scholarship to maturity in the second half of the 20th century. As he noted in the preface to his book, *Studies in Biblical Interpretation*, two of the major stimuli for the growth of modern Jewish biblical scholarship have been "research into the languages, literatures, history, religions, cultures and archeology of the ancient Near East" and creative research into the rich Jewish exegetical tradition. Rabbi Sarna and his contemporaries united these two resources in a harmonious blend that is common, even if not universal, today.

Yet, this was not always the case.

When the Judische Wissenschaft (Jewish Scholarship) movement inaugurated the academic study of Judaism in the 19th century, it avoided biblical studies altogether. When Jewish academic scholars did take up the study of the Bible, starting at the end of that century, they were largely stimulated by archeology and Semitic studies. Most of them made little use of post-biblical Jewish resources, such as Talmud and the medieval Jewish commentators, in their exposition of the Bible.



It was Rabbi Sarna and his contemporaries, thoroughly trained in post-biblical Judaica as well as ancient Near Eastern languages and literatures, who showed how illuminating this combination of fields can be.

It is not only that post-biblical learning provides one more resource for understanding the Bible's original meaning, though that is a very important aspect of their methodology. It is a broader vision of what Jewish biblical scholarship should embrace: not only the Bible's original meaning, but the meaning found in it by later thinkers who used commentary on scripture as the means of expressing the moral, religious, philosophical and scientific truths discovered in every generation.

The study of the Bible as "a spiritual exercise" and "a moral training" was a pervasive theme in Rabbi Sarna's writings. Repeatedly, he showed how God's morality is inherent in the monotheistic idea and how, as he wrote, the corollary, that "there is an intimate, in fact, inextricable connection between the socio-moral condition of a people and its ultimate fate," underlies the biblical interpretation of history.

Rabbi Sarna's scholarship was characterized by a strong literary orientation, ferreting out the unifying compositional strategies, recurring motifs and structure of the biblical text as he explicated it. These aims helped explain his reservations about the usefulness of source criticism, the scholarly method that seeks to identify earlier literary sources used in the composition of biblical books.

He certainly recognized the validity of the method in principle. Nor did Rabbi Sarna see this as a problem for religious faith. God can work through four documents as effectively as through one, unfolding His revelation in successive stages as well as in a single moment of time. But parting company with much contemporary scholarship, Rabbi Sarna became increasingly convinced – apparently as he began writing his commentaries – that source criticism is overly hypothetical and of limited value, and that what the final text says is more interesting than its history.

Hence, his commentaries are not based on "dissecting a literary corpse," but are concerned with, as he wrote, the Bible as "a living literature and a dynamic force in history."

Rabbi Sarna's approach to scholarship was his distillation of educational experiences that began as far back as he could remember. He was born in London on March 27, 1923, to Jacob and Millie Sarna. His father, a learned Jewish book dealer who knew the German classics as well as Jewish literature, filled his home with books. Rabbi Sarna was taught Bible stories from a young age. His father was also a Zionist leader and as a youngster, Rabbi Sarna met Jewish leaders and scholars such as Chaim Weizmann, Vladimir Jabotinsky, Moses Gaster and Benjamin Maisler (Mazar) who visited his home.

While in elementary school, Rabbi Sarna also attended an intensive Talmud Torah (after-hours Hebrew school) for some 13 hours a week. He later attended London's all-day Jewish Secondary School, which taught both Jewish and secular studies, and he spent an additional two hours a day studying Talmud at a yeshiva. At age 16, he graduated from the University of London, where he studied rabbinics, Semitics and Bible in Jews' College (London's Rabbinical Seminary, then a part of the university), general studies at University College, and medieval Hebrew and Arabic in the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Nahum Sarna

In 1947, he married Helen Horowitz, whom he met when the two were teenagers in a religious Zionist youth movement. He was her first Hebrew teacher, and she went on to become a learned Hebraist and Judaica librarian and to maintain an active involvement in all of Rabbi Sarna's work. The Sarnas' sons David and Jonathan were born, respectively, in 1949 and 1955.

During his student years Rabbi Sarna's main field was rabbinic literature, and he had a particular interest in the Geonic literature of the post-talmudic period. But after receiving his bachelor's degree and being appointed as an instructor (later lecturer) of Hebrew and Bible at University College, he began to realize that one could not do justice to the Bible without a first-hand knowledge of the literatures and cultures of biblical Israel's ancient Near Eastern neighbors.

Hoping to study these subjects, he went to Israel in 1949, but conditions at the Hebrew University immediately after the War of Independence made this impossible. In 1951, he came to the United States to continue his studies at Philadelphia's Dropsie College, where he received his doctorate in 1955.

While studying at Dropsie, Rabbi Sarna taught at Philadelphia's Gratz College and also became the first of several distinguished scholars-in-residence at Har Zion Temple. In 1957, his broad knowledge of Jewish literature led to his simultaneous appointments as a member of the Bible department and as librarian at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York. In 1965, he accepted an appointment at Brandeis University, where he served as the Dora Golding Professor of Bible until his retirement in 1985.

Many of the students he taught at each of these institutions went on to become rabbis, educators, and professors of Judaic studies at various universities in the United States and Israel.

After his retirement Rabbi Sarna served for several years as the academic consultant of the Jewish Publication Society. Following a move to Boca Raton, Fla., both Sarnas were called out of retirement to help develop Florida Atlantic University's Judaic studies program.

Ever the pedagogue, one of the most important aspects of Rabbi Sarna's scholarly career has been his devotion to scholarly projects that serve Jewish communal needs. All of his books have been written with lay as well as scholarly readers in mind. *Understanding Genesis* (1966), originally published by the Jewish Theological Seminary's Melton Research Center for Jewish Education, was written to inform Bible teachers about modern scholarship on Genesis.

Its appeal turned out to be much broader, leading to its republication by Schocken and setting the pattern for *Exploring Exodus* (1986) and the more recent *Songs of the Heart: An Introduction to the Book of Psalms*.

When *Understanding Genesis* was published, I felt that if there was one book about the Bible that I could put in the hands of every college student, that would be it. Each subsequent book of his left me with the same feeling!

From 1966 to 1981, Rabbi Sarna served, along with Moshe Greenberg, and Jonas C. Greenfield, on the committee that translated the Writings (Ketuvim) for the Jewish Publication Society's *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures* (1982).

In 1973, Rabbi Sarna and Chaim Potok initiated the five-volume *JPS Torah Commentary* (1989-96), for which Rabbi Sarna served as the scholarly editor and author of the commentaries on Genesis and Exodus.

In an interesting twist of history, an abridged version of the *JPS Torah Commentary* was published in 2001 as part of the Conservative movement's one-volume Torah commentary *Etz Hayim* to replace the venerable *Pentateuch and Haftorahs* edited by Joseph H. Hertz. Rabbi Sarna was brought up on Hertz's commentary, and Hertz was the chief rabbi of the British Empire and president of Jews' College when Rabbi Sarna was a student there 60 years earlier.

Throughout his life, Rabbi Sarna was honoured in many ways for his contributions to scholarship, winning numerous scholarly awards and honorary doctorates. No scholar has done as much to educate English-speaking Jewry about the Bible, and he did so in the conviction that intelligent readers prefer serious scholarship lucidly presented over popularizing simplifications. The response to his books has proven him correct.

Jeffrey H. Tigay is Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic languages and literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. This piece was adapted from the foreword he wrote to Rabbi Sarna's 2000 book Studies in Biblical Interpretation.

Opinions

The challenge of truth-telling

We all know we're supposed to tell the truth. "No lying" are the words I told my grandchildren recently, just as I had taught their parents so many years ago.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

It's clear and obvious to us as a moral imperative. Yet I find two related problems embedded in this principle. Sometimes, we cannot or should not reveal the truth, and sometimes we are incapable of revealing the truth to ourselves.

On the one hand, there are truly moments when it's inappropriate to tell the truth, or when the truth has many facets. All brides are beautiful no matter what. That truth overwhelms any particular reality.

I'm sure we can all think of moments when we chose a non-truth – that little white lie– over a bold-faced fact because we didn't want to hurt anyone. But this is truly the slippery slope. Recently, a young student asked me which of the Ten Commandments or Jewish laws I had violated. In response to her personal honesty and innocence, I felt the need to respond truthfully. So I told her I had lied many times, and probably would continue to do so. I then tried to absolve myself of culpability by pointing out that sometimes it's appropriate to lie.

But I heard the apologetics in my response and I knew I had transgressed. Yes, there were times when it was important not to tell the truth. But I think we must still acknowledge the trespass and worry about the ease with which we excuse expanding the arena of "must-tell lies."

And what do our children learn when we tell a lie? At dinnertime, the phone rings and we say, "Tell them I'm not home." What have the kids absorbed? Just think of the many "appropriate lies" we have all told. So, although we readily agree to the fundamental principle, truth-telling is not so easy.

But the second problem worries me even more. There is a sentence in the siddur that we recite every morning: one should acknowledge truth and speak (i.e., think) truth in one's heart. I have long wondered if that's possible. Not only are we commanded to tell the truth, but to acknowledge it fully, we must acknowledge it internally. I guess I think that to never lie to oneself is the hardest thing to do. No coverup, no justification, just the truth. Know it, face it and hold it dear. In all circumstances.

Psychologically, we have an incredible capacity for self-delusion. So this small sentence, recited every morning as we embark on a day full of complex activities and speech acts, tries to remind us to be honest to ourselves. That's the challenge.

Learning to live in two worlds

I've been in Damascus three times – twice in Syria, and once in Toronto.

I have travelled to Syria twice, and I got to see the original Dura Europa synagogue frescoes. Readers may have seen reproductions in the Museum of the Diaspora, but I consider it a highlight of my travels to have seen the real thing .

But my third trip to Damascus was through the recent film *Sabah: A Love Story*, starring Arsinée Khanjian, wife of Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan. Its story is simple, its meaning complex.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Sabah is a 40-year-old Syrian Muslim woman who lives with her mother in Toronto. Her elder brother has dominated the family since their father's death. Change enters Sabah's universe when she sees an old picture of herself as a smiling child at the beach. She decides to take up swimming again, but she can't bring herself to tell her family.

Of course, secrets, love and complications ensue.

Sabah and her family struggle with all the issues of modernity that Jews encountered when they left the walls of the ghetto/mellah and encountered modern western culture. One of the best scenes is when Sabah's niece fends off an arranged marriage to a modern Arab suitor by pretending to be a devout Muslim woman, when all along she is hiding her belly-button ring.

There are other struggles, too. Recently a Sikh teenager in Vancouver alleged he was set upon by a gang of whites and had his turban removed and his hair cut. As it turned out, he cut his hair himself. Community leaders called for his prosecution. It seems to me this event called for compassion, not prosecution. This community, too, struggles with modernity, a new life in a new world, and the overpowering issue of group survival. (I am told that the suicide rate among Sikh girls is one of the highest in any ethnic group.)

This all sounds so familiar to communities, including ours, that try to survive with traditions and heritage intact while meeting the demands of daily life in a larger world. We all try to give our children and grandchildren the essence of our heritage, customs and community – the beliefs that hold us together. And we all struggle with the outcomes when we fail, or seem to fail.

I think about the issues we live with. Our children may be gay; how do we explain it to the family? They may have disabilities; can we be strong enough to make the most of their abilities? They want to be poets – what, no "my child the doctor?" They marry non-Jews; will we welcome the partners, or cut them off?

Since the Emancipation of European Jewry, our community has faced the issue of modernity. We still struggle with it. While some blame the Holocaust on that very Emancipation, we have learned from scholars such as Rav Soleveitchik that we can live in both worlds. We could share our triumphs and struggles with others, if only barriers of hatred and custom were not so high.

So I thought about issues brought on by the two stories – one fiction, one real-world – and wished so much was different in the real-time scroll of life.

The film reminded me that, with the gap between Arabs and Jews, we are missing out on some great music, food and companionship. I wish we could celebrate with our Arab neighbours and share what we have learned living in two worlds.

I wish that communities seeking to live in two worlds would sooner recognize the signs of distress in their young, so that before the explosions of anger, rebellion and grief, there would be ways to bridge the gap between father and son, mother and child.

I wish that compassion could replace shame, understanding replace anger, and that we could celebrate our children and the lives they choose to live.

Finally, I wish that all of us could once again visit Damascus and see the ancient synagogue of Dura Europa, with its enigmatic portrayals of biblical scenes, painted at a time when Jews could appropriate the icons of the larger Hellenistic culture and use them to tell their own stories.

I look forward to my fourth trip to Damascus.

Religion's growing intrusion into politics

In recent years in the United States, particularly during election campaigns, much has been said about the influence of organized religion on the funding, support and policy of political candidates. This is not surprising, of course, given that America's national motto is, "In God we trust," and almost every major U.S. presidential address ends with the words "and may God bless America."

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

It's not a new phenomenon, but religion's reach into the realm of politics has recently become much more pronounced and controversial. Case in point: former Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, now chairman of the Democratic National Committee, recently attracted considerable criticism in the United States when he commented that the Republican Party is "pretty much a white, Christian party."

Often, religious interests inject themselves into politics on a single issue or related group of issues. For example, Focus on the Family, an evangelical Christian lobby group, entered the U.S. political arena primarily to confront the issues of same-sex marriage, homosexuality and abortion.

Clearly, religion has had a major influence in shaping modern American politics and, therefore, modern American society. At the same time, there has been a significant spillover into Canada when it comes to the interface or mix of politics and religion.

For example, in opposing federal legislation legalizing same-sex marriage, Bishop Fred Henry, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Calgary, recently asserted that he would not give communion to Prime Minister Paul Martin (who describes himself as a "devout Catholic") because of Martin's support of same-sex marriage. Bishop Henry also issued a pastoral letter critical of the prime minister that eventually led to a complaint against the bishop being filed with the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission on the grounds of discrimination against homosexuals.

Certainly, all political parties include members of many faiths, but religion has been seen to be more of an issue with the Reform and Canadian Alliance parties and the new Conservative Party. Former Alliance leader Stockwell Day readily confirmed the influence of his Christian religious background on his politics. Reform Party founder Preston Manning brought his religious background to his new party – something that's not surprising, given that his father's Social Credit Party also had a significant religious base.

In modern western democracies, we talk about the importance of separating church and state. In contrast, many other nations have bodies politic that are defined in terms of a particular religion. For example, Iran's president-elect, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has expressed a desire to create an even stronger Islamic regime in his country.

Recently, after meeting with Italian President Carlo Ciampi, Pope Benedict said that Italy and the Vatican were autonomous, but he added that the Church has the right to comment on ethical issues nonetheless.

In Canada, for the most part, we don't bring the same religious fervour to our politics as some do elsewhere. Yet, the preamble to our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms asserts that Canada is a nation based on the "supremacy of God." In 1981-1982, when our parliamentarians were debating the contents of the proposed charter, this reference to God was included, removed and then re-included. In any event, the phrase remains part of our Constitution.

There are, of course, moral aspects to many political decisions.

However, rather than expecting that our politicians promote their particular religious values, they should be expected to consider what is in the best interest of all Canadians. They should consider what promotes the Canadian constitutional values that we hold dear: the protection of minorities, freedom of religion, egalitarianism, and the pursuit of life, liberty and security of the person.

Religion can give us a moral code to live by. But you can be moral – living a righteous life – and yet not be religious. Many societal norms, precepts, obligations and directives do not depend on religion-based morality.

The making of policy, therefore, need not be tied to, nor in any way be interwoven with, religious dictates. Politics and religion should coexist, just as the making of policy and other national non-religious imperatives may also coexist.

What, then, is the concern about this now widespread phenomenon of mixing politics and religion? A discussion of the dangers of religion permeating political decision-making will be the subject of a future column.

The Kirshner File

Town in Germany helps build a synagogue

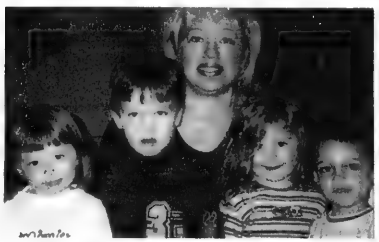
Fawek Ostrowiecki's fondest wish is being fulfilled. Gelsenkirchen, a town deep in Germany's industrial heartland, the Ruhr Valley, is lending its financial support to a special project dear to his heart.

Three years ago, Ostrowiecki – a 78-year-old Polish Holocaust survivor and president of the Jewish community – asked city council to help rebuild a local synagogue destroyed by the Nazis on Kristallnacht on Nov. 9, 1938. It was one of two shuls here desecrated on that day of infamy.

Sheldon Kirshner in Gelsenkirchen

Ostrowiecki, who has been living in Germany since the end of World War II and has a cousin in Montreal, argued that the influx of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the past decade necessitated the construction of a new synagogue on its old site, off Gildenstrasse.

Ten years ago, Gelsenkirchen, with a population of about 275,000, was home to a declining Jewish community of some 40 Jews, mainly from Poland, Hungary and Romania. But now 10 times as many Jews live here, and more are expected to arrive in the coming years, despite an announcement by the German government on June 25 tightening immigration laws for Russian Jews.



Margarita Fuks and her kindergarten students [Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Having heard Ostrowiecki's case for rebuilding the Gildenstrasse synagogue to accommodate the inflow of new Jewish immigrants – primarily from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus – city council, in a gesture of repentance, agreed on a formula to pay for it. Gelsenkirchen, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Jewish community would each contribute one-third of the cost, estimated at 5,200,000 euros, or $7.8 million (US).

Construction will begin next month, and is scheduled to be finished on Nov. 9, 2006. Ground was broken last November by Paul Spiegel, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, at a square known as the Platz der alten Synagoge, which faces a bank. At a ceremony attended by civic and Jewish community leaders, Spiegel hailed the project as "a sign of hope" that a "new beginning" between Jews and Germans was possible.

The rebuilt synagogue, which will be served by a travelling rabbi who also tends to the needs of nearby communities, will supplant an existing shul in the community centre. It was opened in 1958, four years after Ostrowiecki's arrival in Gelsenkirchen.

Born in Lodz, Ostrowiecki survived the rigours of the Lodz ghetto. When it was liquidated in August 1944, he was sent to Auschwitz, where nearly all the members of his immediate family were killed. After the war, finding himself stranded in Germany, he settled in Stuttgart, the headquarters of the Mercedes-Benz automobile empire. He and his wife had two children, a daughter and a son, both of whom live in Berlin today. Asked why he remained in Germany, he replied, "I don't know. It just happened. Nobody wanted to stay."

At the urging of his brother, Ostrowiecki moved to Gelsenkirchen, which is close to the Ruhr Valley's coal mines and steel factories. There they were partners in a wholesale business. He and his brother were among some 30 Jewish survivors in Gelsenkirchen in the mid-1950s. By then, its pre-war German Jewish inhabitants were gone. One hundred returned in 1945, only to leave several months later, bound for the United States and Palestine.

One thousand six hundred and sixteen Jews lived here on the eve of Adolf Hitler's accession to power in January 1933, said Andrea Niewerth, a 37-year-old historian who has written a book about Gelsenkirchen's Jewish community from 1933 to 1945. The book is based on a PhD thesis she submitted to Essen University. It is not the only German-language book on the topic. Another one was written by a historian named Stefen Goch.

Fawek Ostrowiecki

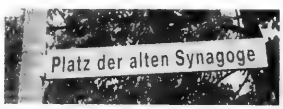
They concur that the Nazis struck the first concerted blow against the Jewish community in April 1933 with an economic boycott of Jewish-owned shops. It had an effect because most Jews were merchants. Stung by the boycott, Jewish families began emigrating. By 1937, 1,097 Jews were left in Gelsenkirchen.

On Kristallnacht, the so-called Night of Broken Glass, mobs incited by the Nazi regime torched the town's two shuls. The Gildenstrasse synagogue was built in 1885, nine years after the Jewish community was officially established. The other shul, in the suburb of Buer, was completed in 1922, during the heyday of the Weimar Republic. A brown marble plaque in a quiet residential neighbourhood commemorates its destruction. In its place is an indoor swimming pool.

Andrea Niewerth

By June 1939, 720 Jews remained in Gelsenkirchen. Shortly after the outbreak of the war, three months later, Jewish men were packed off to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Conditions worsened as Jews were forced to live in segregated "Jew houses." Jews married to people of Christian or partly Jewish ancestry were summarily dispatched to labour camps, Niewerth said.

Elena Pestova and husband Boris



Deportations began in January 1942 with the transport of Jews to the Riga ghetto. In further deportations, Jews were sent to the Warsaw ghetto and the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. According to Niewerth, half of Gelsenkirchen's Jewish burghers were murdered, while the rest managed to escape before Hitler cut off emigration in the autumn of 1940.

Ostrowiecki noted that Soviet Jews in Gelsenkirchen, as elsewhere in Germany, have had serious integration problems. Hard-pressed to find jobs in a state wracked by an unusually high unemployment rate, many of the newcomers are on welfare. And the great majority are in interfaith marriages, he added.

Margarita Fuks, 47, is one of the new immigrants. Petite and blond, and a single mother from Zhitomir, Ukraine, she immigrated to Germany eight years ago with her father and daughter, who recently wed a German. I met Fuks one morning at the Jewish community centre, where she works as a kindergarten teacher.

(Oddly enough, one of her students is the son of an ethnic German woman from Russia who enrolled him in the kindergarten in the hope that he will learn Russian).

"It's been very hard," she said of her efforts to acclimatize herself to German society. "I was a Jew in Ukraine, but here, I'm a Ukrainian." Although she is keenly conscious of Germany's Nazi past, she prefers Gelsenkirchen to Zhitomir. "It's better here because there is more security."

Elena Pestova and her husband, Boris, a former Russian army officer, came from Nichni Tagil, in the Urals. In her late 20s, she is unemployed, but her spouse works in a factory. They emigrated so that their six-year-old daughter would have a better future. "The economic situation in Russia was uncertain." She wanted to settle in Israel, but her mother, who has a sister in Germany, steered them to Gelsenkirchen.

Tetyana Bidna and her Jewish husband, a nurse, are from Vinnitsa, in Ukraine, and have been in Germany five years."The prospects were better here," she said, summarizing the rationale for choosing Germany as their adopted homeland and Gelsenkirchen as their new home.

* * * * *

I misspelled Parviz Namdar's name in my last column. My deepest apology.

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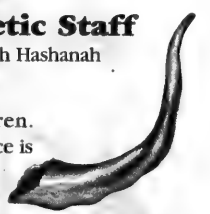

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Settlers in Elon Moreh region keep building

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

The people of Elon Moreh continue to build their settlement while the Israeli government has plans for a disengagement in the area and their neighbours shoot at them and throw stones daily.

"We love Eretz Yisrael and would not even consider moving. This is not a real estate or monetary motivation but part of our responsibility to inherit our land," Rabbi Benny Gur, the development director of the settlement.

Rabbi Benny Gur

Life in the Elon Moreh region, which is surrounded by Arab villages, is not easy. Aside from the terror threat, the settlement is also far from any of the big cities and lies at the end of a dead-end road. An added hardship is the security barrier, which is cutting the settlers off from Israel.

However, people continue to move into the area and make it their home, seeing themselves as emissaries at the forefront of the Zionist effort.

In 1975, after seven unsuccessful attempts, the first Jewish occupants of Elon Moreh got permission from former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and then-defence minister Shimon Peres to settle there.

Rabbi Gur said the settlers of Elon Moreh are seen as the pioneers of the settlement effort in the Judea and Samaria region.

The Elon Moreh settlers' motto is, "Torah and faith confronts terror and aggression," and in keeping with this, they have developed an educational institution incorporating five different centres.

"In most situations, a Torah centre is isolated from central life and not integrated into reality," Rabbi Gur said. However, the Elon Moreh region is different with the Torah centre being the backbone of the settlement and seen as a defensive wall protecting its people and the Land of Israel.

"We aim to be open and up to date with Israeli society while living in conjunction with Torah values," Rabbi Gur continued.

The institution is made up of a college for women, training both single and married women for leadership positions in education; a hesder yeshiva, where military service and talmudic study are integrated in a five-year program; the Beit Midrash Rabbinic and Pedagogic Seminary, designed to prepare rabbis and teachers for service in communal and educational frameworks; Yeshivat Har Homesh, in the Homesh area, a hesder program combining religious study, military training and an agricultural component, meant to help the young men strengthen their connection to the Land of Israel; and the El-Artzi high school, a fully accredited four-year program for immigrant students, particularly those from Russia.

On one of the institution's pamphlets it states, "Torah is our most potent weapon and those who live by its code will prevail… faith in our creator is the core of our commitment to Eretz Yisrael and the Torah is the blueprint for our actions."

Rabbi Gur said the planned disengagement is a "giving up" on the part of the Israeli government. "It is my belief that fighting terror is done by continuing the fight, not giving up. Giving up the settlements will cause the flames of terror to rise up because the terrorists will see that they can shake our commitment to our land and this will give them an opening to become even stronger."

The people of Elon Moreh believe that unlike the government, they see the total picture.

Rabbi Gur said, "We told them [the government] not to give them [the Palestinians] rifles because they will work against us. And we were right.

"We told them that the Oslo accords would destroy trust between ourselves and the Palestinians. And we were right.

"We told them not to ignore the tunnels under the Philadelphi route, where tons of ammunition was being smuggles in. And we were right.

"Our efforts are ensuring Jewish existence in our land."

For more information, e-mail Rabbi Gur at bg@mesimot.com or visit www.shechem.org/bimad.

BIZARRE BAZAAR: Ve'ahavta Chaverim Vaughan Chapter held a "Bizarre Bazaar" June 5 at Earl Bales Park. The event raised about $4,000 for projects by Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee to assist Toronto's homeless and other needy people through Ve'ahavta's medical missions in Guyana and Zimbabwe. Pictured, from left, are Ve'ahavta Chaverim Vaughan Chapter heads Alan Levin and Marleine Kay; Ve'ahavta executive director Avrum Rosensweig; and Thornhill MP Susan Kadis, who presented the chapter with a certificate of recognition.

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Philanthropists aid Israeli 'lone soldiers'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Gerry Schwartz and Heather Reisman, centre at the back, with some of the soldiers in Heseg, the program to aid 'lone soldiers.'

A fortuitous walk on the waterfront in Athens during the Olympic Games two years ago has led to the creation of a unique program to aid "lone soldiers" in Israel.

One of Canada's foremost power couples, Gerry Schwartz, president and CEO of Onex Corporation, and Heather Reisman, chair and CEO of Indigo Books and Music, have launched an organization called Heseg that will disburse scholarship funds to soldiers living alone in Israel who have completed their army service and who intend to remain in the country.

Heseg, "achievement" in Hebrew, will provide 100 full scholarships in each of the next three years so that when the program is running at full capacity, 300 former soldiers will be attending Israeli universities or trade schools. They will also have their living expenses underwritten. At its peak, Heseg will distribute $3 million per year, Schwartz said.

Schwartz, who has also donated $12 million to the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow campaign towards the community's new Vaughan campus, said Heseg "is the one [project] that has my heart and it certainly has my full attention now."

Two years ago, Schwartz had never heard of "lone soldiers." At the time, he was searching for a way to help young people in Israel when a security guard assigned to protect him, Reisman and a second high profile couple in Athens planted the seed. The guard, Matan, had served in Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence and security agency, and he said, "'You ought to think about doing something about lone soldiers. Nobody takes care of them,'" Schwartz recalled.

"I didn't even know about lone soldiers," he added.

He soon learned that the Israel Defence Force (IDF) at any one time has close to 6,000 soldiers in service who have mostly volunteered from abroad, and who enlist without having the kind of domestic supports that homegrown IDF soldiers rely upon to ease their army duty.

Where sabra soldiers usually head home for weekend leave, lone soldiers often just hang out at their base. Sometimes lone soldiers enlist without the support of their families – even in the face of their vocal opposition – making them feel even more isolated, Schwartz said.

Researching the subject, Schwartz learned that lone soldiers come from around the world, including North America, Brazil, Argentina, Uzbekistan, Switzerland and even Chechnya.

They come to Israel out of a deep Zionist commitment. "These kids are the volunteers of the volunteers" and they serve in all sorts of IDF units, including combat units.

As he set about trying to create an infrastructure to support the Heseg program, he learned that lone soldiers can reach the highest levels in the military. Discussing the subject with Brig.-Gen. Benny Zucker, commander of the Tel Nof air force base near Tel Aviv, Zucker told him, "'Of course I know [about lone soldiers]. I was a lone soldier.'"

Schwartz assembled a 12-person advisory board chaired by Itamar Rabinovitch, president of Tel Aviv University and formerly Israel's ambassador to Washington. The board includes representatives of the IDF and includes a lieutenant-colonel who heads the IDF's sniper school. It turns out he too is also a lone soldier, the son of an Orthodox rabbi who moved to Israel from California 16 years ago against the wishes of his family.

The advisory board will make the final determination of candidates for scholarships after they had been vetted by their base and unit commanders.

About two months ago, Heseg was launched at a ceremony at the Sde Dov air base that was attended by 170 lone soldiers as well as by the IDF Chief of Staff, the Chief of the Air Force, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, and many other dignitaries.

One of the attendees was Matan, who was taken aback at what was happening.

"He was incredulous that the conversation walking along the waterfront in Athens led to this," Schwartz said.

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Greater Toronto Area

Adath Israel's ramp to bimah 'may be the final frontier'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Earlier this month, on the second day of Shavuot, Adath Israel Congregation dedicated its new permanent ramp to the bimah in the main sanctuary.

Surprisingly, in light of public awareness in recent years about accessibility for people in wheelchairs, the new addition seems to be a rarity. An informal phone survey of almost a dozen Toronto synagogues turned up none with a permanent ramp to the bimah, although the buildings themselves are wheelchair accessible and some congregations can put up a temporary ramp with advance notice.

The message a permanent ramp conveys is, "We want you to be a full participant," said disability advocate, David Lepofsky, a lawyer who is blind. "Last time I looked, the problem was never that too many people come to shul."

Adath Israel began to address the issue of accessibility in 1997. At the time, the building was 41 years old. By 1999 there were three ramps to make the entrance, sanctuary and social hall wheelchair accessible, as well as an elevator, which operates automatically on Shabbat and holidays.

In the sanctuary, several attempts were made to accommodate people in wheelchairs before the new $72,000 renovation was completed. A mechanical lift at one side of the bimah stairs, which had to be operated with a key by one of the maintenance staff, proved unsatisfactory.

When the synagogue hosted Israeli war veterans from Beit Halochem many years ago, those who couldn't walk were carried onto the bimah, said Bob Kornhauser, chair of the bimah installation committee. It bothered him at the time to see them singled out like that, he said.

At the dedication of the elevator and original ramps in 1999, the reading table was brought down from the bimah to the level of the congregation to facilitate an aliyah for Harry Senders, a longtime member who uses a wheelchair because of a medical condition affecting his leg muscles.

However, the word "bimah" means "platform," and it should be on a higher level, said Rabbi David Seed, the synagogue's associate rabbi.

Senders, a semi-retired businessman who has lobbied to make the synagogue more accessible and was involved in fundraising for the projects, was the first to be honoured with an aliyah using the new ramp to the bimah.

"It's beautiful, it's inconspicuous. You're not standing out as a disabled person. You blend into the community," said Senders.

Nor does anyone have to ask for temporary accommodations to be made. "People don't like to do that," he said.

The new ramp, which is enclosed, is not immediately visible. The entrance is at the front right of the sanctuary, and building it meant expanding outward into the parking lot.

Other possibilities that were considered would have interfered with the esthetic of the bimah, according to Rabbi Erwin Schild, rabbi emeritus of the congregation, who came up with the idea of putting the ramp outside and enclosing it. "It's a very neat solution, a very lucky and fortunate solution," he said.

Over the years since he became Adath Israel's rabbi in 1947, there were often weddings or bar mitzvahs where the celebrants wanted to have family members in wheelchairs on the bimah or under the chuppah with them, Rabbi Schild said.

"In those days we were not so sensitive to those needs," said Rabbi Schild. "Society in general accepted that handicapped people had to be satisfied not enjoying most of what other people had. One of the wonderful things that happened in the last thirty or forty years is that we have become sensitive to the needs of the so-called disabled. As long as we persisted in our insensitivity, they were disabled. They couldn't [easily] go to museums or concerts. Why should people be disabled from enjoying life?"

In an online publication of the Chicago-based Retirement Research Foundation, *Accessible Faith: A Technical Guide for Accessibility in Houses of Worship*, the bimah, pulpit, lectern and choir area are included in a list of areas that "may be the final frontier of accessibility in most houses of worship.

"Full participation in worship should include opportunities for leadership roles, which requires access to the traditional locations of leadership," it stated.

"Other than what is currently in the building code and the human rights code, there are no standards that apply specifically to houses of worship," said Ruth Lewkowicz, senior co-ordinator of the communications branch of Ontario's ministry of citizenship and immigration. "Accessibility is more than being able to get into the building. It's being able to participate fully once you get into the building."

Lewkowicz noted that the recently approved Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, which applies to public and private sector organizations, aims to create an accessible Ontario within 20 years.

Senders said that within the congregation alone, there are about 200 people, including close relatives of members and parents using strollers, who are potential users of the ramps and elevator.

A WINNING SCORE

The Zareinu Golf Tournament, sponsored by Emery Investments, kicked off the charitable golf tournament season by posting a winning score of more than $250,000. The funds raised will be used for specialized equipment and therapy for the Zareinu students who all have special needs. About $16,000 was raised separately to buy modified hand bicycles and other apparatus that will give the children a degree of independence and self-sufficiency. Seen, from left, are the tournament co-chairs, Jeff Lanys and Evan Sone, and Zareinu president Danny Gordon.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

אַ זייער שיינער קאָנצערט פון דעם „טאָראָנטער יידישן פאָלקס כאָר"

פון אַלעק סילווער

אין אַ כמעט פולן זאַל פון „לעאַ פּאָסלונס" טעאַטער — מיין פרוי און איך בתוכם — האָט דער „טאָראָנטער יידישער פאָלקס כאָר" פרעזענטירט אַ שיינעם 80־יאָ־ריקן יובילייום קאָנצערט. לאָמיר נאָך אַמאָל איבערחזרן: עס איז געווען אַ שיינער, זייער שיינער קאָנצערט. דאָס איז נישט בלויז מיין מיינונג. מען האָט געהערט די זעלבע ווערטער פונעם אַרויסגיינדיקן שמייכלענדיקן עולם. מען האָט דערקענט אין זייערע פנימער דאָס גרויסע פֿאַרגעניגן פון דעם, וואָס זיי האָבן נאָר־דווקא גע־זען און געהערט. דאָס דאָזיקע אָרן מוז צוגעבן נאָך מער זען אָרן געהערט. דאָס דאָזיקע אָרן מוז צוגעבן נאָך מער סאַטיספאַקציע אָרן מוט צו די פירערס פון דעם כאָר אַנצוגיין נאָך אַ סך יאָרן מיט זייער ווייטיקער אָרבעט צו ברענגען יידיש געזאַנג צו די שטאָטישע איינוווינער.

גרויס הנאה האָט אויך צוגעגעבן דער „טאָראָנטאָ מאַנדאָלין אָרקעסטער", דיריגירט פון אלעקסאַנדער וועפּרינסקי, וועלכער איז אויך דער דיריגענט פון כאָר. אין זייער אייגענעם סעגמענט אָרן שפּעטער ווי מיט־שפּילער אין „די נייע הגדה" האָט דער מאַנדאָלין אָר־קעסטער אָרויסגעווייזן זייערע מוזיקאַליש פּעיקייטן אָרן שטאַרק אויסגענומען ביי די צוהערער, וועלכע האָבן זיי באַלוינט מיט הילכיקע אַפּלאָדיסמענטן.

דער פֿאָגראָם, אין צווייַ טיילן, איז געווען אַ פֿאַר־שיידט־מיניקער (eclectic). דער ערשטער טייל האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן מיט „ייִדיש רעדט זיך אַזוי שיין" פון מ. ראַזי. נאָכגעפֿאָלגט פון צוויי טראַדיציאָנעלע יידישע אָר־בעטער לידער, צוויי לידער אין העברעיש, אַ ליד אין פֿראַנצויזיש אָרן דאָס דזשעז ליד Fascinating Rhythm (פֿאַרכאַפּנדיקער ריטעם) פון די בראָדוויי אייגענע־ריקאָנער קאָמפּאָזיטאָרן דזשאָרדזש אָרן אירא געשווין. דער כאָר־טעמער מאָרק פּאָקס האָט געזונגען אַ סאָלאַ־ליד אין רוסיש „קאָלאָקאָלטשיק" מיט אייגענער גיטאַר באַגלייטונג. דאָס איז דעם עולם געפעלן געוואָרן. דער טייל האָט זיך געענדיקט מיט אַ קראַנץ לידער פון אַבֿרהם גאָלדפֿאַדען אָרן מיטן ליד „אַבי געזונט" אין אַ סאָלאָ פון באָריטאָן הערמאַן ראָזבאָווסקי.

דעם צוויייטן טייל האָט געפּענט דער אויסגעצייכ־נטער מאַנדאָלין אָרקעסטער. זייער פֿאָגראָם האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן מיט אַן אוקראַאָנישער פֿאָלקסטאַנץ — פֿאָפּולערע פֿאָלקס־לידער פון ע. סראַסטיאַנעצקי: די אוווערטור צו דער אָפּערעטע קאָזונסטאַ פון באָקאָנטן אונ־גאַריש־יידישן קאָמפּאָזיטאָר ע. קאַלמאַן; אָרן אַ פּאָפּורי פון יידישע פֿאָלקס־לידער אָראָנזשירט פון דעניאָר באָדניאָר, דער האַרמאָניע־שפּילער אין דעם אָרקעסטער.

צום סוף האָט דער כאָר, צוזאַמען מיטן אָרקעסטער, אויסגעפירט „די גיט הגדה". מיר האָבן שוין פריער גערעדט וועגן דער דאָזיקער מוזיקאַליש־שער קאָמפּאָזיציע פון מאָקס העלמאַן, וואָס איז באַזירט אויף אַ פּאָפּולע פון אומגעבראָכטן יידיש־רוסישן מאַרטיריער־שריי־בער איציק פעפער. אין דער נייער אָראָנזשירונג פון דיריגענט וועפּרינסקי, מיט דער באַגלייטונג פון דעם אָרקעסטער, האָט דער כאָר געזונגען אויסערגעווינלעך גוט. ספּע־ציעל איז געווען אַ פֿאַרגניגן צו הערן דעם ריינעם אמתדיקן יידיש פון נאָראָטאָר רוט בארשיווער. און פֿאַר דעם קומט איר אַ דאַנק.

איך וויל ענדיקן מיט דערמאָנען די טאָראָנטער יידן, אַז דער „יידישער פֿאָלקס כאָר" איז אַ וויכטיקע אינ־סטיטוציע ביי אונדז אין שטאָט און דאַרף אוז מַן גע־שטיצט ווערן פון אלעמען. דער פֿאַרגניגן פון הערן אַ ריין יידיש ליד, געזונגען פון טאָלאַנטירטע שישפּי־לערס, איז שווער אפּצושאַצן. קומענדיקן פרילינג לאָזט נישט דורך די געלעגנהייט זיי־צו הערן.

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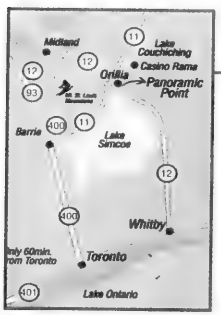

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Jewish Life

The lesson of Moses' misdeed

By RABBI YOSSI MICHALOWICZ

This week's Torah portion describes the unimaginable: Moshe, the greatest leader of Jewish history, doing a sin!

After Miriam's death, the Jewish people no longer have water to drink in the desert. The Almighty instructs Moshe to speak to the rock in order to renew its life-giving water. However, Moshe ultimately strikes the rock, which does indeed produce the water necessary for the Jewish people.

The Almighty considers this a sin, as He says (Bamidbar, chapter 20, verse12), "Because you did not believe in Me to sanctify Me in the eyes of the Children of Israel, therefore, you will not bring this congregation to the land that I have given them."

Rashi explains what the sin is: "For had you spoken to the rock and it would have brought forth water, I would have been sanctified before the eyes of the assembly, and they would have said, 'Now, if this rock which neither speaks nor hears, and does not need subsistence, fulfills the word of the Almighty, how much more so should we fulfill His word.'"

The obvious question is: Is there any major difference between a miracle of water coming out of a rock as a result of hitting it or talking to it? For such a minute difference, Moshe's punishment seems disproportionate. Do we want to come away from this story feeling, "Boy, you have to be careful in following the Almighty's instructions, because any deviation from His orders leads to disastrous results"?

In contrast to Rashi, Maimonides explains that Moshe's sin was getting angry at the people as a response to their criticisms during this incident. But Nachmonides rejects this answer, since the reason that the Almighty gives for Moshe's punishment is: "Because you did not believe in Me to sanctify Me in the eyes of the Children of Israel." Anger is not mentioned.

The Maharal synthesizes both interpretations with the following fundamental principle: a person who totally believes in the Almighty never gets angry. Moshe was given a mission by the Almighty to perform a miracle. When a person receives a particular mission by God, he must also understand that he has the potential to accomplish that mission. Once a person truly realizes this, he must have *bitachon* – trust in God and the confidence to accomplish the mission. Where there is real *bitachon* in your mission and confidence in being able to accomplish what you set out to do, only feelings of contentment, satisfaction and happiness should result.

Moshe's anger in this situation indicated that he was not bound to this mission with the ultimate confidence necessary. Because of his level of greatness, he needed to display incredible levels of trust in the One who sent him.

According to the Maharal, the point here was not so much for the Israelites to witness the miracle of seeing water coming out of a stone, since they were already used to seeing miracles. The issue was to show the people how all of creation bends, leans and flows to do the will of God.

When you talk to a stone that has no heart or mind and it performs the will of God, it proves that, deep down in the nature of the world, there is a will to fulfil the word of God. This is inherent in the nature of existence. This point can only be expressed when you talk to the stone. Once you hit it with a stick, the message is different: "Yes the will of God gets done, but you have to carry a big stick to make it happen!"

The point was to show the Jews that there is a perfect unity that lies deep in the universe to do the will of God. Had the Jews seen this in the universe, they would say that they, too, could do the will of God. Then they would have had the confidence to enter the Holy Land, knowing that the country would respond willingly to their mission of inhabiting it.

Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz is spiritual leader of the Westmount Community Shul in Thornhill, Ont.

Female scribe writes Torah for Seattle synagogue

By PETER CAULFIELD
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Aviel Barclay, a Vancouver-based artist, calligrapher and the world's first known certified *soferet* – or female Torah scribe – is writing a sefer Torah for a synagogue in nearby Seattle, Wash.

Barclay, who trained with a Jerusalem-based *sofer*, is completing the Torah for Kadima, an 80-family progressive congregation formed in 1978 that currently lacks a scroll of its own.

You could say that Barclay, 36, became a soferet by accident. Originally a gemologist, she was riding her bicycle to work in her native Victoria one day in 1991 when the door of a parked car opened unexpectedly, sending her bouncing and sliding down a long hill. The accident crushed her right hand.

"The hand healed well, but there's permanent nerve damage and the hand gets cold and tired easily," Barclay says

She was unable to work as a gemologist and she started selling jewelry. She also had to learn to write all over again.

One day, while doing her handwriting exercises, she remembered her love as a child for the Hebrew aleph-bet.

"I began to think about writing Torahs," she says. "I wasn't sure if it was something that women could do, so I started to do some research. I couldn't find a reference to a woman having done it, but neither could I find anything specifically forbidding the practice."

(Commentators are divided on the issue, with Orthodox ones generally holding that the Talmud doesn't allow women to write a Torah for ritual use.)

After deciding to go ahead, Barclay began to look for an experienced *sofer* who would be willing to teach her.

"I called *sofrim* all over the world, but I couldn't find anyone who would take me as a student," she says. "Just the fact that I was female was enough for all of them to reject me."

Barclay continued to sell jewelry and practise Hebrew calligraphy. In 1996, she got an e-mail out of the blue from a sofer in Jerusalem asking if she wanted a teacher. She jumped at the rabbi's offer and immediately began a correspondence course with him in calligraphy.

First known certified soferet

The rabbi (who wishes to remain anonymous) said it "might be possible" for him to teach her Torah writing if they met and if they hit it off. He also insisted that she live an observant life and keep their arrangement confidential.

Right away Barclay asked herself, "How do I get to Israel?"

In 1997, she got there via the now-defunct Project Oren, which combined a stay on a kibbutz with ulpan and a drawing and painting course.

She learned to write megillot from her teacher, but in 1998, she ran out of money and had to return to Victoria.

"I spent the next five years in purgatory, trying to earn enough money to get back to Israel and continue learning with my teacher," she says. "'But I just wasn't able to do it."

Her luck changed in January 2003 when she received a call from Kadima.

"They wanted their own Torah and they wanted a woman to write it for them," Barclay says.

She agreed to do it, but first she wanted to return to Israel to finish her training. Kadima agreed to pay Barclay's tuition and living expenses.

She returned to Canada, moved to Vancouver and began to write the Torah.

"The work is going slowly and I don't know when I'm going to finish," she says. "It puts a lot of strain on my hand. But I've finished Genesis and I'm part way through Exodus.'

Wendy Graff, of Kadima's Woman's Torah Project, said the shul "could have gotten a Torah for less money. But once we realized that a woman had never scribed a Torah, I knew I could never look at one the same way again."

So far, according to the Woman's Torah Project website, $33,881 (US) has been raised from 300 donors in 30 states to meet the $60,000 cost of the project.

Barclay says she knows of no other woman who has written a sefer Torah.

A member of Vancouver's Congregation Shaarey Tefillah, which is affiliated with the Union for Traditional Judaism, Barclay is married to composer and musician Joel Rothschild.

With files from JTA

Jewish Life

A conservative critiques U.S. militarism

***The American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War* by Andrew J. Bacevich, Oxford University Press.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

When does it all stop? When is enough enough? The United States now spends more on defence then all the other nations of the world combined. Adjusted for today's inflation, the Pentagon budget is 12 per cent larger then the average defence budget of the Cold War era. American defence spending exceeds, by a factor of 25, the combined budgets of the seven designated "rogue nations."

Hundreds of American military bases, large and small, are spread around the world, and the planning for advanced high-tech weaponry continues apace.

Actually, writes the author of this provocative and disturbing book, "Today, as never before in their history, Americans are enthralled with military power. They come to define the nation's strength and well-being in terms of military preparedness, military action, and the fostering of (or nostalgia for) military ideals."

And marching in lockstep with this exaggerated reliance on force is America's belief in its "exceptionalism." This is the view that the U.S. incarnates universal ideals and values that are valid for all times and places.

Andrew J. Bacevich, a graduate of West Point, a Vietnam veteran and director of the Center for International Relations at Boston University, is a self-professed conservative, a non-pacifist and the advocate of a strong American fighting force.

But the marriage of militarism and utopian ideology, argues the author, "commits Americans to a futile enterprise, turning the United States into a crusader state with a self-proclaimed mission of driving history to its final destination: the worldwide embrace of the American way of life. This mindset invites endless war and the ever-deepening militarization of U.S. policy… It will end in bankruptcy, moral as well as economic, and in abject failure."

In an important caveat, Bacevich cautions against blaming 9/11– or President George W. Bush – for the rise of American militarism. Instead, he carefully details how it developed in the three decades after the Vietnam War.

Various groups in American society – military strategists, politicians on the make, intellectuals, strategists, Christian evangelicals, and even purveyors of pop culture – came to see the revival and celebration of military power as the antidote to all the ills besetting the country as a consequence of Vietnam and the 1960s.

In a relatively brief mention of Israel, the author suggests that the strong support of the religious right for Israel, and for how it makes use of its military power, has influenced conservative Christian thinking. "By extension, this evangelical attitude has altered the terms of religious discourse about war and the use of force in ways that have contributed to the militarization of U.S. policy."

Bacevich proposes a number of correctives to the present situation. These include having Congress fulfil its constitutional responsibility of deciding when to declare war; organizing U.S. forces explicitly for national defence; devising an appropriate way to determine the level of defence spending; enhancing alternative aspects of statecraft, such as diplomacy; and reviving the dormant concept of the citizen-soldier.

Given the present widespread American attitude that the book so well describes, it is highly unlikely that any of the remedies suggested will find quick or ready acceptance.

The 17th Maccabiah Games – Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we began our look at the world's premier Jewish sporting event, the Maccabiah, which begins July 10 in Israel.

When Yosef Yekutieli lobbied for Jewish games in Palestine back in 1928, he hoped the "Maccabiada" would take place in time for the 1800th anniversary of the Bar Kochba Rebellion (132–135 CE). They did. But when they began in 1932, their titled was Hebraicized to "Maccabiah." **[http://tinyurl.com/9p567]**

Where does the name "Maccabiah" come from? Here are two explanations from the *Encyclopedia Judaica*:

"The word Maccabi is formed by taking the Hebrew acronym of the words Mi Kamocha Ba'ay-lim Ado-shem/ Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? (Exodus 15:11) **[http://tinyurl.com/cs6wm]**

"[The Maccabiah] was named after Judah Maccabee, famous for his role in the revolt against the Greeks in the story of Chanukah." **[www.maccabicanada.com/about/movement.html]**

The official Maccabiah 17 site gives a very good overview of this year's games in English, Hebrew and Spanish. **[www.maccabiah17.com/]** In the video section, you can watch Yael Arad, Israel's first Olympic medalist (silver, judo, 1992) as she lights the torch at the 14th Maccabiah. There's also a great clip with the late Naomi Shemer singing *Al Kol Ayleh* at the opening ceremonies in 1985. Please note that the quality of these clips is very good, but since they are quite large, they take a while to download, even with a quick connection. **[http://tinyurl.com/72vk8]** One more note: the Maccabiah 17 site performed fine in Windows, but was quite finicky on a Mac. Perhaps you'll fare better.

Athletes attending this year's Maccabiah will compete in more than 30 games and sports, including triathlon, chess, wrestling, bridge and water polo. More than 55 countries are invited, with 6,000 competitors and 14,000 coaches, escorts and attendees expected. **[www.maccabiworld.org/]** The Canadian Maccabi site has links to many other national Maccabi sites, including those from Argentina, Brazil, Germany and the United States. **[www.maccabicanada.com/links.html]**

While looking for photographs from previous Maccabiahs, I came across a wonderful treasure trove. The State of Israel's National Photo Collection has thousands of historic photos online. Just go to the collection **[www.mof.gov.il/pictures/defaulte.html]**, then type in a keyword such as "Maccabiah" and you'll get some lovely results. (You can use this site for just about any topic that interests you.)

If you've ever dreamed of competing on the international stage but aren't quite ready for the track, the pool or the rugby pitch, you may still be in luck. The Maccabiah has long featured events that require both brawn and brain. That means you, bridge and chess masters. **[http://tinyurl.com/bexrg]** If even that sounds too taxing but you're determined to live vicariously as a competitor, then print off an athletes' menu, head to the kitchen and munch like a champion. **[http://tinyurl.com/9yk33]**

People attend the Maccabiah games for all sorts of reasons. Back in 2001, Denver's Todd Schayes came as a player-coach, but it seems he was interested in more than just basketball. During the televised opening ceremonies, the 36-year-old athlete held up a sign that read: "Single male. American. Looking for Israeli wife. Contact Todd Schayes at the Tel Aviv Hilton." More than 4,500 women did. Unfortunately, none of them seemed to be his bashert. **[http://tinyurl.com/dpn43]**

Fortunately for Schayes, the story didn't end there. Back in the States, Elaine Housman of Kent, Conn., was reading about the athlete and his exploits in her local Jewish paper. "I screamed, 'I have found the man for Diane!'" Housman wrote Schayes to tell him about her 30-year-old niece, Diane Lipner. As reported in the *New York Times*, Todd and Diane's e-mail relationship developed into a full-blown courtship, culminating in their 2003 wedding. **[http://tinyurl.com/bz74s]**

Although Schayes' quest started in front of TV cameras at the Maccabiah games in Israel, his relatives say he really doesn't seek the limelight. "He's very low-key, very mellow," said Jon Housman, a cousin of the bride. "He told me: 'I'm not a hopeless romantic. I'm a hopeful romantic.'"

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@ rogers.com.

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Baycrest hosts international medical videoconference

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care hosted its largest ever international medical rounds recently.

Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian and South African doctors reviewed a complex patient case via a simultaneous videoconference link.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also participated from Geneva.

Dr. David Conn, Baycrest's head of psychiatry and medical director of Telehealth, opened the rounds by greeting participants from the different time zones around the world. There were friendly rounds of applause as each country was introduced.

"We are very excited as this is largest number of international sites that we've connected simultaneously," said Conn.

In all, six international sites participated in the historic Telehealth videoconference, including Tel Aviv University; Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem; Jordan University of Science and Technology; the WHO; the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine in Durban, South Africa; and, representing Canada, Baycrest and St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto.

The medical case involved a 70-year-old patient with cognitive difficulties, personality changes, bipolar affective disorder and Parkinsonism. Dr. Sarah Thompson, a psychiatry resident at Baycrest, presented the case study, followed by presentations on neuropsychological and neuro-imaging test results from Dr. Brian Richards (Baycrest) and Dr. Sandra Black (Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre). Dr. Morris Freedman (Baycrest) interviewed the patient and chaired the interactive discussion that followed with the doctors from around the world.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to show how co-operation and the exchange of knowledge can bind people together," said Dr. Arnold Noyek, director of the Peter A. Silverman Centre for International Health at Mount Sinai Hospital and chair of the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program.

He said the milestone event would add a new cross-border dimension and technical tool to the ongoing academic exchanges in the Middle East between the Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli medical communities, and further down the road, contribute to improved health-care education and delivery in developing countries around the world.

A theme that is currently gaining ground in medical and political circles is the belief that sharing medical knowledge vis-a-vis international Telehealth partnerships helps to build bridges of mutual trust and aids the common cause of the betterment of humans within societies.

Board game lets players ponder life's choices

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

After years of obsessing about choices related to love, money and sex, teacher Susan Morry decided to create a board game about life's little trade-offs.

And as they work their way through the game's 660 questions on 330 cards, players of If You Had To Choose...? can also look forward to many hours of considering the pros and cons of different decisions.

They may get to consider whether they prefer to be rich or in love, whether they want to live a long life or be slim, and whether they want a mate who is intelligent or beautiful.

Or perhaps they'll get to ponder this: "If... you have to choose one, would you rather be wealthy but never meet the person of your dreams or earn minimum wage but find your soulmate?"

From two to 10 adults can predict how their counterparts will respond to that and other questions by betting on their answers with chips. The winner is the one who most often correctly predicts the others' responses.

Morry, who teaches high school English in Toronto, said her game is ultimately a spiritual one, as it makes players think about what's really important, while at the same time enabling them to interact and connect with one another.

"We live in a spiritually starved time, and people crave entertainment that will put them more in touch with their souls," she said.

When she was younger, Morry said, she was always asking her friends, "Would you rather this or would you rather that?"

Then, when she became a teacher, those questions often became journal topics for her students, and over time, in-depth discussions about them would develop in her classes.

Around 10 years ago, she realized the questions could become the basis for a board game, and she began to create the game model and write 700 questions, which she said are intentionally provocative and based on hypothetical situations.

Although conceiving the game was relatively easy, its birth was not, with Morry struggling to find the money to make the game a commercial reality.

Susan Morry

But she persevered and finally launched her game last December, with an initial run of 500 units selling out in the first 12 days after the game was featured on CityTV, CFRB radio and in Toronto Metro newspaper.

She markets the game under her own company name, "Choose Games Inc.," which has six shareholders, all friends of hers.

Morry said that even the graphics for the game were carefully chosen. They feature Michelangelo's Adam and Botticelli's Venus – who look like Adam and Eve when placed side by side, Morry said – to emphasize that the game asks questions that are timeless and universal.

Having already broken into the Canadian and American markets, Morry is now focused on Europe.

During the summer, she will be translating the questions into French, to be followed by other European languages.

She also has ideas to expand the game onto the Internet on dating website chatlines, as she feels it could be an excellent way for people to see whether they are compatible with potential mates.

Recently, she received a letter from a chassidic Talmud teacher who said the game was "holy" and embodies the essence of the Talmud, as it is a lesson in choosing between alternatives.

The game is available at local bookstores, including Chapters and Indigo, or online at www.ifyouhadtochoose game.com.

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Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Happy fourth birthday Samantha Taylor, daughter of Fara & Michael Forman. Love, Jordyn Bailey and Joshua Ethan.

Mazel tov and many blessings to Sharon & Paul Haas on their double-chai 36th anniversary. With lots of love from their favourite children...L'chaim!

Andrew Norman at six months old. Parents are Dr. Peter Hodes Donnalene Tuer-Hodes. Proud grandmother Senta Hodes-Gilbert.

Mazel tov to Natania Feuerwerker-Etienne, Dr. Gerard Etienne, Tamara Yunessi-Krief, Antoine Krief on the upcoming wedding of Ilana & Guilad. Brother and sister-in-law Joel & Lisa Etienne.

Mazel tov to Sadie & Max Katz on the celebration of their 60th anniversary. From their children, grandchildren, family and friends.

Happy second birthday Julia Ariel Koifman. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Nana Judy, Opi Frank, Safta Rebeca, Saba David, uncles and aunts.

Mazel tov to Zadok on graduating from law school. Love, Mom, Dad, Shira, Ron Ozani, Bubbie & Zaidie Rose and Charles Kornberg.

Mazel tov Dina Safran on your graduation. Much love, Abba, Eema, Daniel, Tamar, Yonatan, Sabba and Safta.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, July 11, is the deadline for the July 21 issue. Since there is no issue on July 28, the July 21 issue will cover events occurring from July 21 to Aug. 4. The deadline for the Aug. 4 issue is Monday, July 25. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com. This week's What's New was done by Carolyn Blackman.

Sunday, July 10

HEALING SERVICE

Judy Shier Weisberg leads the healing service, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4th floor. Wheelchair access. For information, call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

Monday, June 11

VE'AHAVTA CHAVERIM

Ve'ahavta Chaverim Vaughan, the fundraising and community awareness arm of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, is having an information meeting, 7 p.m. Call **Marleine**, 416-964-7698, ext. 19.

STOP THE GENOCIDE

The Social Action Committee of Temple Sinai Congregation presents Never Again: Together We Can Help Stop the Genocide in Darfur, including a screening of *Hotel Rwanda* and a talk by **Dr. Norman Epstein**, president, Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS). 7 p.m., public is welcome.

Other news

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto, sponsors a women's support group, Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., every second Tuesday 10-11 a.m. to network, share, address concerns and have fun in an informal and friendly environment. TTC and wheelchair accessible. Free parking available. Leave a message for **Rachel**, 416-633-5100, for information.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Registration for Shaar Shalom religious school is open for September 2005. It offers classes for senior kindergarten through Grade 8. Classes are held on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Thornhill Secondary School. The Grade 7 class is held Saturday morning at Shaar Shalom Synagogue and Wednesday evening. For more information, call **Hava Greenberg** at 905-889-4975.

JEWISH LEARNING

Rabbi Kirsh teaches a number of classes throughout the week, including Jewish mysticism, Sundays at 10 a.m., and Jewish meditation, Tuesday at 8 p.m. 240 Crestwood Rd. For information, call 905-889-0793 or e-mail ohrpenimi@hotmail.com.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

TORAH STUDY FOR WOMEN

Nishmat Yarchei Kallah with **Rabbanit Chana Henkin**, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, July 26-28, 9:15a.m.-12:30 p.m., Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore. Topic: "Challenges to a Newborn State: Readings in Ezra, Nechemia and Zecharia." Text-based learning and inspiring lectures for women of all levels. Call 416-789-4883, or e-mail nishmat@rogers.com for information.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Drivers needed to take patients to treatment centres. For information, call the Canadian Cancer Society, North York unit, 416-638-0771.

EATING DISORDERS GROUP

Eating Disorders of York Region will focus on providing services, education, support groups and awareness for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders. Group meets Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. in Richmond Hill. Call

Continued on page 21

The essential survival manual for growing up Jewish

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

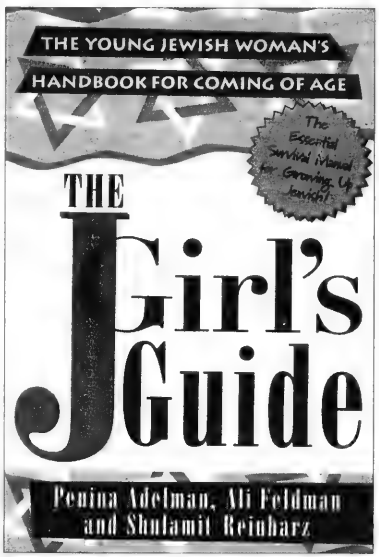
A Jewish girl's journey through adolescence, though often carefree, can also be a time of stress and anxiety.

No one knows this better than Penina Adelman, Ali Feldman and Shulamit Reinharz, authors of *The JGirl's Guide, The Essential Survival Manual for Growing up Jewish*. (Jewish Lights, www.jewishlights.com). The interactive, easy-to-read book is designed to help pre-teen Jewish girls – JGirls – address the spiritual, educational and psychological issues surrounding coming of age in today's society. It includes such topics as friendship, dealing with authority, coping with stress, self-esteem, and Jewish identity.

As well, the book includes girls' diaries from the last few centuries, ancient and modern texts interpreted by girls and women, and the contemporary voices of Jewish girls responding to the issues they face today.

Reinharz, a professor at the Brandeis University, wrote in the preface that the seeds for the book were planted when Feldman worked as Reinharz's intern at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, which is a school that examines issues concerning Jewish women.

Feldman was developing new ideas for bat mitzvah girls, and Reinharz suggested she call Adelman, who had a bat mitzvah-age daughter and ran groups for mothers and daughters.



They decided to write the book, because "no matter how much has been written about being a Jewish girl, there is always a need for more, because the lives of Jewish teens are constantly changing."

Jewish girls today, they say, have more career paths open to them than their grandmothers, are more accepting of alternative lifestyles, and have more choices about motherhood.

"Add the Jewish factor, and your life becomes even more complicated. Where are the models for being Jewish today?"

The modern JGirl can look to the Bible for role models on being a friend, they say.

For instance, David and Jonathan were true friends, they added, because when Jonathan's father, King Saul, wanted David killed because he was a better warrior than Jonathan, Jonathan sacrificed his relationship with his father and chose loyalty to his friend.

The chapter also includes quotes from modern girls, about what they look for in a friend – loyalty, consideration and support are among the many traits listed.

Readers are asked to discuss such issues as being friends with boys, or what to do when you hear someone speak badly about your friend.

They are also given some suggestions for performing random acts of kindness, such as sitting with the new girl at lunch, spending some time with a friend who is sick or lonely, or smiling at someone you don't know.

The teen years are a time to become responsible for your own health. Parents still take you to the doctor and make sure you have food and shelter, "but it is up to you to learn what your body is telling you, and how to keep it healthy."

Among other ways to treat their bodies with respect, girls are told to eat three nutritious meals a day, go to sleep early if they are tired, try to do some physical exercise, and avoid alcohol, drugs and cigarettes.

The bat mitzvah is a perfect opportunity to become a "mitzvah girl." The coming of age ritual can be one that is filled with meaning and significance, not just celebrating and party planning, the book states.

The authors suggest that talking to other people may be one way to find their Jewish identity. As a bar mitzvah project, girls could talk to older girls or women about their bar mitzvah experience, find out about other cultures, or pick a topic that is important to them and study about it in a Jewish text.

Girls are encouraged to keep a journal about their Jewish identity. They book suggests that readers write about what makes them proud to be a Jew, of their feelings for Israel, their most positive experience of being Jewish, or about the most important Jewish symbol.

Jewish identity, "is not one thing or one way of being. There are many ways to be Jewish... and your Jewish identity will change throughout your life.

"As a Jewish girl on your way to becoming a Jewish woman, you are already struggling to figure out your place in the world. You are struggling to understand what it really means to be a Jewish woman rather than any other sort of woman. May your struggle be productive."

Continued from page 20

Robyn, 416-576-0457, for information. Website: www.edoyr.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel/Beit Halochem Canada, a non-profit organization, is looking for volunteers to help out in the office, mornings or afternoons. Call **Raelene**, 905-695-0611.

READY SET GO NURSERY

This September Adath Israel Synagogue offers "Ready Set Go," a pre-nursery program for children who are 2½ years old. Call **Rachel**, 416-635-5340.

ADULT MINI-SCHOOL

Registration open for Melton Adult Mini-school. Choice of three times and three locations. Curriculum from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Classes begin week of Sept. 12. Call **Loretta Tanenbaum**, 416-789-7400.

BETH SHALOM NURSERY

Beth Shalom Playtime Nursery, a casually structured program for toddlers and preschoolers, is accepting registration for 2005-06 for "Mommie and Me, Bubbie and Me" and "Shabbat and Me." Play groups are also offered for 1 to 2-year-olds and 2 to 3-year olds. For information and registration, call 416-783-6103.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Young Jewish families north of Toronto are looking for past families and new faces. Offices have moved, and database has been lost. E-mail, northernlightschavera@yahoo.ca.

SHAW FESTIVAL TRIP

Join Beth Emeth Chai Shalom for a trip to Shaw Festival Theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake to see *Gypsy*, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m. performance. $75 per person includes transportation. To reserve, call **Tema Wasserman** at 905-770-0355.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 7, picnic at Earl Bales Park; July 14, lecture on situation in Israel. Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, July 27; bridge, Thursdays, 12-3 p.m; bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; conversational Hebrew classes Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Trip to Niagara Fallsview casino, Sept. 21. Call 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

Adult Services & 55+, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre presents Lunch 'n' Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, July 8, noon-1 p.m., Room 202. Bring lunch, tea/coffee free. Call **Janet**, 416-636-1880, ext. 259.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, September 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Computer courses at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels begin in July. Beginners class, Mondays 10-11 a.m.; level II course, Mondays 11:30 a.m.; level III course, Mondays 1 p.m. All classes start July 18. Internet basics course, Tuesdays 1 p.m., starting July 19. Members $40, non-members $60. To register, visit the service desk or call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

Digital photography, scanning and storytelling, Thursdays 1-2:30 p.m., starting July 7. To register, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

Low-vision group, The Visionaries, get together for a picnic at the Terraces/Wagman Greenhouse, Thursday, July 21, noon. Cost $5 per person. Register at service desk by July 11.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for fall classes in babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228

Registration is open for September 2005 for the morning preschool and full-day day-care. Programs include a morning school Tic Tac Two program, 9-11:30 a.m., two, three or four days a week; a morning nursery school, 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; morning junior and senior kindergarten 9-11:30 a.m. or 9-1 p.m.; and a full-day day-care for toddlers 18 months through senior kindergarten. Programs include music, fun centre gym, swimming, Hebrew for groups (three years of age and up) and Discovery Museum for preschool and up. For more information or to book a tour, call ext. 248.

Koffler Centre presents a Yiddish Dance Workshop, Sunday, July 24. Morning session 10 a.m.-noon, $10; afternoon session, 1:30-4:30 p.m., $15, or both sessions for $20. Evening party, 7-10 p.m. $6, studio theatre. No partner or previous experience required. Wear loose comfortable clothing, soft and comfortable footwear such as runners. Bring a water bottle. Registration form and details available at www.yiddishdance.com or call **Teme Kernerman**.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

SOLDIERS' FUND: Beth Jacob Ve'Anshei Drildz Congregation presents a donation from its Shavuot yizkor fundraising for soldiers to the Association for the Soldiers of Israel (ASI). Accepting the donation on behalf of the ASI, from left to right, are board members Irving Buchbinder and Max Moneta, and representing the Beth Jacob Congregation are Sam Faivish, Beth Jacob Soldiers' Fund chair; Stan Greenspan, president; and Joseph Joseph, treasurer.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE CONVENTION: The Canadian region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism held its convention recently in Toronto. The three-day weekend event was held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda and Adath Israel synagogues. Special guest speaker on Shabbat was Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice-president, USCJ, New York. From left are Bea Muroff, committee; Rivy Blass, convention co-chair; Judy Yudof, international president USCJ; Paul Kochberg, president, Canadian Region, USCJ; Loretta Tanenbaum, regional executive director; and David Sefton, convention co-chair. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SPRING CONFERENCE: Canadian Seaway Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism held its spring conference recently at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill. The theme was Learning Together. From left are Rivy Blass, committee; Trudy Sassoon, spring conference chair; Sandy Myers, international consultant, WLCJ; and Joyce Binstock, committee. [Mollie Rothman photo]

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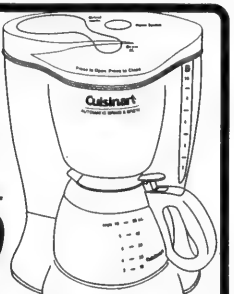

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Bellack, William	May 20/05	7440 Bathurst St.
Gorden, Herbert D.	June 16/05	2075 Bayview Ave.
Finkler, Bernard	June 16/05	50 Braemar Ave.
Hiutin, Isak	June 16/05	205 Hilda Ave.
Kanner, Naftali	June 16/05	15 Bonnacord Dr.
Mendelzon, Alberto	June 16/05	29 Granard Blvd.
Eisenman, Anne	June 16/05	Private
Grossman, Katie	June 17/05	35 Wynford Heights Dr
Mitlin, Mikhail	June 20/05	6091 Bathurst St
Schwartz, Molly	June 21/05	30 Waymount Ave.
Nussbacher, Ivan Yehuda	June 22/05	1085 Steeles Ave W
Murciano, Saadia	June 24/05	238 Rosedale Heights Dr

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Joseph Shimmerman	Jun 19/05	1035 Eglinton Ave W
Frank Wilson	Jun 19/05	619 Avenue Road
Norman Olson	Jun 19/05	233 Beecroft Road
Bea Greenberg	Jun 20/05	569 Sheppard Ave W
Robert Alter	Jun 21/05	35 Foxwarren Drive
Magda Gold	Jun 21/05	6 Berkindale Drive
Arthur Konviser	Jun 21/05	128 Kilbarry Road
Samuel (Sam) Sumack	Jun 23/05	3908 Bathurst Street
George W. Glass, Q.C.	Jun 25/05	360 Bloor Street E
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Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Obituary

Weizmann, Shoppers stalwart 'left tremendous legacy'

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Arthur Konviser came to Canada in 1977 and joined Shoppers Drug Mart as an executive assistant to the president and an assistant to the legal department.

He eventually attained the position of senior vice-president of corporate affairs and became a senior member of the company's management board.

Arthur Konviser

In his time, the South African-educated lawyer saw three Shoppers presidents come and go.

On June 21, Konviser died in New York just a month short of his 60th birthday. He had been receiving treatment for a rare form of cancer.

In addition to his position with Shoppers Drug Mart, Konviser, who was born in Zimbabwe, also served on numerous community boards and committees.

He was on the board of governors of the Ontario Science Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, the Baycrest Hospital Foundation, the Parkwood Hospital Foundation in London, Ont., and the Toronto Philharmonia orchestra.

He also worked on fundraising campaigns, including those associated with the Weizmann Institute of Science, the University of Toronto and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In 2001, Konviser was elected as president of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

According to Michael Meyer, national executive director of Weizmann Canada, "he breathed younger life into the organization."

Aside from being president of Weizmann Canada, Konviser was also on the institute's international board and its board of governors.

His aim was to create more awareness about Weizmann Canada, and this was a job he did "extremely well," Meyer said.

On June 7, Konviser received an invitation to be re-appointed to the international board for another five-year term, Meyer said, and there was no doubt he would have been re-elected.

Meyer said he "left a tremendous legacy behind in the Institute." Konviser was an inspiration to all who worked there, and "we will continue to take inspiration from him," Meyer said.

Sheri Federman, director of programs and operations at Weizmann Canada, said Konviser "was a truly remarkable and greatly loved man, and we will miss him beyond words."

His wife, Eudice Goldberg, a pediatrician at the Hospital for Sick Children, said a family highlight was celebrating the bar mitzvahs of both their sons in Israel. "We had a wonderful life together," she said.

Konviser is survived by his wife and sons Michael and Daniel.

On Campus

U.S. grad students hostile to Israel, study finds

By GARY ROSENBLATT
New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK — A new survey of attitudes toward Israel among graduate students at top U.S. universities offers a disturbing if not frightening picture of increasing sympathy for the Palestinian cause and blame on the Jewish state for the lack of peace.

The report issued last month by the Israel Project, a Washington-based group that seeks to strengthen Israel's image, found that "tomorrow's leaders… are hostile to the Jewish state."

Titled *How The Next Generation Views Israel*, the report was written by Frank Luntz, a pollster who has conducted other surveys on young people's attitudes toward Israel and Jewish life.

It was based on "face-to-face group interviews" with nearly 150 students under age 30 in New York, Boston, Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles. They attended law, business, journalism or government programs at Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and UCLA.

Many of them come from homes sympathetic to Israel, Luntz reported, but through exposure to university professors and mainstream media have grown "impatient" with Israel and emotionally connected to the Palestinian cause, to the point of rationalizing Palestinian suicide bombings and coming to see Israel as a "burden" to the United States rather than "an ally."

What's more, Luntz found a thin line between anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment among "these young elites," noting that "they may not be in the 'Zionism is racism' camp, but they're not all that far away." He said the students "view any U.S. support of Israel as generated by wealthy Jewish special interests rather than as a reflection of the national interest."

Luntz said the graduate students do not talk about Mideast issues with Jewish friends, whom they perceive as "indoctrinated" and "emotional."

In the eyes of the graduate students, Luntz said, "to support Israel as a Jew is to be narrow-minded and one-sided. To support the Palestinians is to be progressive and thoughtful."

He noted that many of the students said they changed their attitudes during their college and post-college years as they "learned more," in their words, from professors, Palestinians on campus and the media. The *New York Times* is their top source of news information, and the BBC is widely watched as well.

The students believe the American media is biased toward Israel, and that Palestinians are making a greater effort toward peace than Israel.

An Israeli government official dealing with media issues said he had not yet read the report but questioned its methodology and intent.

Luntz's style is to "put his pro-Israel views up front" so that much of a focus group's reactions depend on whether the participants like him, said the Israeli official, who asked not to be named.

About half of the 50-page report offers advice on how to counter the dire situation, and Luntz urged pro-Israel groups and individuals to "express genuine recognition" that Palestinians have suffered, but to blame the problem on corrupt Palestinian leaders.

The message, according to Luntz, should be that the security fence and other forms of Israeli self-defence are necessitated by the violence committed by these terror groups, and that once the groups are eliminated, peace prospects will improve.

In recommending advertising that emphasizes peace, tolerance and hope, Luntz criticized ads that only promote Israel's innovative accomplishments.

Canadians likely have similar views, campus workers say

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Graduate students in Canada probably have views about Israel and the Palestinians that are similar to their counterparts in the United States, Jewish campus workers said about a study of U.S. graduate students' attitudes on Mideast issues.

"I would venture to say that if we did have the opportunity to do the research in a scientific manner [in Canada], we would see similar results," said Lance Davis, director of National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL), a resource for campuses across the country.

The Israel Project study of graduate student attitudes, conducted on select American campuses, indicated increasing sympathy for the Palestinians and blaming of Israel for lack of peace, even among students who had previously been more sympathetic toward Israel.

The study shows that focusing on graduate students has to be a priority when it comes to Israel advocacy, Davis said, adding that NJCL has already begun to focus on that area, including some fledgling work with faculty members.

Arieh Rosenblum, NJCL's director of Israel affairs, said the study shows that graduate students' opinions have been shaped in part by their professors. "It's important that professors who are onside speak up."

In line with recommendations made in the study by pollster Frank Luntz, Hillels here need to continue their focus on peace programming and working with student leaders, said Tilly Shames, Israel affairs director for Hillel of Greater Toronto.

"I think this study will lend more credence to what we are already doing, and I think it will offer some new suggestions," Shames said.

"When a graduate student has anti-Israel views, it's very dangerous in a campus environment, because they often have a closer relationship [as teaching assistants] with [undergraduate] students than professors themselves."

However, there are some differences for students on Canadian campuses compared to their U.S. counterparts. Because of the relatively small number of campuses that NJCL serves – about 30 with a significant Jewish student population, and another 20 smaller ones – the organization can provide more comprehensive support than American umbrella organizations can, said Davis. Also, he noted, the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students has created a cohesive network of Israel activist student leaders across the country.

Rosenblum believes that some of the recommendations in the report "need to be paid close attention to. In articulating our support for Israel, our students have to be much more than one-dimensional. There has to be an acknowledgement that Israel is not a perfect place, but then you have to go on to articulate Israel's strengths and values that Canadians can identify with."

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Bertrand blasted for Jewish conspiracy charge

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The Supreme Court of Canada issued a scathing condemnation of lawyer Guy Bertrand's allegation that Justice Minister Irwin Cotler and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) conspired to ensure the deportation of Rwandan exile Leon Mugesera, who is accused of inciting hatred and genocide of the Tutsi minority in his native country.

Last week, the court unanimously upheld the deportation order against Mugesera because the evidence against him is well-founded. The ruling was welcomed by CJC and B'nai Brith Canada, who were intervenors in support of the federal government's appeal. The minister was appealing the Federal Court of Appeal's 2003 decision overturning the 1995 deportation order against Mugesera, his wife and five children because it decided the minister had not proved Rwanda's accusations against the former political activist.

The Supreme Court says the motion Bertrand filed in November in an attempt to end proceedings against his client was "unprofessional and unacceptable" and "flagrantly without basis in fact or in law."

Moreover, the court says the motion and supporting documents "include anti-Semitic sentiment and views that most might have thought had disappeared from Canadian society, and even more so from legal debate in Canada." It terms it "scandalous" to allege that "influential members of the Jewish community manipulated the Canadian political system and the country's highest court for the sole purpose of having Mugesera deported."

The Supreme Court had dismissed the motion in December with Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin stating that the reasons for doing so would follow.

"It should be noted that [then immigration minister Denis Coderre's] decision to appeal was made and endorsed by a succession of members of the federal cabinet at various stages in the proceedings, including the application for leave to appeal" and that Cotler was not in the cabinet at the time, the court states.

"The only abuse of process… lies at the feet of the respondent Mugesera and Mr. Bertrand."

Bertrand argued that Mugesera could not get a fair hearing because Cotler plotted with CJC to have Rosalie Abella appointed to the Supreme Court in order to influence the case against his client. He noted that CJC advocated Mugesera's deportation, that Abella's husband Irving is chair of CJC's war crimes committee, and that Cotler was a friend of the couple, a past CJC president, and before becoming a minister, had also spoken out against Mugesera.

He alleged Cotler's not disclosing this during the parliamentary review of Abella's nomination "can only lead a well-informed observer to conclude that unfortunately when you are powerful, rich and influential like the [CJC], for example, you can infiltrate the court through political and judicial lobbying." Bertrand spoke of a covert "parallel justice system."

Even though Abella, who was appointed in August, voluntarily recused herself from the case in September, Bertrand contended that the whole court was "contaminated" by her presence and could not be impartial in the case.

The Supreme Court also called Bertrand's motion "an unqualified and abusive attack on the integrity of the judges" based on "irresponsible innuendo." It says it is "astounding" to propose that the entire court should withdraw from a case because one judge recused herself.

"We are heartened by the Supreme Court's categorical rejection of the dismaying use of anti-Semitism by Mr. Mugesera's legal counsel to bring the Canadian judicial system into disrepute," said CJC president Ed Morgan.

"It was very ironic that a person accused of hate-mongering and inciting genocide would use the classic anti-Semitic slander of Jewish power and wealth that itself promotes hatred and has led to genocide."

Bertrand's allegations, he said, were "off-the-wall and beyond the pale" in Canadian courts. He said there was nothing improper in CJC's participating in this case and no secret that it has a long history of trying to bring Nazi-era war criminals to justice.

Morgan, a University of Toronto law professor, said, "I've never seen the Supreme Court admonish a lawyer in such strong terms."

David Matas, senior legal counsel for B'nai Brith Canada (BBC), called denunciation of the motion "perfectly appropriate" and "all we could have hoped for."

Neither BBC nor CJC was allowed to intervene in this aspect of the case.

Matas believes the main judgment "effectively overrules" the 1994 Supreme Court decision that acquitted suspected Nazi-era war criminal Imre Finta. "It says the law on which Finta was acquitted is wrong." The Finta decision, which is referred to in the Mugesera judgment, made it impractical to prosecute war criminals in Canada because it established such high standards of proof.

"This judgment establishes that all the prosecution has to show is intent and that the crime was widespread among a population. It's much more realistic, and more in line with international law," Matas said.

He believes this will make it easier to prosecute modern-day crimes of incitement to hatred and genocide and crimes against humanity. It's too late to try Nazi war criminals, but it might goad the cabinet to revoke the citizenship of the accused in the five pending cases, Matas said.

"The Mugesera judgment removes all legal difficulties set up by Finta. It has broken through the culture of impunity. It means Canada should not be able to provide sanctuary for those guilty of crimes against humanity. The cabinet can and should follow the lead of the court."

Matas is gratified is that the court accepted a number of B'nai Brith arguments: that the Federal Court of Appeal, which set aside Mugesera's deportation order, misjudged its role by unnecessarily retrying the case on facts that were already established. The court also accepted that the crime of incitement to genocide does not require a direct causal link to acts of genocide and that the crime of incitement to hatred does not require proving a causal link to actual hatred, Matas said.

"The court also accepted that a tribunal must take into account the nature of the target audience and not just use the yardstick of a reasonable observer in determining whether the offence of incitement to hatred is proven. The court also accepted that the case for the crime against humanity of persecution had been made even if the crime against humanity of counselling murder had not."

Morgan thinks the judgment may facilitate prosecution of more recent crimes, but will not have any direct effect on the pending Nazi war criminal cases.

"[It] infuses real meaning into Canada's determination not to be seen as a haven for purveyors of hateful and violent messages, which carry within them the seeds of crimes against humanity and genocide. Residence in Canada is a precious privilege that must never be open to those who entered our country by misrepresenting their involvement in such heinous crimes."

Edmonton Jews welcome IAF members

Continued from page 1

Among the high-ranking officials who stopped in Edmonton on the way to Cold Lake was Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin, the Israel Defence Forces' defence and armed forces attaché to Washington, D.C. He expressed appreciation to the Canadian Forces for inviting Israel to train at Cold Lake, giving the Israeli pilots the opportunity to fly over new terrain and wide spaces without entering foreign territory.

He said the exercises offered quality training, adding that while every nation learns from the others, he felt the other nations participating had a very high appreciation for the skills brought by the IAF members.

Beth Israel Synagogue hosted Brig.-Gen. Amir Eshel, head of the IAF air division, and Brig.-Gen. Ilan Baram, the IAF attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, at a Shabbat dinner, where the two spoke about the fly-past by Israeli jets at ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Asked how nations are chosen to participate in the annual exercise, Lieut. Sonia Dumouchel Connock, a public affairs officer at 4 Wing, said letters of invitation are sent via military attachés to nations throughout the world.

"We are reaching out to everyone all over the globe, and every year we try to expand our partnership by bringing new countries on board," Connock said.

She said key critera for participation are a willingness to come and the ability to conduct "coalition operations" with other nations.

The IAF had been invited for the past three years, but this was the first time it could attend, she said, adding "the IAF has stated an interested in participating in other Maple Flag exercises in the years to come."

While Israel's participation drew little notice in the mainstream media, there was negative reaction from Palestinian and Arab groups in Canada. In both the community press and on the Internet, they condemned the Canadian government for inviting an air force they say has been used against civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Military spokespeople said Arab nations were also invited and that among the seven countries who sent military personnel to observe were the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Toward the end of the six-week period, more than 150 members of Edmonton's Jewish community boarded three buses to head to Cold Lake to visit the IAF members and see their planes up close.

They were shown a video presentation of the flight from Israel and the IAF's activities over Alberta, and Lieut.-Col. Nir Koren, commander of the Israeli contingent, talked about the excellent training his personnel received and the warm hospitality they got from the Canadians and other nations at Cold Lake.

He also expressed his pride in the Jews of Edmonton for making the IAF members feel as if they were with family, despite being far from home.

After words of appreciation to the Israelis by Clyde Hurtig, president of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and Shoshana Pollack, the liaison between the IAF and the Edmonton community, the Edmontonians and the Israelis ate lunch, which was followed by Israeli music and dancing.

The last two hours of the trip were spent in a hangar and on one of the runways, where community members climbed onto the F-16's and got the opportunity to sit in the cockpits.

Four-way conference to be held

Continued from page 3

Rothschild said Israel is well aware of China's tense relations with the West, driven partly by Beijing's sale of military know-how and hardware to Iran. "That will be in the back of Israel's mind," he said.

Rothschild is now busy organizing a four-way conference in Toronto on pharmaceutical development, to involve Canada, China, India and Israel, under the auspices of the Medical and Related Sciences (MaRS) Discovery District, a non-profit project designed to bring scientists and the private sector together.

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Coast to Coast

Keeping the spotlight on Abbas

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Two items this week:

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' complaint, after his summit meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, that Israel is putting undue pressure on him to confront and disarm the Palestinian terrorist groups was the subject of the *Toronto Star* editorial "A Mideast message" (June 23).

The *Star* cited the case of Wafa al-Biss, the troubled young woman from Gaza who, on the eve of the summit, attempted to cross into Israel and detonate a suicide bomb in the Israeli hospital where she was being treated for severe burns. The *Star* argued that since al-Biss was recruited by the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a faction within Abbas' own Fatah party, "this is a group that Abbas should be able to control, if he can control anyone."

The *Star* said the al-Biss incident "lends colour to Sharon's claim that Abbas could do more to suppress extremism. This is extremely important as Israel prepares to uproot 9,000 settlers from Gaza and parts of the West Bank."

The *Star* understands that Abbas wants to avoid the risk of civil war if he takes on terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Nonetheless, it insisted that "tough and swift action against extremist holdouts" is required for Israel to be able to deliver more concessions to the Palestinians in order to help improve their daily lives.

Without mentioning the internationally backed "road map" peace plan, the *Star* 's position is very much in tune with the road map's prerequisites: that Palestinian extremism and violence be checked and that terrorist groups be disarmed and dismantled if progress toward Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation is to be attained.

Without firm action by Abbas, many Israeli analysts fear that the recent spike in Palestinian violence will grow, as will the lawlessness that prevails in much of the West Bank and Gaza.

Abbas has declared the need for Palestinians to desist from violence. But, as Robert Satloff wrote in the *New Republic* (reprinted as "Condi's false note," *National Post*, June 27): "Unless Abbas is prodded to use the power of his position to impose – through force, if necessary – the principle of 'one authority, one law, one gun,' then Palestinian statehood stands no chance."

Satloff wrote that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice squandered an opportunity during her recent visit to Ramallah to insist that Abbas crack down on the terrorist groups and impose the rule of law in the territories.

Rice, said Satfloff, "could have reminded Palestinians that no state survives long when militias, terrorist groups and gangs run unchecked through the streets; she could have added that [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush's two-state vision does not extend to the creation of a terrorist safe-haven on Israel's southern and eastern flanks. Alas, she said none of that."

Satloff criticized the United States government for acquiescing in Abbas' strategy of trying to co-opt terror groups instead of confronting them. Expecting anything less, said Satloff, is "tragic."

* * *

Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Ariel Sharon [RNS/Reuters photo]

In "The Principle of Hope: Samir Kassir, 1960-2005" (*The Nation*, July 4), Adam Shatz provides some fascinating details about Lebanese journalist Samir Kassir, who was murdered on June 2 – almost certainly by Syrian agents – for his outspoken opposition to Syria's occupation of Lebanon.

According to Shatz, in addition to advocating democracy and criticizing Arab dictatorships, Kassir was rare in that he was also "a scathing critic of anti-Semitism."

Shatz faults the American left for largely ignoring Kassir's murder, in part because his views "converged inconveniently with the anti-Syrian agenda" of the U.S. government. Wrote Shatz: "Imagine the outcry from the left if a man of [Kassir's] stature had been cut down by American or Israeli arms." Indeed.

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Government rejects further delay in pullout

By ALUF BENN and MAZAL MUALEM
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The government has overwhelmingly rejected an appeal by Likud Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz that would have postponed the disengagement by three months.

Nineteen ministers voted against the appeal on Sunday, and only three Likud ministers supported it – Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Health Minister Danny Naveh and Katz. Other Likud ministers – Tzachi Hanegbi, Silvan Shalom and Limor Livnat – rejected the motion.

Netanyahu said he will skip Wednesday's Knesset vote on National Religious Party member of Knesset Zevulun Orlev's bill to postpone the disengagement for a year, in order to avoid voting against it.

Shalom said that in order to avoid exacerbating the rift in the Likud party, if some ministers choose not to participate in the Knesset vote on Wednesday, they should not be penalized.

Netanyahu will not vote in favour of the bill Wednesday, because voting for a bill that the cabinet has decided to oppose would entail his dismissal from the government. The cabinet has already decided to oppose Wednesday's bill.

Netanyahu said in a statement issued by his office that in skipping Wednesday's vote, he would be following the example set by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 1997, when Sharon was a minister in Netanyahu's government. At that time, Sharon voted in the cabinet against the Hebron agreement that would place a temporary international presence in Hebron. He then skipped the Knesset vote on the pact to avoid having to vote in favour.

However, Sharon's office reacted furiously to this week's announcement. Members of Sharon's staff noted that under Article 11 of the 1949 Transition Law, a minister who either votes against the government or "misses the vote" will be considered to have resigned, unless the prime minister decides otherwise.

But Netanyahu's associates insisted that the law does not obligate a minister who skips a vote to resign. "Ministers are often absent from votes, it happens every day," said one. "The Transition Law is no longer valid, because the Basic Law on Government has changed."

In any case, his office insisted, he does not intend to back down: "He will act as Sharon did in 1997."

Sharon's staff declined to rule out the possibility that Sharon would fire Netanyahu. "Let's wait until Wednesday," said one. "At the moment, [firing Netanyahu] is not on the agenda. What's important is the disengagement, not some negligible act that has no significance. The disengagement has a majority in the cabinet and the Knesset... and that's what matters."

Sharon's staff suggested that Netanyahu's decision resulted from polls showing that MK Uzi Landau is gaining on Netanyahu in the race for the Likud leadership. Landau is the leader of the Likud MKs who have opposed disengagement from the start, whereas Netanyahu has often spoken against it but consistently voted in favour. Therefore, Sharon's people said, Netanyahu now feels a need to veer to the right.

Netanyahu's associates rejected this explanation. "Netanyahu views this vote as a matter of conscience of the first rank," one said.

Special Israel Defence Forces units, supported by border and civilian police, forcibly removed some 150 right-wing activists from the Moaz Yam Hotel in Neveh Dekalim in the Gaza Strip last week. [Isranet photo]

Settler leaders meet to prevent pullout violence

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Jewish settler leaders and rabbis were to meet Monday to draw up a code of conduct designed to prevent violence during opposition protests to the upcoming Gaza pullout, settler leaders said.

The initiative was launched after recent protests against the planned pullout turned violent, raising fears of greater confrontation during the evacuation of the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, scheduled to begin in mid-August.

"Attempts to physically harm people, to attack roads are things we cannot accept," right-wing lawmaker Effie Eitam of the National Religious Zionist Renewal Party told Israel Radio.

"They are forbidden both by the law and by Jewish tradition, and they do not help the struggle," he said.

"In this charter, we would have a clause stipulating that there be no weapons in the evacuation area," Eitam said. "We are trying to ensure that, even if there is a flare-up of feelings, there is a good chance of preventing a catastrophe."

The planned charter calls for nonviolence, voluntary collection of settlers' weapons and verbal restraint against the security forces, he said.

Eitam said a "red line" was crossed recently when extremists took over buildings in Gaza, clashing with security forces and Palestinians. The opponents also scattered spikes and oil on the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway.

New opinion polls showed a sharp rise in support for the pullout after the violence.

The code will also call on settlers to refrain from "acts of provocation or revenge against Palestinians," the *Ma'ariv* daily reported.

However, Eitam said settlers would step up nonviolent protests.

"We will fight a determined fight, but not a violent one," he said.

Three months ago, Eitam moved with his family to the Gaza Strip as an act of support for the pullout opponents.

Settlers slated for evacuation reacted coolly to the proposal, denying that they presented a security threat.

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Reform Jews in Germany fight for recognition

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

BERLIN — Jan Muhlstein, the president of the Union of Progressive Jews, is engaged in a battle he thought was won nearly two centuries ago.

In Germany, the cradle of liberal Judaism, Jews like Muhlstein, incredibly and ironically enough, are still fighting for recognition, acceptance and equality.

Reform Judaism emerged in Germany in the early 1800s. It dominated Jewish religious life here until the Nazis seized power in 1933. With their defeat in 1945, a trickle of German Jews began returning to their former homes. But the community was basically rebuilt and refashioned by Jews from eastern Europe, particularly Poland. Their Orthodox Judaism alienated Jews such as Muhlstein.

"I came from a liberal tradition," explained Muhlstein, president of Beth Shalom, a Reform congregation in Munich with some 200 members.

Until about a decade ago, Reform Jews in Germany usually attended synagogue services led by U.S. army chaplains. But with the establishment of the Union of Progressive Jews in 1997, an affiliate of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, they were no longer content with the status quo.

Creating their own communities, they pressed the Central Council of Jews in Germany – which represents the interests of some 100,000 members – for recognition.

The Union of Progressive Jews has a membership of approximately 4,500, the majority from the former Soviet Union, in 20 communities served by four rabbis. There are Reform communities in cities running the gamut from Hannover and Cologne to Hamburg and Mainz, but none in Berlin or Frankfurt. Muhlstein predicted that, within a few years, there will be 30 such communities throughout Germany.

Yet with no permanent shul at their disposal, services are still conducted in rented rooms. "We don't have the financial means to build a synagogue," said Muhlstein, a 55-year-old technical magazine editor who was born in what was then Czechoslovakia and immigrated to western Germany after the failure of liberal reforms in Czechoslovakia in 1969.

Asked why Reform Jews around the world have not come to their assistance, Muhlstein said, "It's hard to explain that the restoration of Jewish life in Germany is important. Jews abroad don't realize you can find living Judaism in Germany."

The union, however, received overseas help in building a rabbinic seminary at the University of Potsdam, the Abraham Geiger College, which was founded in 2000.

Jan Muhlstein

The college, which plans to ordain its first two rabbis in 2006, was funded by Reform Jews from the United States and Canada. Muhlstein said the former spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, German-born Gunther Plaut, was of help as well.

As far as its broad goals are concerned, the union is seeking membership in and acceptance by the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

"We want to sit at the table when decisions are made and to be treated as an equal partner," said Muhlstein. "And we want state aid."

Last year, in what could be construed as a victory for Reform Judaism in Germany, the union entered into negotiations with the council. "The council has started the process of integrating us," said Muhlstein. "We already have received financial support for our youth movement. But we have to fight for every step."

"It's a game," said Irith Raub-Michelsohn, the union's 51-year-old executive director, who was born in Tel Aviv and immigrated to western Germany in 1956 with her parents.

Muhlstein believes the council will eventually grant the union full membership, "not because it wants to but because it has to."

He claims the council's two top appointed officials, Paul Spiegel and Salomon Korn, are in favour of religious diversity and granting all streams of Judaism in Germany equal rights.

But several council officials do not share their openness to Reform Judaism, he added. "And so there is a gap between official statements and practices," Muhlstein observed.

The union's relations with the federal government also tend to be complex.

Two years ago, the council and the government signed a historic treaty putting the Jewish community on a legal par with Germany's main Christian churches. As a result, the council became eligible for $3 million (US) in annual federal aid.

The union did not have access to a share of these funds, and threatened to sue the German government for discrimination in its contract with the council.

Last year, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he would not intervene in the dispute. But in the face of pressure from Muhlstein, Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in the United States, discussed the matter with Germany's ambassador to the U.S., Wolfgang Ischinger, in Washington, D.C.

Last month, the issue was addressed yet again when a delegation of international Reform leaders met with Schroeder, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Interior Minister Otto Schily in Berlin.

Keeping this meeting in mind, Muhlstein said, "We're looking for a solution to avoid a law suit."

"The federal government is really interested in supporting us," noted Raub-Michelsohn, who is also president of the Jewish community in Bielefeld.

In the meantime, she disclosed, the government has begun contributing funds to the Abraham Geiger College.

Muhlstein hopes that the conflict with the council can be settled amicably, and that the union can take its rightful place. As he put it: "What we need is a unified community, with all streams of Judaism working together in harmony."

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Stabbings halt pride parade

Jerusalem's gay pride parade was halted last Thursday evening after a haredi man stabbed three participants, *Ha'aretz* reported. The assailant ran into the crowd, stabbed one man, moved on to a young woman stabbing her hand, and then lightly wounded a third man. Some 200 haredi protesters faced 2,000 participants, according to police estimates, and 13 protesters were arrested. On June 26, the Jerusalem District Court ruled against Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski's decision to ban the parade, and fined him 30,000 shekels ($6,500 US), citing the gay community's right to freedom of expression. The mayor had argued that the annual event offended religious sensibilities in the holy city. Religious lawmakers called for the Orthodox community to pay the fine.

Hezbollah kills soldier

An Israeli soldier was killed in clashes with Hezbollah. Four other soldiers were also wounded in clashes last week between Israeli troops and members of the Shiite terror group. The clashes began when Hezbollah fighters infiltrated northern Israel. Israeli soldiers responded with gunfire. Hezbollah also fired mortars into the Shebaa Farms region. Israel responded with an airstrike on Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon.

The long arm of justice

Israeli security forces captured a Palestinian police officer who allegedly took part in the 2000 lynching of two army reservists. The Shin Bet lifted a gag order on the arrest, which took place in May, of a Gaza-born man who worked in the Ramallah police station at the time of the lynching. Two Israeli army reservists who strayed into the West Bank city by mistake were taken to the station, only to be beaten to death by a mob that was allowed in. Televised images of the lynching in October 2000, were broadcast worldwide, and Israeli authorities swore to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Sharon confirms Paris visit

Ariel Sharon confirmed that he would accept French President Jacques Chirac's invitation to visit France at the end of July. The Israeli prime minister's day-and-a-half visit is likely to begin July 27, a source close to Sharon told Agence France Presse. A protest march against Sharon's visit is scheduled for July 9 in Paris. This will be Sharon's second official visit to France as prime minister.

Soldiers seek legal advice

Twenty-five Israeli soldiers have sought legal advice on refusing orders to carry out the looming Gaza Strip withdrawal, attorney Shai Galili said. He told Army Radio that 25 conscripts "from all sectors of the country" had contacted him in case they're court-martialled for insubordination. One client, Cpl. Avi Bieber, was arrested after refusing to help demolish a Gaza building where settlers had barricaded themselves.

Remembering Eli Cohen

Israel honoured its most famous spy 40 years after he was executed in Syria. "Even after 40 years, the wonder at the courage and operational accomplishments of Eli Cohen has remained," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said at a special memorial ceremony last week. The Egyptian-born Cohen was recruited by the Mossad and planted in Syria, where he gathered information on the political and military echelons considered key to Israel's victory in the 1967 Six Day War. But he never saw that success, as he was discovered and hanged in 1965. Sharon told Cohen's widow, Nadia, that he considered the return of Cohen's remains important to the resumption of peace talks with Syria, which stalled in 2000.

Gaza terrorist slain

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian terrorist outside a Gaza Strip settlement. Security sources said troops fired on two Palestinians planting a mine outside the Morag settlement, killing one of them.

Files from Ha'aretz and JTA

Fence route determined by more than security, state admits

By YUVAL YOAZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel has acknowledged for the first time that security was not the only consideration in determining the route of the West Bank separation fence.

Responding to a petition brought to the High Court by the residents of the Palestinian village Azun in the northern West Bank, the state asked for the fence to be left on its original route, previously ruled to be unsuitable, as it would be very expensive to move.

The state's position marks a fundamental change in its legal arguments. Initially, the state claimed security concerns were the sole motivation for erecting the fence, and there were no other considerations.

In its principal ruling on the issue last year, in the Beit Surik affair, the High Court determined the state has no authority to build a fence for political considerations, such as appending land to Israel.

The state's new stance also highlights a major policy change regarding the "temporary" nature of the fence. Until now, the state has claimed that the fence was a short-term measure, and it was possible to move or dismantle the barrier.

The construction of the separation fence has already been completed in the area, and the barrier is fully functional.

In the region north of Qalqilyah, the route creates an enclave where it departs from the 1967 Green Line border and moves eastward to encompass the settlement of Tzofin, as well as much land from the villages of Jayyus and Azun.

Russia drops probe of Jewish group

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
JTA

MOSCOW — Following a storm of protest from Jewish groups and Israeli politicians, Russian officials have dropped a probe into a Russian Jewish group for publishing a religious Jewish book.

But Russian and U.S. Jewish officials warn that those interested in human rights should remain vigilant to prevent similar incidents in the future.

"The fact that the prosecutors have been seriously considering that case for a long time, isn't that a reason for us to be concerned?" said Rabbi Zinovy Kogan, chairman of the Congress of Jewish Religious Organizations and Communities of Russia, the group that was the subject of the probe. "The prosecutors should not make any legal judgments on religious texts. If someone is unhappy with what some of the traditional texts say, this can be a matter of a voluntary discussion between faiths."

The probe was opened after an anti-Semitic letter was circulated earlier this year attacking the text of the Shulchan Aruch legal code as extremist and anti-Christian. The congress had published a short version of the medieval Jewish text.

The probe astonished Israeli officials and heads of international Jewish groups, who said it reminded them of religious persecution under the czar and of religious disputations foisted on Jews by the Catholic church in medieval times.

Mark Levin, executive director of NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia, said it's still unknown what prompted the incident.

"We're all pleased that the investigation was dropped, but it doesn't answer the question of why the investigation was started in the first place," he said. "This is the type of issue that shouldn't occur in a society that is trying to promote tolerance and pluralism."

Levin said his group will emphasize in its meetings with Russian government officials that these types of probes are unacceptable.

Direct pressure on Russia from Israel and local and foreign Jewish groups led to the decision to drop the case, observers in Moscow suggested. Israeli and Russian media also noted that the news about dropping the probe was released during a visit to Moscow by Israel's trade minister, Ehud Olmert. Olmert was in Moscow for talks on economic relations between the two countries.

Rabbi Kogan, who was editor of the Russian edition of the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, was questioned by legal officials several times this year.

During questioning last week at the prosecutor's office, Rabbi Kogan said he had to make a statement that Jews and Judaism do not have any claims against Christianity. He told JTA that he was surprised to find, among materials in the case, testimony by an academic expert claiming that Judaism regards Christians as idol worshippers.

"If we do not expose such myths, the attacks on us will continue," Rabbi Kogan said, recalling the first time a case against the congress and the Shulchan Aruch was opened by the prosecutor's office of the Basmanny district of Moscow in 2002, when a complaint was filed with authorities claiming the Shulchan Aruch was a "fascist" book.

JTA foreign editor Peter Ephross in New York contributed to this report.

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Expert says children and teens will exercise if it's fun

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

How do you prevent childhood obesity? It's a question many professionals in the health and fitness field are grappling with in this era of fast food and video entertainment.

Helping children improve their eating habits is only part of the solution. Kids also need to become more active.

So how can we lure our small fry away from the tube, MSN and video games before they grow into full-fledged couch potatoes?

Fitness experts Matthew and Felicia Taub of Sensible Fitness Solutions have stepped up to this challenge. These certified personal trainers have a winning approach that's catching on with many youngsters in the Toronto area.

The Taubs believe children will exercise if fitness can be made to be fun.

Indeed, Felicia Taub has been working with a group of 15 girls who are 12 and 13 years old and of varying fitness levels and sizes. They have become so keen on fitness that they've been doing additional training to participate in community runs.

They just completed a five kilometre walk or run in Mount Sinai Hospital's Walk/Run for the Best Medicine.

The girls [trained] for months, says Taub. "We [met] every Sunday for the running clinic. All the girls… built up to walking or walk-running the five kilometre distance. The girls are a dynamite group who are very supportive to one another.

"One of the nicest things is that the girls have really developed a lot of confidence in their abilities and, of course, increased their stamina and skill level."

Most of the girls in the group are in Taub's private fitness classes after school, but she donates her time to the running clinic. "This is a way for Sensible Fitness Solutions to support Mount Sinai and promote heath and fitness in the community," she says.

"More than half of this group started out at an underdeveloped fitness level. They were really out of shape for their age. Some of them couldn't skip for a minute. Now they fall into a much higher level in fitness level. They can follow an above-average fitness routine."

Taub became interested in children's fitness when she was working at a large fitness centre, training adults. "I noticed that they didn't have activities for children. So I set up Kidfitt, special classes to help children improve balance, agility, speed and strength."

She was unable to expand the classes, so she and her husband started private children's classes run out of people's homes. They are about to open a storefront studio – PhyzKids – in the Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue area.

The classes are age and gender specific, says Taub. She works with the girls, her husband leads the boys' classes, she adds.

Many of the girls in the running clinic – in these sessions they do aerobic and circuit training – have been working with Taub for two years, she says. "They have formed close personal relationships with each other. When they come to class, they come to see their friends."

Sensible Fitness Solutions' first annual fundraising running group are, from left, back row, Gilly Blustein, Cara Silverman, Jaclyn Ludmer, Stephanie Brown, Morgan Kaufman, Dana Roebuck, Alex Shade-Silver and Lauren Greenglass. Front row, from left, are Sara Goodman, Laura Baum, Felicia Taub, Sophie Prussky, Rachel Libson and Erin Greenglass.

Taub says that her relationship with the girls is also key to their fitness success. "We've developed a high level of trust and intimacy between us and that's an important factor in keeping them motivated in their fitness program."

She explains that genetic and natural skill have a lot of impact on a child's level of fitness, "For some children, it comes naturally. Others really have to work at it."

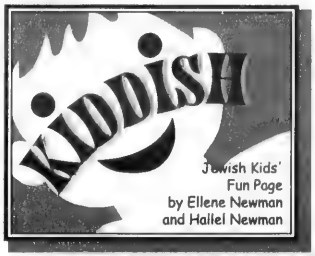
Interactive sports help children become physically fit, but many children lack the skills and confidence to play these team sports. "We tend to work with that kind of child. We also work with very fit kids, but we provide an option for kids that have trouble finding fitness activities."

Taub has several ways to keep children's interest. "We have a lot of music. We have a lot of variety in activities. We work with kids as young as five, so we really have to be focused on the interest level," she says.

"The challenge is – how do you make fitness fun? Even adults get bored with it."

She sets a personal goal with every child; however, she does not recommend dieting. "Children need to cut back on junk and eat healthy foods, but they need parental support to do that."

She says that children should not get fixated with their weight and the number on the scale. "It's not as important as increasing fitness ability. That's our emphasis. We want to see kids active and moving and involved and loving the training."



The Road from Moab

Adapted from Ruth Chapter 1

"That's not Naomi, is it?"

"It can't be!"

The people of Bethlehem stared at the two women approaching the city.

"Oh my! It *is* Naomi! But look at her! She used to look like a queen, and now…"

"What happened to her husband? Her sons?"

"Her clothes are torn in mourning. Her whole family must have died in Moab."

"Serves them right for abandoning us when we needed them."

"Shh! She'll hear you!"

The crowd fell silent as Naomi and the young woman at her side approached.

Naomi was a shadow of her former self. She was thinner and her face was downcast, creased with worry and grief.

"Naomi," someone greeted her.

"Please don't call me that any more," she replied softly. "Naomi means pleasant. Call me Marah, the bitter one." She resumed walking, and the woman by her side joined her.

The woman's name was Ruth. She was a Moabite princess. At least she used to be. She had been married to one of Naomi's sons in Moab. After the death of Ruth's husband, when Naomi decided to return to Israel, Ruth joined her, but not because things would be better for her there. In Israel, Naomi warned her, they would be paupers. "Go back to Moab, to your sister Orpah, to your family," Naomi urged her, even as they walked to Israel, but Ruth persisted. Her life in Moab had been fun, opulent… and empty. In Naomi she saw light, clarity, dignity, even in her times of grief. Ruth wanted to be a part of Naomi's people, and their God. There was no turning back now.

They're staring at me, Ruth realized, as they continued walking. Straining to listen, she could hear the whispers.

"Who's that?"

"Maybe it's Naomi's servant."

"Impossible. Look at the way she carries herself. Like a princess or something."

"I'll tell you who that is. It's one of Naomi's sons' wives. Can't you tell she's a Moabite?"

"What's she doing here?"

"I bet she came to swipe some of the family fortune. Won't she be surprised to discover that there isn't any."

"Hah! Picture her living in a shack with Naomi! Gleaning sheaves!"

The raucous laughter accosted Ruth's ears. *Gleaning sheaves?* she wondered. *What does that mean?* She sighed. *My sister Orpah's probably having the time of her life in Moab…*

* * *

Ruth left the house early in the morning, tired and hungry. She wasn't going back to Moab. She was going to the fields, to find food for herself and Naomi.

"It's not stealing," Naomi had explained to her. "According to Torah law, produce left behind in fields may be taken by the poor. Ruth, you should not be doing this. Let me go instead."

But Ruth had insisted. Not wasting any time, she began scooping up leftover stalks of barley. It was laborious. And degrading. And by then, the sun was burning so fiercely. The minutes turned into hours. Too exhausted to continue, Ruth took a short break in the cool shade of one of the many makeshift huts scattered through the fields. Then she resumed her gathering. Her life and Naomi's life depended on it.

"Are you thirsty?"

Ruth looked up. A man was standing next to her. "Yes," was all she could say. She was ready to collapse.

"Come with me," the man instructed. He led her to a shaded table, laden with food and drink. The harvesters were seated around it, eating and drinking. "Take what you want," he smiled, as Ruth gratefully obliged, "and feel free to come back whenever you want."

She waited for him to leave before asking one of the harvesters, "Who was that?"

"Who's that?" he laughed. "You don't know who Boaz is? He owns the place! He was asking us about you. 'Who is this girl? She seems foreign, but she behaves so modestly. Ah, I shouldn't be telling you these things. Forget I said anything.'"

* * *

"Ruth," exclaimed Naomi. That's a lot of barley for one day! In whose field did you get all this?"

"Boaz."

"Boaz? God bless him. He's related to us, you know. He is our redeemer."

"Our what?"

"Oh, Ruth, you have a lot to learn… When someone dies without children, as your husband did, he leaves nothing to be remembered by. The custom in Israel is that his wife marries one of his close relatives and the children she has from him carry on the name of the husband."

"You mean they name them after him?"

"Not necessarily. But since they were born from his former wife, when people see the children they remember him. Boaz is our redeemer. Your husband's redeemer. Your redeemer."

The words echoed in Ruth's head throughout the harvest season. Through the boiling days spent scrambling for food. Through the quiet nights in Naomi's shack…

* * *

"Ruth, do you remember what I told you about Boaz being our redeemer?"

"Of course."

"The harvest season has ended. You won't be going to the fields anymore, and you won't see Boaz again."

"Yes?"

"It's time you ask him to marry you."

"What? Me? Why would he want to marry me? I'm a pauper. A nothing. Boaz marrying me. Ha."

"You never know God's ways, Ruth, you never know. Tonight, Boaz will be by the fields, guarding the harvested grain from thieves. Find him. Ask him. You never know."

"If you insist," responded Ruth, making her final trip to the fields of Boaz…

The rest is history. She did marry Boaz and they had a son named Obed. Obed grew up and had a son named Yishai. And Yishai's son was David, the same David who became king over all Israel.

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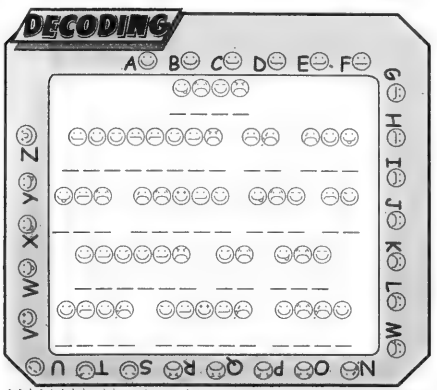
Write to us at ENewman613@aol.com

After the townspeople got to know Ruth, this what they said about her to Naomi.



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Playwright brings Toronto Jewish culture to Edinburgh Fringe

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Evan Placey is determined to bring the trivialities of Jewish Toronto life to an international audience this summer when he presents *Phone Play* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Placey, the 22-year-old playwright and director describes the play as "the epitome of growing up in Thornhill."

It takes place on one cold January afternoon in Toronto and showcases eight characters having separate phone conversations that don't overlap with each other, but each character is connected in some way.

"It's a play about the catastrophes that happen in one day in Toronto that are beautifully intertwined," said Alexandra Parravano, 20, who plays Sheila, a Jewish, GAP-managing mother who doesn't believe in customer service.

"She's so much fun," Parravano said about her character, Sheila. "Audiences love her and I love playing her. She's abrasive, she makes fun of people's names, she's quick, witty and sassy.

"She's not tactful," she continued. "But she's so lovable. I feel so honoured that I get to play her."

With a plot line that has one character waiting at Finch subway station in the dead of winter for her friend who is busy having phone sex with a stranger, to more serious issues that address teen pregnancy and HIV infection, Placey said this play is meant to show the audience that we focus too much on trivialities.

"The show is a comedy with dark, underlying messages, but it's very light. It's not a critique on Jewish culture and it's not religious. It just gives people a chance to laugh at themselves," said Placey, who grew up in a Jewish home in Thornhill.

But, he said, the play does mock the Jewish suburban culture and makes fun of how obsessive people have become over certain trends such as going to Second Cup for coffee, Milestone's for belinis and buying "Tiffany's bracelets that every Jewish girl in Toronto must have."

Phone Play made its debut three years ago at Earl Haig Secondary School's One Act Play Festival while both Placey and Parravano were students in the school's Claude Watson Arts Program.

After playing to sold-out audiences, Placey and his cast were invited to perform as part of the Sears Ontario Drama Festival in 2003. Two years later, *Phone Play* made its UK premiere in Edinburgh, and in August the play will be performed at the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

While both Placey and Parravano had concerns about whether the Toronto Jewish jokes would translate to an international audience, Placey said that once the play was previewed in Edinburgh last February, he realized that Jewish or not, anyone can relate to the humour and the overall message.

Parravano insists that she's not even Jewish and she still found that she shared similar tendencies with the characters in the play, such as owning the trendy Tiffany's bracelet with the heart-shaped charm.

"The bottom line is that they are all funny characters that anyone can appreciate," she said."The characters are very cartoony, larger than life. They are exaggerated, but they are well-rounded characters that have a lot of depth."

Placey is also confident that the play's message will translate to an international audience. He said anyone who has ever had a cellphone can relate to the subject matter on some level.

"We've lost all sense of communication. With pagers and cellphones and e-mail, the new technology has actually limited communication. No one is actually communicating," he said.

He added that these days people have a more intimate relationship with answering machines than with the people they are trying to reach.

"Ten years ago, if you couldn't reach someone at home, you couldn't reach them until they got home. Today, we all have cellphones, pagers, carphones. The play forces you to look at what we've become, but in a hilarious way," Parravano said.

Anarchy smiles on the Royal Mile: The cast of *Phone Play* in Edinburgh.

"I want people to be entertained, to laugh, to think," the director said. "I hope this is a play that people will remember."

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe runs from August 7-29. For more information, visit www.edfringe.com or www.phoneplay.org.uk.

Sephardic love songs featured in Holocaust survival play

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

In an ambitious play that attempts to tell the tale of playwright Liliane Atlan's family and their struggle to survive during and after the Holocaust, *Les Mers Rouges* (*The Red Seas*) encorporates Sephardi love songs with characters based on real people and testimony.

Kalli Paakspuu, a Genie Award winning director, had the difficult task of turning this challenging script – with actors that become different characters throughout the play as it spans over several decades – into something comprehensive.

One of the techniques that separates this play from others that deal with the same theme is that the characters talk directly to the audience.

Eyal Bitton, the musical director of *Les Mers Rouges* said while the play does feature beautiful Sephardi music, it "is not musical theatre. There is no band on stage. The music that is featured is Ladino music, a mix of Spanish and Hebrew."

He explained that the music, which comes from the Spanish Inquisition period, is incorporated into the actions of the characters in a realistic way.

"The way that a mother might sing a song while preparing for Shabbat, or the same way that we might sing in the shower, these characters sing in this fashion. I think it works."

Bitton, who is the Beth Tikvah choir director, said becoming a part of this play had more to do with being at the right place at the right time than anything else.

He recalled the circumstances that lead to his involvement with the play, which has been performed at Le Festival d'Avignon, France, a world renowned theatre festival. He took his wife, an actress, to audition for *Les Mers Rouges* during a casting call in Toronto.

He waited for her in a stairwell, listened to her audition and just as she finished – and got the part – she approached her husband to tell him the director wanted to see him.

"She happened to need a musical director. I looked through the script then and there, and I said, 'I know this song, I'm familiar with that song,' and I was hired the next day."

He said that while he loves his job at the synagogue, the majority of the music at the shul is Ashkenazi. This play gave him an opportunity to work on Sephardi music, which is more a part of him.

"This play appeals to me as a Sephardi Jew as it outlines the experience of Greek Jews during the Holocaust. I was really attracted to the idea that the playwright wanted to incorporate Sephardi music into the play," Bitton said.

"I, as a Moroccan, was unaware of the experience of Greek Jews and the larger experience of the Holocaust. That was fascinating to me."

Bitton said what makes this Holocaust play different from others is that it exposes the audience to a part of the Holocaust that is often overlooked. He added that of the Jews that perished in the Holocaust, Greek Jews, as a group, were one of the most devastated.

"I think Ashkenazim watching this will learn a great deal and Sephardim watching this will feel more self-worth.

"If you want to remember the six million, you want to remember all the six million."

What he likes about musical theatre, although this play, he insists, is not a musical, is the idea that a play has the ability to take an audience on a journey.

"When you hear a pop song, you can be transported for two or three minutes, but a play has the ability to transport an audience on a longer journey."

But what Bitton loves most about theatre is the way "one can use a minimum amount of space to communicate an infinite number of things."

He said that the subject matter is heavy, but expects that the audience will appreciate it for what it is.

Les Mers Rouges will run at the Artword Theatre in Toronto from July 7-16. For more information call 416-967-1528.

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Eye on Arts

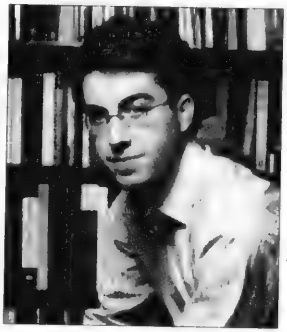
By Bill Gladstone

JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER AND ANITA DIAMANT TO APPEAR AT AUTHORS FESTIVAL

Popular American-Jewish writers **Jonathan Safran Foer** (*Everything Is Illuminated*) and **Anita Diamant** (*The Red Tent*) are on the preliminary list of authors scheduled to appear at this year's International Festival of Authors at Toronto's Harbourfront in October, the festival has announced.

A festival press release described Foer, 28, as a "wunderkid" and said he would read from his new novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. The book centres on Oskar Schell, a precocious nine-year-old New Yorker whose father was killed in the World Trade Centre on September 11.

Diamant, a regular contributor to the *Boston Globe*, has written numerous works of non-fiction and fiction and is perhaps best known for *The Red Tent*, a retelling of the biblical story of Dinah, told from her perspective and the point of view of the women around her. Diamant will read from *The Last Days of Dogtown*, a new novel released just last week.



Jonathan Safran Foer

Another confirmed Jewish-American festival participant is **David Rakoff**, who was born in Toronto but left for New York as a teenager. An actor, essayist and journalist, he is best known for *Fraud*, a collection of essays about "impersonating Sigmund Freud and climbing icy mountains in cheap loafers." He reads from *Don't Get Too Comfortable*, a new collection of essays.

The festival's preliminary list also includes **Vikram Seth**, **Julian Barnes**, **Neil Bissoondath**, **David Gilmour**, **John Irving**, **Robert Kroetsch** and **Tim Winton** and many others. The 26th annual International Festival of Authors is scheduled for Oct. 19 to 29. www.harbourfrontcentre.com

* * *

The Lost Art of Yiddish Dancing: Chicago-based **Steve Weintraub** and Toronto-based **Helen Winkler**, both of whom have strong backgrounds in Jewish dance, present a one-day workshop in Yiddish dance here this month.

Traditionally performed to klezmer music, Yiddish dances were once a staple of Jewish weddings in eastern Europe but were one of the many cultural casualties associated with modernity and the Holocaust. With the recent revival in klezmer music and Yiddish, however, musicians have been interviewing Holocaust survivors and others who remember the dances, with the aim of reviving the lost art of Yiddish dancing.

The workshop covers the basics, including simple improvised dances, folk dances, a Jewish square dance and a pantomime dance known as the *Broiges Tants*. It culminates in a model klezmer wedding.

Bathurst JCC, Studio Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Morning session 10 a.m. to noon, $10. Afternoon session 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., $15. Both sessions $20. Evening party 7 to 10 p.m., $6. No previous dance experience required. Sunday, July 24. Registration details at www.yiddishdance. com. Teme Kernerman, 416-636-1880, ext. 364.

* * *

Names in the News: Prominent arts patron and social activist **Bluma Appel** received an honorary Dora Mavor Moore award at the June 27th awards ceremony in Toronto.

Born and raised in Montreal, Appel learned from her father, **Jack Levitt**, that sharing their good fortune was a family duty. She has been an avid longtime supporter of the Canadian Opera Company, CanStage, the National Gallery, Necessary Angel Theatre Company, Opera Atelier, the Royal Ontario Museum and other arts organizations.

An officer of the Order of Canada, she is also founder of the Canadian Psychiatric Awareness Committee and a supporter of Canadian AIDS research. She and husband **Bram Appel** have two sons and five grandchildren.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Los Angeles criminal lawyer **Murray Meyer** makes his playwriting and performing debut with *Walking Back to Brooklyn*, a Fringe festival play about a youngster who is dissatisfied with his family's move to Montreal in 1957 and begins to walk back to Brooklyn. Royal St. George Theatre, 120 Howland Ave. $10. July 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 16. 416-966-1062. www.fringetoronto.com

•**The Fern Lindzon Jazz Trio** performs at the Left Door/ Ben Wicks Restaurant and Pub, 424 Parliament St. (south of Carlton). No cover, reservations recommended. July 9, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. 416-961-9425. www.theleftdoor.com

• Toronto Yiddish poet **Simcha Simchovitch**'s recent book of poems, *Dos Likht Fun Khesed (The Light of Mercy)* is available. Write to S. Simchovitch Book Fund, 17 Tillplain Rd., Toronto M3H 5R1. An earlier volume, *Towards Eternity*, won the J.I. Segal Award for Yiddish Literature in 2004.

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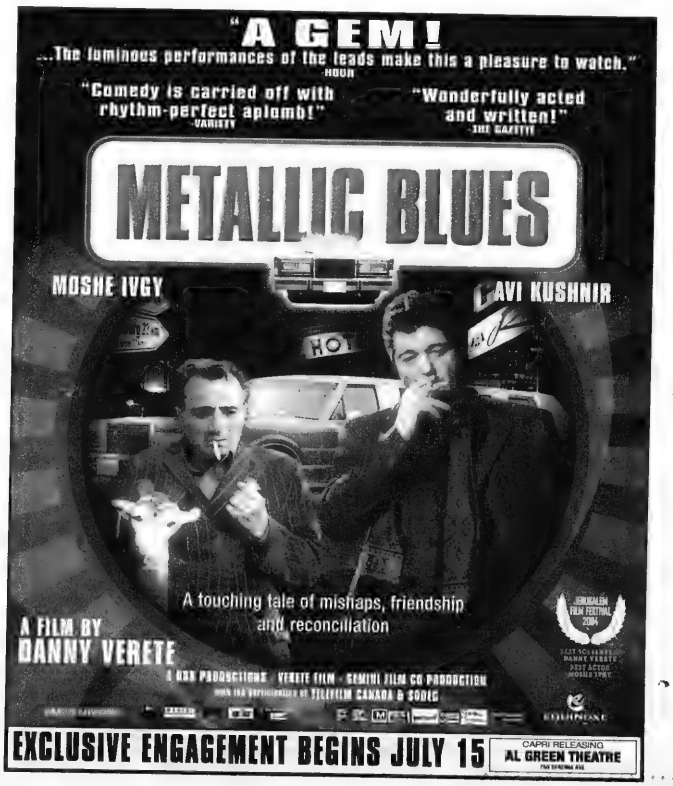

Play written by local actor to become a feature film

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Only 26, Ottawa native Rosa Laborde is an accomplished actor and playwright.

In fact, her stage play, *Sugar,* has been optioned as a screenplay and is set to be shot in a few months as a feature film directed by Paul Cade, who directed the movie *Angels Don't Sleep Here*. Cade was so inspired by Laborde's acting, he wrote a new character into the film for her to portray.

The Oxford School of Drama graduate will be seen next in *Lust's Labour's Lost: A Rock Musical* written by Brock Simpson. The production is described as a contemporary musical adaptation of Shakespeare's whimsical comedy *Lust's Labour's Lost.* It premieres at the Tarragon Theatre Mainspace on July 7 and continues on July 8, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 17, as part of the Toronto Fringe Festival. The cast also includes Andrew Currie, Andrew Pifko, Krista Sutton, David Frisch and Melissa-Jane Shaw.

"*Lust's Labour's Lost: A Rock Musical* takes place in Haliburton, Ont. – it is like a battle of the bands. It is a complete rock musical – the perfect summer show," says Laborde.

Rosa Laborde and Bruce Hunter in *Lust's Labour's Lost.* [Michelle Bailey photo]

"I play the little Spaniard. I'm a woman who dresses as a man. She is a scholar of Elizabethan phonetics and morphology – the evolution of words. She introduces herself as Don Adriano Armado do Universidad de Barcelona, PhD."

Pronouncing this long Latin name should be easy for Laborde, whose mother was exiled from Spanish-speaking Chile in South America, after the coup of 1973. Her mother moved to Ottawa, met her Jewish father, and converted to Judaism before marrying.

The marriage was over in less than two years. When Laborde's mother took ill, her great-grandmother came from Chile to take care of her for a year. In her great-grandmother's honour, she took her last name. She says it was a "spiritual" thing.

"The truth is, the name comes from my great-grandmother's great-great- great-great grandfather who fled France during the Spanish Inquisition because he was Jewish," says Laborde. "During my mother's conversion, she brought in proof that in the line of her paternal heritage, she actually had Jewish roots. Laborde, in its own way, ends up being a Jewish name."

Laborde's many past acting stage credits include *Svengali* at the Theatre Centre and *The Source*, the first play Laborde wrote, which premiered at the 2002 Rhubarb! Festival at the Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. It was named outstanding new play by *NOW* magazine. Her recent film and television appearances include *Rescue, 72 Hours, Missing, Street Time, Puppets Who Kill* and *Doc.*

In addition, Laborde is collaborating with Simpson in writing a musical satire called *The Ugly Duckling*. She's looking forward to coming back to the Tarragon in February 2006 to act in *Leo*, a play that she wrote about Chile before the coup.

"I don't have a preference between writing and acting – they are both really different. I absolutely love performing, but as an actor, I don't get to choose the words that I say… As a writer, I can actually say what I want to send out into the world, the messages that I'm thinking about," says Laborde, who in her spare time enjoys teaching yoga and going on road trips – a favourite destination being Algonquin Park, to camp with her partner, television writer and director Ian Carpenter.

For tickets to *Lust's Labour's Lost: A Rock Musical*, call the Fringe Hotline at 416-966-1062 or visit www.fringetoronto.com.

A comedy based on the Bible plays the Fringe

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

The mere mention of the Bible is a reminder of stern laws and dramatic action, but Elan Farbiarz is giving the ultimate bestseller a comedic makeover.

As part of the Toronto Fringe Festival, Farbiarz is directing and acting in *The Bible: The Complete Word of God Abridged*, running July 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16 at Tarragon Theatre Mainspace.

The Fringe is known for staging edgy works and Farbiarz's play is no different. This show, adapted from the original script by The Reduced Shakespeare Company in Massachusetts, flies through the Old and New Testaments in 60 minutes. Almost every scene is peppered with jokes that show how that archaic age is an easy target for comedy, Farbiarz says.

Diversity is part of the play's DNA, since Farbiarz, 22, is Jewish, actor Tim Bolen is Catholic and actor Dave Lapsley is a theology major. That shared knowledge allows the group "to make fun of everything," Farbiarz declares.

He says "every person can watch this show and laugh, no matter whether they're Jewish, Christian or Muslim."

The laughs don't just ripple from parodying biblical verse. Farbiarz mentions how the play will incorporate song, slapstick and wordplay. "We want the audience to be surprised by everything they see," he says. "We want to shock them."

And who better to lead this daring show than someone who knows it inside out? Before Farbiarz moved to Toronto, he performed a 10-minute snippet of *The Bible* at high school competitions in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The play won a regional award, and Farbiarz later staged it at a state theatre festival. It would seem he is obsessed with the production.

"I love the writing," Farbiarz says. "There are many extremely funny and witty lines."

He is also returning to the Fringe in his first directorial role. Last year, he acted in *You Can't Live on Cute Forever*, a comedy about a dysfunctional Jewish family. This time around, Farbiarz is relishing the chance to be in charge. "I can pick my own projects, and make sure the audiences leave happy," he says.

For tickets to *The Bible: The Complete Word of God Abridged*, visit www.wordogodabridged.com or call 416-967-1528.

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One-man show tackles Mideast conflict at the Fringe

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

One early morning last week Daniel Thau-Eleff called from Montreal where he had just wrapped up a six-show stint at the Montreal Fringe Festival.

"This last show was my strongest one yet," says a tired, but excited Thau-Eleff. He's quick to point out that 170 people saw his show, *Three Ring Circus: Israel, The Palestinians and My Jewish Identity* in Montreal. His first performance drew 15 people, but his last had more than 50.

The increase in attendance wasn't due to a lack of choice at the fringe, but because of *Three Ring's* positive reviews and more likely than not, its controversial subject matter. Thau-Eleff's "coming of age story" deals mainly with his ideas on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Two years ago I decided to write a show and I kind of went through a political u-turn where I'd always been a general supporter of Israel, but I didn't know much about this conflict," says the Winnipegger, relaying how he came to write a play criticizing the Israeli government and its policies.

"This Jewish anti-occupation group formed in Winnipeg and that opened my eyes to other possibilities. I found myself not only sympathetic with the Palestinian cause, but quite publicly sympathetic, and it led to a couple of interesting things that people will see in my show."

While the Israeli-Palestinian debate is always a sensitive one among Jews, the former Joseph Wolinksy Collegiate student says his play isn't all politics – it's also about women.

"The introduction I've been giving people is it's an hour of me talking to Jewish people about politics and girls," he says.

The cast of *Three Ring Circus* consists of one actor – Thau-Eleff. Not only does Thau-Eleff play a number of characters throughout the hour, but he also felt it was important to perform as himself, so he could be honest about the play's themes.

"On some level we're tackling the subject of the Middle East, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a very roundabout, but very honest way. I needed to say, 'I'm Daniel Thau-Eleff and here's my stories,' and to go through these stories with the audience together. Somehow I needed to establish that level of trust."

From reviews to awards, it's apparent that whatever the University of Winnipeg theatre grad is doing, he's succeeding. Last year Thau-Eleff received an award for best new Fringe play at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, and one Winnipeg Free Press reviewer likened the play's content to "Woody Allen, Noam Chomsky and Sigmund Freud all rolled into one."

However, not all the reaction has been positive. Thau-Eleff says that much of the negative response has come from people who haven't even seen his play.

"There's a negative response as well, but it's almost exclusively among people who have not seen the show. Particularly in Winnipeg where I've got a bit of a reputation now, there's criticism of the show, people being offended by the show, people being angry about it, but a lot of these people haven't seen it."

Thau-Eleff's response to those who haven't seen the play, but still criticize it, is to actually come see it.

"To those [people who won't see the play] I will be communicating the exact opposite of the message I want to communicate. Who knows what message they're getting – that I'm pro this, hate this, anti about this. If they come see the show they'll hear what I'm saying."

One Winnipeg rabbi was so adamant about having Jews hear Thau-Eleff's message that he suggested the play be performed at his synagogue.

"One of the biggest Winnipeg synagogues came forward and the rabbi said to me, 'You're wrestling with Jewish issues and that should be done in a synagogue.' We ended up performing there which was exactly what this show needed."

Performing at a synagogue in front of a Jewish audience was a daunting task, and things didn't go so well at first.

"It was a hard crowd to win over. The venue was not at all a theatre and I could see everyone and they could see me. Toward the beginning of the show there were no laughs, tense silences and audible sighs. I slowly won them over as they learned what the show and the characters were about."

Because Thau-Eleff can win over all sorts of crowds – from conservative Jews to people young and old – his reputation has grown, which now allows him to take his show on the road for the first time. He's already gone to Montreal, and has Toronto and Minneapolis waiting in the wings. Some of his biggest shows could come in mid-August, when he hits the epicentre of theatre, the city with one of the largest Jewish communities in the world, New York.

"It's really exciting and frightening to be performing in New York. I'm scared no one will show up, but hopefully there will be a good crowd because the more people there are the more we can learn from each other."

Catch *Three Ring Circus* at the Toronto Fringe Festival from July 7-16 at the Tarragon Theatre Extra Space.

For more information visit www.fringetoronto.com.

The Syrian Bride sheds light on the secretive Druze of the Golan Heights

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Syrian bride played by Clara Khoury

The Syrian Bride, Eran Riklis' intriguing examination of a Druze family on the Golan Heights, consists of small, converging dramas that shed light on a generally secretive society.

Set mainly in the Druze village of Majdal Shams, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War, the film unfolds in Arabic, Hebrew, English, Russian and French against the backdrop of social and political tensions.

The Druze, a breakaway sect from Islam, have a history of adapting to their host societies, whether in Israel or Syria. They maintain a low profile and tend to keep their customs and religious practices under tight wraps.

In light of their reclusivity, one imagines that Riklis, the director of the acclaimed Israeli film *Cup Final*, must have worked extra hard to make T*he Syrian Bride*, which opens in Toronto on July 8.

The film takes place in the summer of 2000, shortly after the death of Syria's president, Hafez Assad. It opens with a panoramic view of the Golan and a close-up of a pensive woman lying in a bed. It then shifts to a television studio in Damascus, where a star announcer named Tallel (Derar Sliman) announces his forthcoming marriage. His colleagues are bemused and poke gentle fun at him.

Back in Majdal Shams, the nervous young bride, Mona (Clara Khoury), pours her heart out to her older, married sister, Amal (Hiam Abbass), a modern woman of the world whose traditional husband stifles her creative impulses.

Mona has never actually met Tallel, having only seen him on TV, and fears she will be lonely in Damascus. Once she leaves the Golan, she may not be permitted to go back to visit her family, given the state of war between Israel and Syria.

Riklis heightens the drama a notch by introducing two additional characters, Mona's brother, Hattem (Eyad Sheety), and her father, Hammed (Makram Khoury).

The Druze elders in Majdal Shams warn Hammed that they will boycott the wedding if Hattem attends. They consider Hattem an outcast because of his marriage to a Russian doctor, Evelyna (Evelyne Kaplun), whom he wed in Moscow eight years ago.

Taking their threat seriously, Hammed gives Hattem, Evelyna and their son the cold shoulder.

Riklis adds another layer of complexity to the film when Hammed – a pro-Syrian figure who opposes Israel's occupation and has been imprisoned for his political activities – participates in a noisy demonstration during which his fellow protesters shout, "The Golan belongs to Syria."

Worried that her father's politics may jeopardize his chances of accompanying Mona to the Syrian border and saying goodbye to her there, Amal speaks to a local Israeli police official and pleads for leniency.

Amal, smart and vivacious, is quite a lady. She wears jeans and refrains from covering her head in pious Muslim fashion. Yet she is repressed. Her husband, Amin (Adnan Trabshi), has long resisted her demand to study social work at university. He claims he will lose face if she becomes a student.

Further spicing up the proceedings, Riklis inserts a peripheral scene in which Amal's pretty daughter outrages some members of her community by dating the son of an Israeli "collaborator."

In an attempt at balance, Riklis lets a gruff Israeli official fudge regulations so that Mona's wedding will not be delayed.

Some of the issues raised in *The Syrian Bride* remain unanswered and unresolved. But on the whole, everything else clicks into place.

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CJN Profile

Billionaire businessman key supporter of Russian community

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Alex Shnaider spent the first four years of his life in St. Petersburg at at time when prospects for an ambitious and talented Russian lad were, let us say, limited.

Certainly, billionaire status, a career as a steel tycoon and community philanthropy could hardly have been predicted for him 36 years ago in the former Soviet Union.

Unlike other Russian moguls, Shnaider was already living in Canada when he made his fortune in Russia and Ukraine.

When he was four, his family emigrated to Israel, and when he was 13, they moved to Canada.

Shnaider graduated from Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, then attended Mackenzie Collegiate and York University. Along the way, he worked in his family's Russian deli, and while still living with his parents, he began trading textiles and electronics in the Soviet Union. From those humble beginnings a commercial empire was born.

Today Shnaider is director of Midland Group, a privately held multi-billion dollar company that has global interests in steel, shipping and land development.

According to *Forbes* magazine, he has an estimated personal wealth of $1.4 billion (US), putting him in 488th place in the exclusive billionaire's club. In addition to his interests in steel, he is behind Russia's first Formula One race team and he has plans to develop a 68-storey condominium and hotel tower in downtown Toronto in conjunction with real estate maven Donald Trump.

Despite spending only four years in the former Soviet Union, he acknowledges that "today I feel more Russian in terms of mentality, upbringing and everything else."

Still, he has adopted many elements of Canadian life that are still somewhat foreign to Soviet-era Russians, in particular his willingness to get involved in charitable endeavours, even those of a religious nature.

In the boardroom of the Midland Group's North York office, three plaques adorn the walls.

One is local, given to Shnaider by the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC) in recognition of his contribution to the financial well-being of the 40,000-strong community.

The other two testify to his philanthropic involvements in aid of Cuban Jews. One recognizes the Alex and Simone Shnaider Camp Gan Israel in Havana, a children's camp; the other marks his and Midland's aid to the community during Passover 2003.

All three philanthropic gestures were carried out through the Chabad movement.

Though he grew up in a secular household, he feels drawn to the good works of Chabad and he is ready to open his pocketbook to help where he feels help is needed.

Colleagues at the JRCC, where Shnaider serves as president, describe him as a down-to-earth individual with a strong sense of social responsibility and the willingness to put his money where his heart is.

His largess has permitted the JRCC to undertake ambitious programs of community development they could not otherwise afford, and his example, JRCC officials hope, will attract other successful Russian businesspeople to invest in the community.

"Alex sees that not all Russian Jews are as fortunate as we are and they need help," said Igor Korenzvit, a Russian businessman who serves as chair of the JRCC.

The values that made him a highly successful entrepreneur – a belief in education, loyalty, generosity and his sharp

Alex Shnaider

mind – have contributed to his "skyrocketing business success… rather than luck or inheritance," Korenzvit said.

"He's a real family man with Jewish values," he added.

Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, executive-director of the JRCC, said Shnaider "interacts with others in a simple, straightforward, humble way. I see him as a quite impressive family man. I see that in the way he treats his parents and grandparents.

"He's called a billionaire, but [I see] the same guy. He didn't change."

Rabbi Zaltzman acknowledges that Shnaider is a key backer of the JRCC. "He's a major supporter today, and he didn't grow up with it. In Russia, there was nowhere to see it.

"Without him, we'd be able to do much less."

Shnaider remains the JRCC's primary contributor, and at the end of every fiscal year, he examines the books and tops up the centre's funds with cash as needed.

He has helped support the Ohr Menachem Day School as well as the JRCC's religious and cultural programming.

He and his business partner, Ed Shifrin, also sponsor Jewish weekend schools back in Russia. They have built a computer school employing the latest in Israeli technology and they fund a soup kitchen in Zaporozhye, Ukraine, where Midland retains business interests.

Shnaider and Shifrin are constructing a synagogue in Volgograd, where Midland owns a steel mill.

Altogether, Shnaider said, he allocates "a few million" dollars each year to charitable causes.

"It's hard to say no. But unfortunately, you must say no or it will never end."

One person who is grateful he didn't say no is a former Cuban employee whose four-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia. Cuba's medical system could do little for him, so Shnaider funded the entire family's trip to Germany where the boy was treated in a modern hospital. The family has lived in Germany for more than a year and could reside there six months longer before they return to Cuba.

It was on one of his many business trips to Cuba that Shnaider saw for himself the Cubans' deplorable living conditions. The local rabbi approached him and asked for help. "I realized it was a good cause," and his association with Cuban Jewry was established.

Growing up in Russia, Shnaider was two generations removed from religious observance. He dimly recalls a trip to the synagogue on one of the High Holy Days, but even his grandparents were not particularly observant. His great-grandparents, who hailed from Bessarabia, were "more traditional."

He has fond recollections of life in Israel, growing up in the midst of an expatriate Russian community in Netanya. He had lots of friends and lots of freedom to roam around, something he said is missing for his three children in Toronto. "Here, I'm afraid to let my daughter in the backyard alone," he said.

At age 12, he attended a weekend get together at Kfar Chabad and he recalls the experience as "quite interesting. The warmth and care of the family I stayed with was really special."

Shnaider was a reluctant immigrant to Canada, and "for the first little while, I didn't like it… Over time, I got used to it.

"Here I found language barriers."

He found Canadian kids made fun of his accent. "I didn't feel very welcome," he said. "For a while, I was alienated."

Shnaider has very little contact with the established Jewish community in Toronto, but he's heavily involved with Jewish communities in Russia and Ukraine.

Successful businessmen in the former Soviet Union are beginning to take a greater interest in philanthropy and "they're giving back to the community," Shnaider said. "For me, I always understood you have to help as much as possible, to give back as much as possible."

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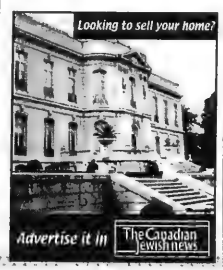

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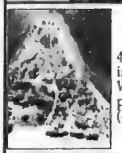

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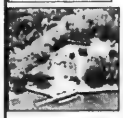

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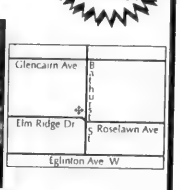

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Arts & Travel

Lauren Posner: Her self-titled debut CD has launched an unplanned musical career.

Montrealer's debut CD generating buzz and airplay

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

As she prepares for upcoming performances at the Montreal Jazz Festival and the Quebec Summer Festival on July 8 and 9 respectively, Montreal-area singer-songwriter Lauren Posner looks back at what she describes as a fortuitous series of coincidences that led to the release of her debut CD *Lauren Posner* three months ago and the start of an unplanned musical career.

Lauren Posner the CD presents renditions of a handful of traditional Jewish songs (including *Dona Dona*, *Adon Olam*, *Hineh Ma Tov* and *Miserlou*) in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino, as well as a few more songs in French and English.

Posner expresses surprise at the amount of airplay she has received so far. The CD's opening version of *Sholom Aleichem* recently made it onto Radio Canada's top-five playlist.

"I never even thought about doing this, it just happened," she said. "At every stage along the way, there seemed to be another player saying, 'Keep going with this, go deeper, people want to hear this.' The energy around this project seemed to be particularly in my favour."

Several years ago, Posner made a plain musical demo and played it for her French instructor, who introduced her to Igor Bartula, one of several musicians with whom she began to jam. A bassist and producer, Bartula encouraged her to do more recording and asked her to choose a few more songs.

"It was sort of obvious for me to go with these Jewish tunes that were so much a part of my upbringing. I had sung them as a kid with other kids in school and at summer camp, and they always touched me in a deep way. I wanted to give them back in a more mature manner."

The project was further propelled by a provincial bursary and the enthusiastic support of the studio where Posner and band were recording. The musicians, including a bassist, percussionist, pianist, violinist and acoustic, electric and flamenco guitarists, deliver a polished fusion of world, ethnic and pop sounds.

Posner and Bartula co-wrote *Lover*, a love song that reflects a combination of modern pop and Middle Eastern musical influences. She also set a poem by Yehuda Amichai to music in *Come Forth* and penned the French lyrics for *Sentiers de L'amour*.

Her sweet-voiced and meditative treatment enhances the depth of the lyrics of several traditional pieces from scripture, which she sings in the original Hebrew. *Hineh Ma Tov* (which musically resembles Gordon Lightfoot's *Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*) is based on a verse from Psalm 133: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell closely together." And *Lo Yisa Goi* is based on the famous passage in Isaiah about beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

Born in Toronto in 1974, Posner attended United Synagogue Day Schools and continued her Jewish education in Rockville, Md., where her family relocated for four years. (Her father, Michael Posner, is an arts reporter for the *Globe and Mail* and a former correspondent for Maclean's.)

She earned an undergraduate degree in biology at McGill and has begun graduate studies in the field of human rights. Her nine-month-old son is the obvious explanation for her seemingly gradual approach to both her university studies and musical career.

"The CD's been received very well," she said. "For someone who's completely unknown as a music artist here in Quebec . . . we've got it on the shelves of many music stores and people have really responded to it, especially people who are not necessarily Jewish. There's a great love of world music here and a real appreciation for different ethnic backgrounds."

Lauren Posner, the album, was produced by Igor Bartula on the Milagro label. For further details and a musical sample, please visit the website www.laurenposner.com.

Soccer team to rely on hard work, defence

Continued from page 1

D.C, and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, on full athletic scholarships. He is also the head goalkeeper coach for the Ontario provincial soccer teams and was a member of the Under-20 Canadian national team that won CONCACAF in 1996.

Chencinski is the keeper for Robert Morris University, a school near Pittsburgh that's in the Northeast Conference of the NCAA.

Brahimi is comfortable with that group. Up front, he's got Torontonian Shmuel Hazan, who plays professional soccer for Maccabi Netanya in Israel's premier division, plus a bunch of guys who have emigrated to Canada and who brought some soccer skill with them, including players originally from Israel, Argentina, South Africa and Russia.

"We're going with a terrific bunch of guys who are very committed, who'll be playing their hearts out," Brahimi said. "You see it at practice. They're a very competitive bunch."

That suits the coaches fine, as Brahimi readily admits that he and Mar hate to lose.

Misha Levkov, 26, agrees that "we have a very hard working team."

But the quality of the opposition will make the tournament "a challenge" for Canada, he said.

The Canadian entry has done pretty well in exhibitions, beating Toronto Maccabi and Glen Shields Sun Devils, another CPSL squad. However, they lost in the finals of a Maccabi tournament in Montreal to an entry from Israel.

Levkov, who was born in Riga, Latvia, will suit up as a striker for Canada, though he normally plays outside midfield for the North York Astros, a team in the CPSL.

Canada's coaches will no doubt rely on Levkov's experience in their key matches. A member of the Ontario provincial team when he was 13 and 14, he moved up to the youth national team when he was 16.

Levkov earned a scholarship to Cleveland State University, studying organizational communications and marketing, and played four years of NCAA Division I ball. He was second in team scoring in his senior year and third in assists.

After moving back to Toronto, he played one season for the Metro Lions, a former CPSL team, and then moved to South Korea to play pro soccer.

"It was an amazing experience. The quality of soccer there and the professionalism is absolutely amazing."

Four years ago, he was all set to represent Canada in Israel, but the games were nearly cancelled over security concerns. In the end, Canada sent a small team that did not include a soccer squad.

Argentina won that competition and is a perennial soccer power, while Israel also figures to have a strong team, Levkov said.Their Under-21 national team beat France in a UEFA Cup qualifier earlier this year.

Levkov has no illusions about Canada's chances for a medal. "I'm going more for the experience. As a team, we're going to do our best representing Canada. As a whole, I think the experience will be just unforgettable."

Cardinals' pitcher off to good start

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

When Jason Marquis was dealt to the St. Louis Cardinals in December 2003, he was given a chance to become part of the club's five-man starting rotation. He responded last year by having the best season by a Jewish pitcher since Steve Stone won the Cy Young Award for Baltimore in 1980.

Marquis flourished on the 2004 National League Champion Cardinals, going 15-7 with a 3.71 earned run average and 138 strikeouts in 201⅓ innings over his 32 starts. He also contributed with the bat, hitting a league-high .292 among NL pitchers with 21 hits, including six doubles and nine runs batted in.

He says his success with the Redbirds is just a matter of them giving him an opportunity to go out and pitch every five days.

"I felt like I was always looking over my shoulder when I was in Atlanta, so it was nice to come over here and get a fresh start," said Marquis, who took an 8-3 record with a 3.27 ERA into his start in the series final against the Blue Jays. Things didn't go quite so well for the St. Louis starter in his game in the Rogers Centre. Marquis gave up five runs on eight hits, including a three-run outburst in the second inning with two out. The Jays chased Marquis after five innings with Ted Lilly getting the win.

Marquis was coming off a stellar performance against the New York Yankees, the team the Staten Island native loved growing up and yearned to play for. The 26-year-old said it was a dream come true to pitch against the Bronx Bombers, who he held to one run on six hits over eight innings in an 8-1 victory.

Quite a turnaround from two years ago when he appeared in only 21 games for the Braves, mostly in relief, and spent the majority of the season at Triple A-Richmond. Atlanta's first-round supplemental draft pick in 1996 was a career 14-15 before the trade and in three years had an ERA over five.

"Atlanta was so rich in pitching that they couldn't give him the ball," said St. Louis manager Tony LaRussa. "We needed a starter and [pitching coach] Dave Duncan has been really good for him. Every time he goes out there he has a better feel."

Marquis played a key role in helping the Cardinals run away with the NL Central en route to a 105-win season last year and a spot in the World Series, in which they were swept by the Red Sox.

He put together an 11-game winning streak stretching from late May into September, the longest by a St. Louis starter since John Tudor recorded the feat in 1985. Over 17 starts in that period, he allowed only 37 earned runs in 111⅓ innings.

Marquis struggled down the stretch and was 0-1 with a 5.65 ERA in four post-season appearances, three of which were starts. He walked 13 in 14⅓ innings, while allowing 15 hits, 10 of which went for extra bases.

He tossed a scoreless inning in relief in game two of the World Series, but got into the opener when he was inserted as a pinch-runner and scored a run. Marquis started game four and pitched well in a 3-0 loss.

A two-seam sinking fastball he added to his repertoire under the tutelage of Duncan seems to have made all the difference. He throws the sinker in the low to mid-90s, along with a four-seam fastball and a cutter.

Marquis, 8-5 so far this year, also mixes in a decent curveball and change-up.

His hitting continues to be a big part of his game, although with the designated hitter rule in effect, he wouldn't get to swing the bat in Toronto.

"It's something I always pride myself on," said Marquis, who was batting .368, with three doubles, a triple, a homer and seven RBIs this season. "I was always taught, whatever you do, try to be the best at it."

Families play together at Maccabiah Games

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

They say the family that plays together stays together, and in the case of the Dinetz clan, sports is bringing the family of four to Israel to compete in the Maccabiah Games.

Howard Dinetz will enjoy his third Games experience, but for the others, it will be their first Maccabiah. The family patriarch has won a gold medal in 10-pin bowling at a previous Games and he no doubt hopes the experience rubs off on his kids. Jason, 21, will be one of only two pitchers leading the men's softball team, while daughter Jaclyn, 18, is a versatile member of the women's softball squad. Mom Cathy manages the women's softball team.

They're not the only families heading to Israel. Canada's 390-strong team boasts a number of father-son and brother-brother combinations. In golf, there are the twin pairings of father Michael Albert and son David as well as Steven Goldenberg and son, Jay. In volleyball, the Binstock brothers, Josh and Aaron, will line up next to the Shermer boys, Eli and Daniel. Their dad, George, will be back in Toronto wishing them well, but he, too, is a key member of the team, having scouted and recruited players.

Jaclyn Dinetz swings for the fences.

In water polo, Ariel Lantos will be swimming for Canada and his dad, movie producer Robert Lantos, a former Maccabiah athlete himself, is funding the team.

But back to the Binstocks. The family connections don't end with the brothers. Martin Binstock, their uncle, writes that his nephew, Richard Kurtz, won a bronze medal in basketball back in 1977; his niece, Heather Matile (originally a Kurtz) is competing in women's basketball this year, and her husband, John, won two golds in wrestling in 1997. The Maccabiah connection goes on: Binstock's other nephew, Alan Kurtz, will compete in men's masters basketball, making for six Maccabians from one family.

As for the Dinetz crew, Jason has been told by his dad to expect "an incredible experience" at the Games.

On the field, it's shaping up as one long grind for Jason and the team's other pitcher, Joshua McKinlay.

He's expecting the team will play 13 games in 10 days, meaning he'll pitch every other day.

Can his arm stand the strain? Jason's not too worried. "It's good for me. I'm more of a junk ball pitcher."

Softball pitching, he explained, is not as hard on the arm as throwing a hardball. Power is generated in the legs and butt. "That's why we can go longer, and [you] can move the ball without killing yourself."

Jason's first Maccabi experience was two years ago in Santiago, Chile, at the Pan Am Maccabi Games." I was very nervous, but I ended up proving myself," he said.

Back in Toronto, Jason plays for two teams, the Davisville Dodgers and Vaughan Selects.

As Cathy explains, the rest of the family plays softball too. Jaclyn, who can pitch, catch or play pretty well anywhere in the field, suits up for Port Perry Angels as a right fielder and catcher. She's played in two JCC Maccabi Youth Games in Philadelphia and Montreal, finishing as high as fourth.

Though he's going as a bowler, Howard's also a softball player and he coaches the Markham Cougars rep team, Cathy said.

Cathy, who works for Maccabi Canada, used to play volleyball and softball. The idea that sports is bringing the family to Israel "is really exciting," she said. "As a family we're all going together hoping to win gold medals in each of our sports. To spend time together [in Israel] is a special thing."

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Maccabi volleyball coach predicts medal

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Naturally, most athletes who compete in major events say they intend to win, or at least come away with a medal. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to beat anybody without that kind of confidence in your own abilities.

When Dov Milman says Canada's men's team will advance to the final of the upcoming Maccabiah Games volleyball tournament, it sounds almost like a guarantee.

Milman is coaching this year's volleyball entry at the games, and he touts it as "an excellent team.

Dov Milman

"If God will be with me and [we experience] no injuries, then I expect to be in the final," he said.

Confidence or hubris? With the games less than a week away, we'll know pretty soon. But Milman has been there before, seen just about all there is to see in international volleyball and has experience coaching in the Maccabiah Games.

A native of Kibbutz Merhavia, Milman has been coaching high-level volleyball for going on 30 years.

In the early 1970s, he was an assistant coach with the Israeli national team and competed in the Maccabiah Games. In the early '80s, he was chosen to coach the country's national team, which he led to appearances in the European Spring Cup and European championships.

After moving to Canada, he coached one of Ontario's consistently better teams, the Scarborough Solars, taking them to the Canadian championship. For the past few years, he's been out of coaching, devoting his energies to building up his plastic pipes business.

Maccabi Canada's volleyball team gets ready for a practice.

He was recruited to coach the Canadians and has worked closely with George Shermer, a former Maccabiah player and coach, in getting the team ready.

Shermer believes that Milman brings to the job not just a vast reservoir of coaching knowledge and skill, but a unique awareness of the opposition – at least that coming from Israel. And thanks to his connections there, he has arranged three pre-Maccabiah exhibitions that will fine-tune the team and test some of the strategies he has devised for the competition.

The pre-tournament games are important because the team was assembled less than two months ago when its funding was finalized, and it has yet to face top opposition.

Had he had more time, Milman said, he could have found another couple of good players to round out the squad. As it is, they'll be travelling to Israel with only 10 players, two shy of the 12 allowed.

Still, Milman likes what he sees. "I believe we have an excellent attack and a very good defence," he said.

What's more, there's a good blend of youth and veteran savvy. Three guys are over 30 and the rest are in their 20s. One key member of the team, Aaron Binstock, is only 16½, but he'll be relied on for his spiking ability, Milman said.

Milman has devised a strategy appropriate to the style of play usually found at the Maccabiah, one in which "we are going to open the net, not close the net."

Josh Binstock, Aaron's older brother and one of the best players in Canada in his age group, is expected to draw two defenders when he moves to the net, leaving the rest of the players one-on-one with a better ability to get by opponents' blockers, he said.

In addition, "We are going to run spike serves and try to get ace points," Milman said.

Eli Shermer, who played on the provincial champion team from Loyalist College in Belleville, will be in a spike position on the right side of the net, while team captain Howie Grossinger, a veteran who once captained the University of Toronto's team, will be the main playmaker.

> ***'Closing the loop coming back to Israel'***

"I put on his shoulders [the job] of carrying the team to the final," Milman said. "He knows it and he knows why we're going to do it."

Other members of the team include Daniel Shermer, Eli's brother and also George's son, who was a league all-star with Loyalist College; Kevin Halmos, a former captain of W.L. Mackenzie high school's team; Tom Tytel, a gold medallist with the men's basketball team in 1997; Josh Greenberg, who's played in regional and national club championships; Steve Willis, a libero (a player in the back court who is a defensive specialist) at Queen's University; and Phil Scher, a member of North York championship teams.

For some, the competition will mark their debut at the Maccabiah Games. For others, like Milman, it will mark a return.

He said that for him, "it is closing the loop coming back to Israel, with Canada on my shirt. As a proud Canadian Jew, I can tell you it's not so simple, especially if I get a chance to play against Israel. It will be something special."

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Martinis, shopping and pyjamas

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

A woman I know recently told me that as we get older, our girlfriends become more like sisters to us than friends. I have known most of my close girlfriends for more than half my life and we share a strong bond, so I couldn't agree more.

Last month, a group of us left our significant others behind and had a girls-only weekend getaway at the cottage. Sometime between drinking martinis, sharing secrets until the wee hours of the morning, making brunch in our pyjamas and laughing about old memories, I realized how lucky I am to have such great friends. Years ago, as girls, we accepted each other's little quirks and have now grown to love the things that make us unique women.

Many of these friendships evolved over the years because we have been through so much together. We shared stories of our first kisses and our worst blind dates. We offered each other shoulders to cry on during those horrible breakups, when we thought the world would end and we gave each other poetry about strong, independent women who survived. We held each other's hair back when we got sick in high school and promised never to drink alcohol again. We borrowed each other's clothes, skipped school and literally shopped till we dropped.

We have shared simchahs such as graduations, birthdays, our first job, engagements, weddings and the birth of babies. We have travelled together and stayed in the most luxurious hotels and the cheapest motels – and had an equally good time in both.

One of my friends now lives far away from me, in the suburbs of Thornhill with her husband and two young children. For more than a decade, we spoke almost daily, even when I lived in another country. Unfortunately, these days we don't see each other or speak as often as we used to. But the beauty of our friendship is that when we do get together, it's like no time has passed between visits and we can still talk about anything.

I met another girlfriend in junior high school, and we used to speak up to five times a day. We would confirm what we were wearing to school, what we were going to watch on television each night and what boy was the cutest in class. At our weekly slumber parties as teenagers, we made ourselves sick eating chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream and daydreamed about marrying Johnny Depp.

Another friend taught me how to give a good, strong bear-like hug – we actually practised. She made me dinner when I had no money, and also when I did. She has always been the first person to support my ever-changing career choices and has helped me with so much without ever expecting anything in return.

My friendships have progressed from signing yearbooks on the last day of school to signing guest books at weddings.

Our conversations have changed, as well. A friend recently gave me the lowdown, in explicit detail, on the positives and negatives of breastfeeding – the things that doctors just don't tell you.

When we go for brunch, we sometimes have *Sex and the City*-style conversations about love, relationships and life. Nothing is off limits, and we never judge each other. We sometimes laugh so hard that tears roll down our faces.

Over the years, I've learned that regardless of how busy you are in life, it's imperative to make time for friends. A good long talk with a girlfriend can cure many things and make you feel less alone in the world.

I have also learned that a true friend stands by your side no matter what, and can tell you things you don't want to tell yourself.

But most importantly, I've learned you're never too old for slumber parties.

SPICY ASIAN-STYLE PASTA SALAD

1 lb. linguine, broken in half
4 tblsps. oriental sesame oil
3 tblsps. honey
3 tblsps. soy sauce
3 tblsps. balsamic vinegar
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
3 red bell peppers, seeded, thinly sliced
3 cups snow peas
1 large red onion, thinly sliced
3/4 cup honey-roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil

Cook pasta in large pot of boiling salted water until tender but still firm to bite, stirring occasionally. Drain very well. Transfer to large bowl.
Whisk 3 tblsps. sesame oil, honey, soy sauce, vinegar and cayenne pepper in small bowl to blend. Season with salt. Mix half of dressing into pasta. Heat remaining 1 tblsp. oil in heavy large pot over medium-high heat. Add peppers, peas and onion and sauté until just beginning to wilt, about 2 minutes. Add vegetables to pasta. Mix in peanuts, basil and enough dressing to coat. Serve, passing any remaining dressing separately.

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There's more to education than school

Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

These summer months give both educators and parents an opportunity to reflect on the larger issues in Jewish schooling, and taking a break from daily pressures can help us gain perspective.

In my capacity as director of Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, I get the usual complaints from both parents and professional educators (and occasionally from exceptionally bright children). Parents sometimes complain about school policies and the obvious limits of institutional education. Principals have issues with families that make demands beyond the capabilities of a school. In most cases, there is some degree of error on both sides of any given dispute, but in almost all cases, expectations on both sides are beyond what schooling can offer.

Schooling is not synonymous with education. It's only fairly recently that we have entrusted schools with the life-critical mitzvah of teaching our children. Even when parents hired tutors in an earlier age, it was understood that the home and the family had a major role in the inter-generational transmission of values and customs. Bringing children into this world – another important mitzvah – is all about nature, but guiding them and introducing them to God's world in all its infinite mystery and wonder is all about nurture.

Both families and educators need to be reminded, on a regular basis, that education goes beyond the walls of our schools. While I'm convinced that schools can do more than merely instruct, and that they do have a role in moral education (especially Jewish schools), it is true that too much is expected of the school in this very important arena. The family dinner table is a much more effective lab for teaching the ethical path than any classroom, and parents must re-assume their responsibilities in that domain.

This is a greater demand than asking parents to help with math homework. It's about an obligation to nurture in the home those very values that ensure our continuing existence as a people who care to repair a broken world.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Toronto Jewish loneliness

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I've written on this topic before, but I am frequently reminded of it, and bothered by it, and therefore have decided to put it out there again.

The Toronto Jewish community is many things. We are known worldwide for our affluence and generosity. The continual increase in the population of our community is virtually unparalleled outside of Israel.

But ask a dozen newcomers to Toronto how it is to be absorbed into our community to become a real member of it. More often than not you will hear it is lonely. Basically, the Toronto Jewish community does not have a reputation of exuding warmth and being inviting.

I have come to this conclusion after many discussions over the years with people who have settled here. A while back, I asked a South African Jew what it was like to be part of the Toronto Jewish community. He said, "It's very hard to make friends and to feel accepted. And I have been here for a few years."

I challenged him, replying, "But you're a shul goer. Certainly you must benefit from the Jewish hospitality we pride ourselves on, the belief that wherever you go in the world, you have a home as long as another Jew is there?"

He said he has rarely received an invitation to someone's home following Shabbat services in his synagogue, or an extended hand of friendship.

Recently, I asked an Israeli who arrived here last year a similar question: "How do you feel living in a place mostly free of external worries, with a thriving Jewish community?"

Her response was, "I love the peace Toronto offers my family, but we have had a hard time finding the soul."

"What do you mean by that?" I queried. "After all, there are over one hundred places to pray, dozens of kosher restaurants and lectures, events and programs galore.

"That's not what I mean," the native-Israeli answered me. "I don't understand your mentality here. In Israel, we don't have to make reservations weeks in advance to visit our neighbours. In fact, we know our neighbours. In Israel, people yell and shout, but they were open and they show you their soul. Here it's not like that."

Loneliness. Lack of soul.

So what is the hole in our Jewishness that elicits such disturbing responses from Jews who came here expecting to find "community"? Why does it seem that the effervescent personalities of the South American and the Israeli are forced to squelch themselves in order to fit into an attitude, a way, which they say is reserved, private, concealed and hush-hush?

Of course, warmth can be found in our neighbourhoods; in *shtieblach* (small shuls), and places with outreach programs. Clearly there are amiable folks in every cranny of the community – individuals who can spot and respond to the stranger who enters their domains with that "new kid in the class" look.

However, as a collective we would do well to consider upgrading our hospitality skills.

This could be achieved by implementing a cross-town way of thinking; maybe a program titled Operation Abraham, whose mission statement would be to encourage the strength of the Patriarch Abraham, known for *hachnasat orchim* – embracing the guest or newcomer. The program's success could be predicated in part by incorporating the effusive character traits of our newer community members – the joy of the South African, the "living in the moment" trait of our Israelis, and the outgoing "walk in the park" spirit of our Russian community members.

Let every shul, synagogue, temple, organization and individual in the Toronto Jewish community pledge to make this city as warm and soulful as the sun shining down on Jerusalem on a balmy summer day. Operation Abraham! Remember how difficult it was to be new.

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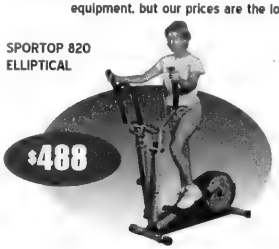

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'A sense of shocked disbelief'

By JENNIFER FRAZER
Special to The CJN

LONDON — I'm writing more than 72 hours after the bombs hit London, and there is still a sense of shocked disbelief among my friends and colleagues about the day the ordinary became the extraordinary.

Tavistock Square, where the No. 30 bus had its roof blown off when the bomb exploded on its top deck, is a typical central London thoroughfare. It boasts a grand, 19th-century building that belongs to the British Medical Association and, coincidentally, was the site of the explosion. The building is frequently used by film companies that want to have its facade double for a stately home or an embassy. I've even seen it decked out in Canadian flags.There's a pretty, fenced-off garden opposite. The area is on the fringes of Bloomsbury and is prime tourist country, with several hotels along the street.

It was also, until relatively recently, the home of many Jewish organizations. Student headquarters, Hillel House, is just around the corner; the chief rabbi's office and the Board of Deputies were close by. The chief rabbi's office has moved out to the suburbs, but the board is now in Bloomsbury Square, only yards from both the bus bomb and Russell Square, the tube station where one of the underground bombs exploded.

And it's my daily route to work. I drive in every day from my home in north-west London, and on this particular day, I was a little later than usual, getting to the Tavistock Square area around 10 a.m. I saw hundreds of people walking around

Continued on page 25

Maccabiah Memorial

The 17th Maccabiah Games opened in Ramat Gan, Israel, on Monday. Three days earlier, a special commemorative ceremony was held in memory of the four Australian athletes who died eight years ago when a bridge over the Yarkon River collapsed at the 15th Maccabiah. The Australian contingent to the games this year is the largest ever. *The CJN* went to press before the opening day ceremonies. We will have full coverage of the opening and other Maccabiah events in next week's issue. *[Isranet photos]*

Keeping an African Shabbat

By TANIA HAAS
Special to The CJN

As leaders of the eight industrialized nations addressed African poverty at the G-8 conference in Scotland last week, two Canadians were building a school library in a west African village.

Jessica Gilbert of Thornhill and Leanne Rosen of Vancouver are participating in the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) summer volunteer program in Ghana. AJWS is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for Jews to become involved in development work.

In a recent telephone interview, the two students described their experience abroad, and how they are fulfilling tikkun olam, the Jewish concept of helping to repair the world. "Our goal is to make a positive contribution to the community, but one that is sustainable. The benefits of our work are not going to end as soon as we leave," said Gilbert, 20, who will be returning to McMaster University in Hamilton in the fall.

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Israel shifts funds from Gaza and W. Bank to Negev and Galilee — see page 26

The News in Brief

CANADA

Anti-Semitic Acts Rise

EDMONTON — Despite a drop in reported hate crimes in Edmonton, anti-Semitic acts were higher in 2004 than in 2003, police said last week. There were 29 hate-related events targeting Jews, 15 of them criminal, in 2004, up from 11 acts, 10 criminal, the *Edmonton Sun* reported. Police said it's too early to identify a trend, as the force's hate crimes unit has only tracked figures for two years. But police also said the rise may be linked to the Mideast, as well as more training for beat officers as to what constitutes a hate crime. A spokesperson for the Jewish community said Jews may also be more likely to report incidents, even small ones.

WORLD

Join a Shul, Get Perks

LONDON — Britain's main Orthodox synagogue body is offering freebies to get young Jews to join synagogues. The initiative by Tribe, the youth wing of the United Synagogue, lets singles ages 21 to 30 join their chosen shul as full members, including burial rights, for a nominal fee. They also get incentives such as free phone calls and discounts on health insurance, travel, health and beauty services, as well as kosher wine and food.

Terror Takes a Holiday

DUBLIN — A Palestinian terrorist granted safe haven in Ireland after the 2002 Church of the Nativity siege left the country for several weeks without the knowledge of Irish police who were supposed to be monitoring him. Jihad Jara, one of two Palestinians deported to Ireland by Israel under a UN-brokered deal to end the siege, took an unauthorized trip to Spain in 2004, the *Sunday Independent* reported. Spanish authorities picked him up within a month of his arrival and returned him to Ireland. The report said U.S. officials are "furious" with Ireland over the matter.

Jewish Official Killed

PARIS — The vice-president of the Association of Liberal Jews of Toulouse was found murdered in his home on July 1. A freelance journalist and community activist, Rene Itzhak Autard, 60, was found, according to the police, "in a pool of blood, covered with pillows," his face and head beaten with a blunt object. Police said they're not ruling out any motive, including anti-Semitism, for the murder. Autard was an active member in the Mouvement des Juifs Liberaux, the French Reform movement of Judaism.

Pope to Daven?

ROME — The Pope will say prayers in Hebrew when he visits a German synagogue in Cologne next month. It represents Benedict XVI's latest effort to reach out to Jews since becoming pope in April. In a related development, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon invited Benedict to visit Israel. The invitation was offered as Israeli officials presented Benedict with an Israeli stamp depicting Pope John Paul II's visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem in 2000. Benedict has not yet accepted or rejected the offer.

Deportation Ordered

PHILADELPHIA — A U.S. federal immigration court in has ordered the deportation of a former Nazi concentration camp guard to either Ukraine, Poland or Germany. The court found Theodor Szehinskyj, 79, currently a resident of West Chester, Penn., had served in the SS Death's Head guard unit at Gross-Rosen, Sachsenhausen and Warsaw concentration camps from January 1943 to February 1945. Szehinskyj is a native of Malnow, a town in prewar Poland that is currently within the borders of Ukraine.

Islamist Goes On Trial

LONDON — The trial of a British Islamic leader charged with advocating the murder of Jews and others opened last week. Abu Hamza Al-Masri has pleaded innocent to the charges, pre-empting a U.S. bid to extradite him. Al-Masri is the former head of London's Finsbury Park Mosque, which has been linked to terror suspects. U.S. authorities want him for allegedly trying to start a terror training camp in Oregon, involvement with hostage taking in Yemen, and funding terror training in Afghanistan.

Church Votes to Begin Divestment Process

ATLANTA — The U.S.-based United Church of Christ called on members to employ "economic leverage" against Israel, including possible divestment.

A resolution passed at the UCC's biennial synod in Atlanta last week urged local churches "to use economic leverage," including "divesting from those companies that refuse to change their practices of gain from the perpetuation of violence, including the occupation." A separate resolution called on Israel to remove its West Bank security barrier.

The resolutions drew a sharp reaction from Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who described them as "functionally anti-Semitic."

Cooper said the resolutions are the efforts of a small group of activists and not rank-and-file church members.

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Ahenakew plays victim, lashes out at Jewish groups

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Former native leader David Ahenakew assumed the role of victim and lashed out at Jewish organizations after a judge fined him $1,000 for promoting hatred against Jews.

Speaking at a news conference after provincial court judge Marty Irwin pronounced sentence on July 8, Ahenakew said native Canadians had been victims of cultural genocide and worse oppression than Jews under the Nazis. He said Indians don't receive justice in Canadian courts.

"I hope my trial has revealed some of the frustration and pain of my people," said Ahenakew, the former chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). "If an Indian slips a little bit, [he is] crucified."

Ahenakew was convicted of promoting hatred against Jews as a result of statements he made to a reporter following a public address at a conference of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in December 2002. He told the assembly that Jews had started World War II and he later told the reporter that Jews "damn near owned all of Germany" before the war. "That's why [Hitler] fried six million of those guys. How do you get rid of a disease like that, that's going to take over everything?"

In pronouncing sentence, Irwin said Ahenakew's comments "dehumanize the Jewish people. To suggest that any human being or group of human beings is a disease is to invite extremists to take action against them."

Striking a defiant tone at his news conference on Friday, Ahenakew said he would appeal the verdict.

Ahenakew said "hatred of First Nations people is rampant in our country and it exists in the legal and justice systems, the media and the Canadian economy."

He blamed Canadian Jewish Congress for allegedly orchestrating a lobbying campaign to strip him of his Order of Canada honours. The governor-general's advisory council announced last week it has begun the process of stripping Ahenakew of the honour.

Ahenakew, 71, said, "This… was the direct result of the pressure put on the advisory committee by some of the Jewish

Continued on page 14

Vandal given house arrest, probation for anti-Semitic spree

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The last of three young vandals who toppled headstones in a Jewish cemetery as part of an anti-Semitic rampage was sentenced last week.

Steven Vandermey, 19, was sentenced to six months house arrest, two years probation and ordered to pay $3,000 in restitution. He was convicted of five counts of simple mischief.

On March 19, 2004, Vandermey and two young offenders overturned 25 headstones at Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park, threw stones through the windows of the Pride of Israel Synagogue, defaced Jewish signs with swastikas and smashed windows at Eitz Chaim Day School. The incident followed shortly after another anti-Semitic rampage in Markham, in which homes were defaced with swastikas.

Vandermey's sentence – and those of the youths – disappointed Jewish organizations that monitor anti-Semitism. However, a rabbi who has met with Vandermey and discussed the incident with him believes the sentence is appropriate.

Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada said the sentence would fail to deter others contemplating a hate crime.

Continued on page 14

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Accepting responsibility

From the editor's desk

Fostering positive inter-ethnic relations and multicultural tolerance has been deemed so vital an aspect of the Canadian way of life that in 1982, the "founding political fathers" of the day decided to enshrine that collective, national goal into the over-arching, legal and societal framework of our constitution.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 27, says, "Shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."

Indeed, so high a value have we placed on achieving and maintaining societal harmony, that in certain instances we attach greater importance to this aim than in ensuring an unfettered right to freedom of speech.

It was this trade-off – reducing the individual right to freedom of speech for the sake, theoretically at least, of trying to ensure intra-communal tolerance and of protecting minority rights – that was the legal underpinning for the charges that lead to the conviction last month of David Ahenakew on a charge of wilfully promoting hatred against an identifiable group.

In sentencing Ahenakew to a fine of $1,000, Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judge Marty Irwin said that the defendant's statement that the Jews were a disease "clearly dehumanized the Jewish people" and amounted to an invitation to extremists "to take action against them."

Ahenakew did not respond well to the judgment or to the fine. Though he may have felt chastened, he certainly showed no evidence of it. Nor did he show remorse, or regret, or sorrow for his behaviour. Rather, he actually seemed oblivious to the significance of the proceedings.

He cast blame for the outcome everywhere but upon himself. He pointed an angry, accusing finger in every direction but in the one that counted most – toward his own heart.

"I have learned that native people will never get good, solid justice in this country. My case was as much about racism against First Nations as it was about alleged racism against the Jewish people," he said.

No it was not.

Ahenakew's rant was completely untrue. The proceedings against him had nothing at all to do with his being a member of the First Nations.

Had *any* Canadian uttered the vile and hateful remarks Ahenakew did, in the same public circumstances, he or she too would have been subject to prosecution under the law.

It was his position of leadership – not his position of First Nations member – that attracted the attention of the press and then, ultimately, the crown attorney.

And it is as a leader that Ahenakew failed most egregiously. That he still did not grasp the deep nature of the offence he gave, showed perhaps a shallowness of mind. But his tirade against the judicial system showed beyond a doubt a refusal to accept responsibility for his actions, the very opposite of the quality that we esteem among leaders and that we hold to be the essence of exemplary *moral* behaviour.

Ahenakew's avoidance of responsibility, however, was a contemptible message to our youth.

And he compounded the contempt by unsubtley accusing the Jews of being behind the revocation of his Order of Canada distinction. "The decision by the advisory council is a clear indication of where the power in this country lies," he said.

Again, Ahenakew demonstrated an abject failure to comprehend the profoundly offensive nature of his behaviour. And again, he demonstrated a wilful refusal to bear the responsibility for the consequences of that behaviour.

In this latter regard, Ahenakew's accusations against the Jews sounded a dark, disquieting echo of the foul incontinent theories of Quebec lawyer Guy Bertrand.

Bertrand had argued that his client, Rwandan exile Leon Mugasera, who was accused of inciting hatred and genocide of the Tutsi minority in Rwanda, would not be able to get a fair hearing from the Supreme Court of Canada because the court was biased due to the appointment to the court by Justice Minister Irwin Cotler of Rosalie Abella, the wife of the former president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The appointment of Abella, Bertrand said, "can only lead a well-informed observer to conclude that unfortunately when you are powerful, rich and influential like the [CJC], for example, you can infiltrate the court through political and judicial lobbying."

The Supreme Court severely upbraided Bertrand for what it called his "unprofessional and unacceptable" behaviour. The court found that Bertrand had filed material that included "anti-Semitic sentiment and views that most might have thought had disappeared from Canadian society and even more so from legal debate in Canada."

It is a tribute to the soaring aspiration in this country to safeguard our multicultural fabric and to protect minority rights that the Governor General and the Supreme Court of Canada acted so decisively and so unambiguously against these two men who attempted to single out the Jews for hatred and suspicion. — ***MBD***

SeeJN

RAMON STREET NAMED

Ilan Ramon's widow was in Montreal recently to dedicate a new street, Ilan Ramon Crescent, in the late Israeli astronaut's name in the borough of Cote St. Luc-Hampstead-Montreal West. Rona Ramon, centre, said her husband, who died in February 2003 as the space shuttle Columbia tried to return to Earth, would have been humbled and flattered by the honour. She said she believes it's the first North American street to be named for Ramon. Pictured with her are Israeli Consul General Marc Attali, left, and Cote-St. Luc-Hampstead-Montreal West Mayor Robert Libman.

Festival to showcase various Jewish cultures

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Plans are underway for a two-day community-wide Jewish Mosaic festival celebrating the various Jewish cultures in Toronto.

The idea for the festival – organized by the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC), the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) – came about when representatives from the BJCC and Bernard Betel decided to create a joint program for seniors living in the north end of the city.

"We thought about celebrating both Jewish diversities and Jewish similarities," said Louise Goldhar, Bernard Betel assistant executive director.

After contacting JIAS, which had contacts for members of various cultural groups, the idea "mushroomed," Goldhar said, and the festival, set for June 11 and 12, 2006, grew to include community members of all ages.

At an information meeting, held last spring, "we were knocked over by the overwhelming positive response people had to the idea," said Janet Klein-Slavin, supervisor of the BJCC's fifty-five plus department.

To date, more than 20 countries will be represented, including Turkey, Iraq, Mexico, Scandinavia, Tunisia, China, India, and various Caribbean islands. "It has been a real eye-opener for us to see how many countries are represented here.

"This is an opportunity for people to showcase their culture – 'This is how we dance the horah, this is what we eat at Rosh Hashanah, this is what a boy wears for his bar mitzvah,'" Klein-Slavin said.

People also want to share their artifacts, clothing and photos, she said. "These items may be either unique to Jews from their respective country or may in fact, emphasize similarities."

In order to maintain strict kashrut, one kosher caterer will provide samples of food representing the various countries, she said.

The idea is for participants from each county to put together what they want to present to the community at large, Klein Slavin said. "Our involvement is to guide them. They need to plan their presentation. It is going to take the entire year for it to develop into a spectacular event."

Plans are for two-day festival to start at the BJCC on June 11, 2006, and continue at Bernard Betel the next day.

At the BJCC, there will be vendors, exhibitors, children's activities, dance, music, entertainment and kosher food.

At Bernard Betel, the plan is to have lectures, panel discussions, a small number of vendors and exhibitors, a kosher dinner and evening entertainment.

Another meeting aimed at those who want to participate in the festival as a representative of their country is being held on July 21. Those who plan to attend should call 416-225-2112, ext. 2, and leave a message.

Reena leader receives government appointment

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The appointment of Sandy Keshen, Reena president and CEO, to the board of Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), means the organization is being recognized for its impact on the community, says Charles Beer, a former minister of community and social services.

The networks, recently created by the McGuinty government – there are 14 across the province – are responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services to make it easier for patients to access care they need.

"This means that Sandy will be involved in the broad range of health services in the area. Her voice will be there to speak on behalf of the agency," Beer said at Reena's annual general meeting earlier this month.

Beer, now principal of Counsel Public Affairs Inc., said these bodies will become critical players in the delivery of health services.

Among the issues that need to be dealt with, he said, is the role that families play in the care of other family members.

"How can parents have a real say in what is happening to their child? The government has heard that families want a greater say in the development of programs for their children. What about aging parents? What is available in the community to help them?

"These are the questions that are starting to be asked. These are the issues that are on the table."

Sandy Keshen

Equitable funding is another critical issue that needs to be addressed, Beer said.

"We need a fair, equitable system, to which all families have access to services no matter where they live."

The government wants to develop a system that will give greater say to parents, he said. "Without agencies such as Reena, many families would not know where to turn. It is important that its voice is expressed."

The government's message, he said, is that "yes, it is going through a change and it can be unsettling, but at the end of the day, the province will be able to ensure that Reena will continue to meet the needs of the community.

"Reena will emerge stronger and more important in terms of how it assists families."

Also at the meeting, Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue and founding president of Reena, announced that the organization has acquired a new home in North York.

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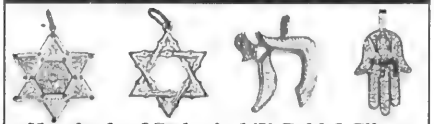

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Activist urges CZF to hold elections

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Benjamin Rubin wants to improve the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora, and he believes the way to do that is to introduce new leadership, ideas and energy into the "invisible, rudderless" Canadian Zionist Federation.

The CZF, an umbrella organization that represents Canada at the annual World Zionist Congress, has failed to carry out its mandate largely because it has not held elections for a generation, said Rubin, a Toronto-area lawyer.

The current CZF leadership, headed by president Norman Stern, is out of date and is failing to address the changing needs of the Diaspora community, Rubin said.

"They have done good things, but their experience of Israel is different for generational reasons. They have a very different mindset," said Rubin, 47, who lived in Israel for a few years and is now pressing for an election so that he can run for president of the organization.

However, Rubin can't run unless he is a member of one of CZF's 14 constituent organizations such as Herut-Likud Canada, the Reform movement-affiliated Arza Canada and Conservative-affiliated Mercaz Canada.

Rubin and his supporters are close to creating a group with 300 members – called the Zionist Leadership Initiative – the minimum number needed to join CZF as a constituent group.

He hopes that once part of CZF, the group will be able to force the federation to hold a proper election, in which the several thousand individual members of CZF's constituent organizations would be eligible to vote, rather than have its officials appointed by the heads of the constituent groups.

Rubin said that after being invited to a young Jewish leadership conference in Florida in 2000, he came to feel the CZF was not properly representing his generation.

"I am rooted in the Jewish community here. I went to Associated Hebrew Schools, I went to Brandeis University, I lived in Israel, I speak Hebrew, my kid is a [Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto] graduate, and another is going to Camp Ramah this summer… but I'm not officially represented by CZF," he said.

Stern, a 70-year-old pharmacist who became CZF president last month after Kurt Rothschild stepped down for personal reasons, said he's puzzled by Rubin's stance, since he has declined many requests to become involved with the group.

Stern agreed that the CZF needs young blood and said it's his goal to attract younger people.

He said he is already in the process of making contacts with young, Zionist Jews who are eager to begin working with the organization.

But Rubin said an election is the only way to encourage young people to join and discuss new ideas.

"Without elections, there's no debate. Without debate, there are no competing visions. I'm not looking to be obnoxious and start a fight. I just want to start a debate," he said.

Stern cited many reasons as to why CZF is unlikely to hold an election in the near future, including cost and the fact that voter turnout would probably be low because members don't know much about the umbrella organization.

He added that it's too late in the year to start an election campaign.

"Realistically, nothing can happen until September. Then it's yom tov and the holidays, then people start going off to vacation in Florida," he said with a laugh. "I'm not making excuses, but it's reality."

Stern added that the CZF's parent body, the World Zionist Organization (WZO), holds elections every year, and having a local vote on top of that would be too confusing and expensive.

"The constituents decided unanimously that it would be a mistake to call for a local election as well as a WZO election," Stern said. "The bottom line is that it makes no sense to hold two elections at the same time."

Another reason Stern would like to postpone holding CZF elections is that he wants to honour Rothschild, the group's former president, and planning that will take time and effort.

"If we are going to [honour Rothschild], we want to do it right. If we have to postpone [an election], then so be it," he said.

But he said the main reason Rubin has not received a positive response to his plan is that he and his organization are not yet part of the CZF.

"I would have a problem with someone who hasn't been involved and wants to run for president. I have asked him many times to work with us, but he has declined.

"It's like having him come to the *Canadian Jewish News* and say, 'I want to be hired as the managing editor,' but he's never read the paper," Stern said, just days after returning from this year's annual World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, which, among other initiatives, developed an aliyah program.

Rubin said the CZF's current leadership is afraid that if they called an election and no one took part, it would reveal the weakness of the organization and lead to internal conflict.

He said that with advances in technology, voting can be done over the phone or online, methods that are far less expensive than traditional balloting.

As for causing conflict, Rubin said competing views are just what the organization needs, adding that an election would be an opportunity to educate the community about the CZF.

Toronto student wins Zionist essay contest

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

He's been a finalist for the last two years and now, as he finished his last year of high school, David Tzvi Epstein won the 14th annual essay contest sponsored by the New York-based Morris and Betty J. Kaplun Foundation.

The aim of the competition is to get students thinking about Jewish and Zionist concepts. It has two levels, one for students in grades 7 to 9 and another for students from grade 10 to 12.

This year, the younger students were asked to consider "How Jewish values help make me a better person" while the question that Epstein answered was "Why does Israel matter to a Disapora Jew?"

There were 700 participants in all in the two categories.

"After working on it for so long, it's nice to be leaving school after eventually winning the competition," said Epstein, who graduated from Yeshivat Or Chaim last month.

David Tzvi Epstein

He is currently on a one-month program in Israel for the Weizmann Institute along with other students from all over the world. These students will be grouped with professors to review different institute projects.

He then plans to spend a year in Israel at Yeshivat Maale Gilboa.

First-place winners in each level received an $1,800 (US) prize.

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The real critical issue

The people who were slaughtered in London last week by craven terrorists were so hideously torched that their bodies were unidentifiable days after the bombings. Our hearts cry out in sorrow for the individuals who were killed and to their families and friends.

A group calling itself the the Secret Organization of Al Qaeda in Europe claimed credit for the bombings, although no one has confirmed the group's existence, let alone its responsibility for the attacks. Experts are agreed, however, that the barbaric Thursday morning assault on the commuters of London did appear to be the work of Al Qaeda.

British law enforcement and security agencies – and their allies – have now swung into full fighting form in an effort to apprehend the people responsible for the atrocities. Their task, of course, is the task of the entire peace-loving world. And we pray for their success.

In the two-pronged campaign to capture the planners and perpetrators of the murders and to prevent such further acts in the future, it is important that we recall the first principles surrounding the war against terrorism. It is especially vital in light of remarks by British Prime Minister Tony Blair last week that may have implied that the terrorism was linked to the unresolved Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"This type of terrorism has very deep roots," Blair said, "and as well as dealing with the terrible consequences of terrorism and trying to protect ourselves as much as any civilized society can, it's only when you start to pull it up by the roots that you'll deal with it.

"[We need to] create the circumstances in which there is a proper understanding between people of different faiths, in which *some of the critical issues in the Middle East* are dealt with and sorted out."

If by "critical issues in the Middle East," Blair is suggesting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he is completely wrong. The Islamist terrorists who were behind the London bombings are uninterested in the Palestinians and the Israelis signing an agreement to end their conflict. A peace treaty between the Palestinians and the Israelis will not calm the terrorists' roiling, revolutionary hearts. Their interest is not a treaty between two states, but rather the replacement of the Jewish state by a Muslim one.

If by "critical issues in the Middle East," Blair is suggesting the nearly total lack of freedom, lack of literacy, lack of political rights and lack of economic well-being and opportunity in the Arab world, he is correct, but only partially.

The terrorists attacked London because of their desire to harm the West – which they view as the ungodly avatar of Jewish and Christian values – at precisely the time when the West's leaders were meeting.

The roots of the terrorism that we saw last week in London coil twisted and sinister in the fertile soil of sheer Dark Age hatred. The people who are called upon to till that soil, namely Muslims in the Middle East and around the world, must emphatically reject that call.

Whether they do is the real "critical issue" in the Middle East.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

• At the UN Conference on Women, in Copenhagen, the Canadian government pondered how to respond to a Cuban proposal declaring Zionism to be one of the world's greatest evils. The conference, called to promote equality, development and peace, became a forum for anti-Israel sentiment.

• *The CJN* reported on the deaths of legendary Polish Yiddish actress, director and producer Ida Kaminska; Archie Bennett, who was one of the founders of Canadian Jewish Congress in 1919; and Florence Freedlander Cohen, founding editor of the *Canadian Jewish Review*.

Dry Bones

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERS HAVE STARTED TO ASSEMBLE AN
AID PACKAGE FOR THE PALESTINIANS THAT COULD REACH $3 BILLION!
AND THIS TIME ARAFAT WON'T BE THERE TO STEAL IT!
NOPE.
THIS TIME IT'LL BE HAMAS!

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Jewish refugees from Arab lands

I was very pleased to read the front page article "Canadian Jews to join campaign for refugees from Arab lands," (*CJN*, June 16), as well as your editorial concerning Jews from Arab lands ("Justice for Jewish refugees too") in the same paper.

The issue of Jewish refugees from Arab lands has been kept off the agenda for many years. It is becoming clear to all that it should have been discussed at any and all forums in the world, including Israel. However, in Israel authorities have avoided the issue, for reasons that likely had to do with Palestinians' demands for refugees' compensation. Clearly, their demands will not fade away, but in the interim ours have languished.

I POSTULATE THAT THEY ARE A LOST JEWISH TRIBE...WHEN I ASKED IF THEY PERFORMED SACRIFICES THEY SAID "ONLY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION"

Regrettably, your writer did not contact our organization, Association des Juifs Originaires d'Égypte (AJOE), for our point of view. We have on record testimonies of Jews from Egypt who were mistreated, incarcerated and tortured and whose assets were taken before they were expelled. We are willing to provide information to any organization that can help us move this issue to the forefront.

As you know, in the past, articles like yours have been printed, but without follow-up, progress is not made. As Prime Minister Paul Martin recently said in reference to Jewish refugees, "A refugee is a refugee." Recent or not, refugee issues that are unresolved continue to fester. Your article gives us hope that our case will be taken seriously.

Moshe Maurice Sadeh
Association des Juifs Originaires d'Égypte
Montreal

* * *

Bar association should deal with Bertrand

It is gratifying that the Supreme Court has reinstated a deportation order made almost a decade ago against Leon Mugesera, a former Rwandan politician, for inciting hatred, murder and genocide and committing a crime against humanity by persecuting Tutsis in Rwanda in 1992.

The court chastised Mugesera's lawyer Guy Bertrand for alleging partiality of the entire Supreme Court and saying it had been tainted by an alleged Jewish conspiracy. While the court described the allegations as scandalous and abusive ("Bertrand blasted for Jewish conspiracy charge," *CJN*, July 7), it is now incumbent on the Quebec Bar Association to take action against Bertrand for conduct unbecoming.

Just because Jewish organizations, who unfortunately know more about crimes against humanity than other ethnic groups, supported the government's application, it should in no way be categorized as a Jewish conspiracy. By stooping to such depths, Bertrand brought shame on himself and brings the entire profession into disrepute.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

Response to Grady-Share

What unmitigated, contemptuous chutzpah! That's the only way to describe Joshua Grady-Share's letter to the editor ("The Canadian Jewish community is lost," *CJN*, July 7).

Grady-Share can believe what he likes about the pullout from Gaza, but when he calls the democratically elected government of Israel "illegitimate" and describes the Canadian Jewish community as "lost," he crosses the line of legitimate discourse.

It's sad to see how even Zionism – the national liberation movement of the Jewish people – can be corrupted into simplistic and inflexible dogma by simplistic and inflexible people.

Mark Shainblum
Montreal

* * *

Mayne pioneered Jewish studies at U of O

Your very welcome story on the launching of the Vared Jewish Studies Program at the University of Ottawa ("Jewish Canadian studies program launched at U of O," *CJN*, June 23) left out a very important detail: the fact that Prof. Seymour Mayne of the University of Ottawa, renowned poet and leading authority on Canadian Jewish literature, was the actual pioneer of this wonderful initiative. His efforts over a number of years in the Ottawa Jewish community and at the university were what brought everyone together to make the program a reality.

Mayne is nationally recognized for teaching and mentoring generations of Jewish studies scholars, teachers and professors. Moreover, he will be teaching the Jewish literature component of the program. Without his involvement, the Vared Jewish Studies Program would not have the academic credibility and reputation that it will automatically achieve. To leave him out of the story was an unfortunate oversight.

Adam Fuerstenberg
Toronto

* * *

Seeking family of Nathan Bubbis

I am a nephew of Nathan S. Bubbis and his wife, Edith, who resides in the Sharon Home in Winnipeg.

In reviewing Edith Bubbis' file, the Provincial Trustee discovered several family documents.

I would be happy to forward these documents to anybody in the Bubbis or Goldstein family who wants them. Indicate your relationship to Nathan Bubbis and your interest in having the documents and I will be pleased to forward them.

Morley Sirlin
3181 Bayview Ave., #805, Toronto M2K 2Y2

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Israel's very hot summer

By DONALD CARR

It's already a hot summer in Israel. I don't mean the weather (although 31 to 32 degrees in Jerusalem is not exactly cool). Rather, the planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is the cause of the heat.

The unilateral decision by the government of Israel to remove the Jewish residents from the midst of that teeming hotbed of Palestinian rejectionism has created a palpable rift across the entire Israeli society.

The country is festooned with orange flags or ribbons denoting opposition to the withdrawal, or blue flags and streamers proclaiming support for the government's decision.

These overt demonstrations of rejection or acceptance are not the only manifestations. If they were, it would be healthy – a people expressing themselves openly in a democratic society.

But, unfortunately, it does not stop there.

A taxi company was told by one of its largest commercial customers that it would no longer receive that customer's patronage, because it was reported – not confirmed, just reported – that its drivers were exhibiting blue ribbons.

Far "right" demonstrators occupied an empty building in the Strip. They had to be expelled by army personnel.

Kach, the remnant of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane's legacy, is alleged to have been involved in the stoning of a young Palestinian Arab close by. The leaders of the residents and of the opponents to the withdrawal have disavowed Kach and now refuse to deal with its members.

The July 6 *Jerusalem Post* headlines proclaimed that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is leaving Benjamin Netanyahu to "sweat." Netanyahu voted in cabinet to delay the withdrawal and threatens to do so in the Knesset when there is a vote.The suggestion is that he will be fired as finance minister if he does this. So much for cabinet solidarity, which is non-existent in Israel.

It is wonderful to see the return this year of so many visitors from abroad. The hotels are full and so are the restaurants and the unique historical sites that only this country possesses.

And yet, this is a time when a terrible dilemma faces Israel. The Oslo accords and the U.S. "road-map" peace plan set forth the mutual steps to be taken by Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The goal? Some form of mutual "recognition," the formation of a Palestinian state and the establishment of recognized, secure borders for Israel. It was to be "land for peace." But as things have developed, little, if anything, has been done by the Palestinian Authority. Its president, Mahmoud Abbas, has failed miserably to curtail in any meaningful way the Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror organizations and all of those "freelance" groups that carry arms.

In addition to the reported rocket attacks, daily "incidents" occur – unreported outside of Israel. Hundreds of intended incursions by homicide bombers – not a day passes without one or two – are quietly thwarted by the Israel Defence Forces, but the world never hears of them.

"Land for peace" is a beautiful slogan that carries with it great hopes (whether or not realistic). "Land before peace," the slogan adopted by the opponents of withdrawal often seems to be more realistic.

It may well be that Israel has no viable alternative but to follow through with its plans to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. The condemnation of the rest of the world, including that of the United States, Israel's sole dependable ally, would be too much for this beleaguered country to absorb. However, there are countless indications that the fond hopes for the results of that withdrawal will not come to fruition and that it will truly be a unilateral act, with no reciprocity whatsoever.

The time is long past for any possibility of a referendum of the Israeli electorate on the question of a unilateral withdrawal. Perhaps one colossal mistake Sharon made was his failure to conduct a referendum at a time when it was not merely desirable, but also possible. If the current polls are correct, it might well have resulted in a vote in favour of unilateral withdrawal, but, at the very least, the opponents would have known that the Israeli public had spoken clearly. They could not have condemned the government or the prime minister, nor accused them of usurping democracy, as is now alleged by many.

Sharon addressed the assembly of the Jewish Agency on the morning of June 26. He spoke for about 20 minutes, spending a good part of his time exhorting people to make aliyah from North America.

The message was slightly "off-key" to an audience consisting primarily of wealthy fundraisers, the majority of whom are from the United States, although there were many from other countries, including Canada. Although several planeloads of new immigrants from North America (and other countries) will be landing here next week, few, if any, of Sharon's audience are likely to join them.

He also thanked the audience for being in Israel at this time. (Most Israeli speakers do the same, much to my chagrin.) There is no need to thank anyone for coming to Israel at any time. Rather, those of us who come here should be offering thanks to the Israelis, for what they do constantly to preserve the centrality of Jewish life in this world.

Disappointingly, the prime minister said little about the impending withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the dismantling of the area known as Gush Katif.

And, more disappointingly, he said nothing about the pain and utter misery of the approximately 9,000 people in 22 communities there, who will be obliged to abandon the homes and businesses they have built lovingly over the past 20 or 30 years. They had been encouraged in that venture by successive Israeli governments – Labour, Likud and coalitions alike – all the way back to 1972, when Golda Meir's administration approved the establishment of the first community there.

This uprooting, no matter how essential, is terribly traumatic for many. It is not just the abandonment of homes, schools, beautifully landscaped parks, shops, hothouses that have produced the most amazing crops, and the crops, themselves – everything that makes for an established community. What is to happen to the cemeteries, which are the resting places of so many who defended Israel, so many killed by terrorists and so many mothers, fathers and children of those obliged to leave?

The future for these people is also filled with doubt. Where will they live? What schools will their children be able to attend? What will be their livelihoods? Who will be their new friends? Government compensation, while welcome, will not redress all of these kinds of human loss.

What a wonderful opportunity the prime minister had to reiterate to the world what Israel is relinquishing in order to meet hopes that come with no guarantees! What a lost opportunity!

The Palestinian Arabs take every opportunity to belabour the world media with every bit of damage or destruction, every injury and every death. Israel still fails miserably to make its case to the world, to demonstrate the incessant breaches of commitments made by the Palestinian Authority, resulting in damage, injuries and death, not to mention its total abandonment of any reciprocity.

Nothing is said about a Ministry of Education handbook, issued on June 8 to the 45 communities in Israel close to the Gaza Strip, advising how to prepare for the expected attacks that will follow the withdrawal from Gush Katif – not "possible" attacks, but "expected" attacks.

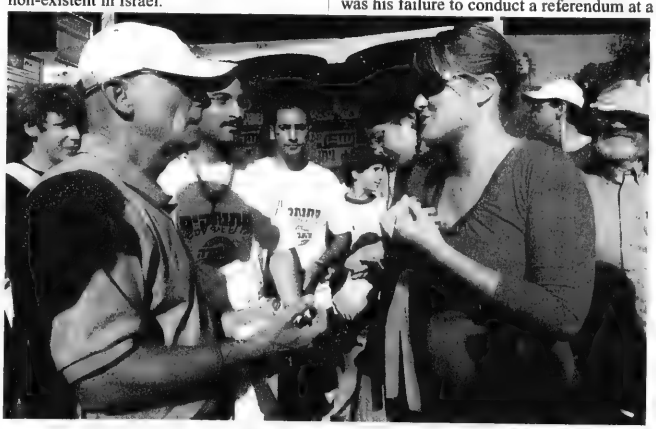
Special IDF units, supported by border and civilian police personnel, forcibly removed some 150 anti-disengagement activists from the Moaz Yam Hotel in Neveh Dekalim in the Gaza Strip last week. [Isranet photo]

And little is said about the residents of Gush Katif caught in the political machinations of a world that hopes desperately for a peaceful Middle East, yet knows little and perhaps cares less about the fact that the outlook – the "worldview" – of the enemies of Israel and the Jewish People has no room for "peace" as we know that term and no room for an alien body existing on lands regarded by those enemies as Muslim.

We leave to return to Toronto in a few days. As always, it will be with sadness. But, this time, the sadness is magnified because we know that in a few weeks this society, one way or the other, will embark upon one of its severest tests. One prays that the result will be positive.

It is often said that it is a miracle that the Jewish People, like no other, exists, despite British historian Arnold Toynbee's reference to us as fossils. It is against all logical odds – a miracle – that the State of Israel exists and flourishes. There will continue to be miracles!

Donald Carr, a longtime community activist, is the president of The CJN.



Former Shin Bet head Ami Ayalon tries to give blue and white ribbons, signifying support for the Gaza disengagement plan, to protesters holding orange ribbons, signifying opposition to the plan. [Israel Sun photo]

Diaspora synagogues at risk

A malicious joke has it that synagogues in outer space are Reform: no atmosphere. Reform congregations have tried to alter that image for the last 50 years. Hence their frequent experiments with liturgy and worship space in an effort to be more "user friendly."

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Though progress can be reported, success has been elusive, for the problem is endemic to most congregations, irrespective of denomination. Larger synagogues try to alleviate it by offering variety and, at the same time, meeting the demand for smaller units: junior congregations, learners' minyanim, child friendly services, "traditional" davening, etc.

Yet, it does not seem to be enough. For most members of large congregations are not regular worshippers. They come mainly to bar or bat mitzvahs and services for other life-cycle events. They often leave dissatisfied, vainly yearning for warmth and a personalized ambience that would make their celebration or commemoration memorable. As others present may have different needs, also expecting special attention, there just may not be enough rabbinic bonhomie and "warmth" to go around. Hence the frustration.

And hence the demand for private bar and bat mitzvah services. These would be more intimate and relieve participants of feeling lost in the crowd. If that's not provided, people complain and, at times, after the event, let their shul membership lapse. Most unaffiliated Jews belonged to a synagogue when they and their children were of bar or bat mitzvah age.

Some say they would not have left had the congregation been small. But small congregations cannot afford the benefit of clergy and must rely on members' abilities to lead services and read Torah. The overwhelming majority of Jews, however, lack such skills. They need to be "besung" and "beprayed" by professionals, even when they would happily give up on being "bepreached." That is why many of the still-existing "do it yourself" services are hives of comparative ignorance.

The traditional shtiebl may be the ideal, but nowadays it only rarely maintains itself satisfactorily. Breakaway congregations and chavurot seldom succeed. They either fold or they grow to resemble the places the founders wanted to get away from.

Another oft-cited reason for quitting shul is the cost. But that may be only an excuse, for most congregations offer dues relief to members in need. Those who are refused may have demonstrated that affiliation is not important enough to them. Indifference is a popular cover-up for ignorance and disaffection.

The challenge of the modern synagogue is to stay financially viable and religiously vibrant while trying to be intimate and attentive to individual needs. Perhaps it's not doing enough, but the task may be beyond the possible.

Which is another reason why we should worry about Jewish life in the Diaspora. If the synagogue fails, can anything take its place?

A volunteer experience like no other

Over the past year, I have had the incredible fortune in this column of being able to reflect on three Israel trips.

Last fall, I wrote about the diversity of my experiences on the Hasbara Fellowships trip, and last month about the lessons I learned on the March of the Living. Since then, I returned to Israel as a student madrichah (leader) and senior hasbara fellow on this year's Israel activism training program for Canadian university students.

Jessica Apter in Vancouver

My friends and I always return from these trips with stories about the people we've met and re-connected with, how many hot soldiers we saw – but who's counting – and our realizations about how much older we are than most of them, and where we prayed, learned or partied – or all three. While those experiences represent many of the most intensely happy times of my life, they tend to blur together.

I am grateful to an organization called Or Meir – and my friend Margaux who encouraged me to volunteer there – for some of the most memorable hours that I spent in Israel during the past month.

Not knowing what to expect, I showed up on a Thursday morning at the apartment where Leora Tedgi, the founder of Or Meir, lives with her husband Nissim and 10 children. They welcomed me into their home, located in a religious Jerusalem neighbourhood, and offered me snacks and drinks, all of which, they jokingly assured me, were kosher.

Leora's eldest daughter, Sarit, an instant friend, chatted about the degrees we are working toward, mine in criminology and hers in early childhood education, and then she brought out her laptop to show me a DVD presentation about the organization that her mother started after she miscarried one of her twins as a result of witnessing a terror attack outside her synagogue. Or Meir now provides food to hundreds of families of terror victims around the country.

Upon hearing the sound of a truck backing up into the driveway next to the family's apartment, Leora and Sarit motioned for me to follow them outside. As I stepped onto their porch, I was amazed at what seemed like an endless supply of challah being unloaded into the alleyway. The day's work began as we packaged the fresh challot in twos, to be blessed the next night at Shabbat dinners across the country.

Soon after the first truck was emptied, another showed up, this one even bigger and full of zucchini and eggplant, all riper and more deeply coloured than any produce I've ever seen in a Canadian grocery store. Next came tomatoes, onions, apples, oranges, cartons of juice and more, as well as the plastic bags and baskets that would be used to deliver them to the many recipients of Or Meir's service.

Then the other volunteers started arriving. They spoke French and English and Hebrew, came in all ages, were black and white, male and female, religious and secular, Sephardi and Ashkenazi, right-wing, left-wing and everything in between. There were university students and yeshiva students, some of whom, like myself, were there as a one-time deal along with others who return every Thursday to prepare food parcels for the terror victims. Best of all, this was an island in a sea of blue and orange t-shirts, the symbols of fierce national debate about Israel's pending disengagement from the Gaza Strip.

They came by bus and car and foot and taxi, smiling determinedly as they approached the rainbow of food stacked taller than their own heads. If my description seems melodramatic, it's because you just haven't seen anything like it.

This volunteer experience was unlike any I'd had before. In the alleyway beside the Tedgi apartment, Leora becomes a mother to more than her 10 children. As the lines that usually classify Jews in the divided society of Israel melt away on that driveway, the volunteers at Or Meir become members of one dedicated and generous family.

When I grudgingly left for Tel Aviv in the late afternoon, it was not before I received rounds of hugs and kisses from Leora and Sarit, and not before I promised them that I would return for many more Thursdays in Jerusalem.

Holding on to that wanderlust

My travels have come to an end. The days of waking up in one city and going to bed in another are no more. It was an amazing six weeks, but, as always, all good things must come to an end.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

Travelling on my own was the experience of a lifetime. There are so many stories to tell, and as the jet lag begins to subside, memories of my trip remain at the forefront of my mind.

Travelling on my own, I had the opportunity to meet many people and engage in tons of interesting conversations. No matter where I was in Europe, though, one thing that always brought a smile to my face was the sound of Hebrew. Yes, there is something slightly odd about walking through halls of Christian art in Florence's Uffizi Gallery against the backdrop of discussions in Hebrew, but when you're in a country where you don't speak the language, it's always nice to get a little bit of comfort from home, and for me, that's what the sound of Hebrew evokes.

I happened to be in Florence for Shabbat and decided to attend services at the magnificent synagogue there. At shul, I met a group of Israelis studying Italian in Florence, as well as a bunch of fellow student travellers who, like me, found themselves in Florence on Shabbat and wanted a Jewish experience.

After touring the old Jewish ghetto in Venice and the numerous magnificent synagogues there, it was amazing to see the Great Synagogue in Florence. In Venice, municipal law prevented the construction of new buildings in the ghetto, meaning synagogues had to be built on top of or into existing buildings. But the synagogue in Florence, the first free-standing synagogue in Italy, is a tremendous sight, from the outside as well as the inside.

Its huge domes reach to the sky and stand prominently in the city's skyline. And after visiting so many magnificent churches and sites of Christian history, it's always interesting to see a Jewish site and start to understand the history of Europe's distinct Jewish communities.

> 'It's so refreshing to take the time to explore and look around'

But the best part of my Shabbat in Florence was the opportunity to meet fellow Jewish travellers from around the world and get that sense of being home that only comes from meeting people with a shared sense of community.

Travelling by myself, I really had the opportunity to experience the different cultures of every city I visited. It's very easy to seek out the familiar, but being on my own, I was really motivated to experience the places I visited on their own terms.

We all like to joke about the stereotypical tourist, camera and map in hand, who misses out on so much while trying to get to the famous landmark that everyone has to visit. Some of the best moments of my travels came when I set my map and guidebook aside and wandered into an out-of-the-way neighbourhood or a local restaurant where I got the chance to see and feel "normal" life, rather than simply have the ultimate tourist experience.

But now that I find myself back in Toronto and about to head off to Montreal for five weeks of intensive French study, I resolve to try to maintain a little bit of a traveller's attitude while at home. It's so refreshing to take the time to explore and look around, to focus on the path rather than the final destination.

At home, it's really easy to slip back into the comforts of routine, so over the coming weeks, I hope to rely a little bit on the traveller mentality and see what it leads me to discover here, at home.

The Kirshner File

German woman preserves Jewish history

Thanks to Cordula Kappner, a gentle, self-effacing woman with a searing conscience, the vanished world of Lower Franconia's Jews, wiped out by the Nazis through edicts, violence and murder, has been documented for the edification of future generations. Since 1985, Kapper, a 64-year-old retired librarian from the town of Hassfurt, has single-handedly staged 35 exhibits on these nearly forgotten Jewish communities.

Sheldon Kirshner in Hassfurt

Virtually no one else in this picturesque part of Bavaria, bisected by the Main River and known for its rolling hills, vineyards and quaint villages with half-timbered buildings, has gone to the trouble of preserving their history. In recognition of her achievements, Kappner received the Obermayer German Jewish Community History Award two years ago.

Her newest exhibition, which is scheduled to open in November, profiles the Jewish presence in Maroldsweisach, a village north of Hassfurt. Fifteen Jews lived there in 1933, the year Adolf Hitler assumed power.

A view of Ebelsbach

Lower Franconia had 9,000 Jewish inhabitants on the eve of the Nazi era, scattered in cities, towns and villages such as Bamberg, Hofheim and Eltmann. In Hassberge, the county where she resides, there were 445 Jews.

To the best of her knowledge, Jews arrived in Lower Franconia – a politically conservative area – in the 12th century, settling in some 28 localities. They were primarily itinerant peddlers and cattle dealers, observed the strictures of Orthodox Judaism, and were generally poor. With their emancipation in the last third of the 19th century, they left burgs such as Friesenhausen, Gleusdorf, Knetzgau and Altenstein and migrated to villages.

During World War I, 165 young Jewish men joined the German army, and 24 were killed in the fighting.

Traditional anti-Semitism was deeply rooted in Lower Franconia's soil. When a four-year-old boy was found dead in the hamlet of Manau in 1929, Jews were accused of murdering him. The blood libel was blown up by local Nazis. As life became increasingly intolerable for Jews in the 1930s, they began emigrating. On Kristallnacht, in November 1938, mobs burned down the synagogue in Burgpreppach. No other shuls in the region suffered that fate because they were too close to Christian houses, although Torah scrolls and prayer books elsewhere were desecrated.

Shortly after Kristallnacht, Kappner said, public schools expelled Jewish students. As a result, one Jewish family, the Eckmanns, arranged for their daughter Leni to live in Brussels. She survived the German occupation in an orphanage, and after the war, an uncle brought her to Canada, where she was married and had two children. Today, Leni Hoffman lives in Calgary.

A Plaque in Hassfurt commemorates the synagogue. *[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

Deportations started in late 1941 and continued for the next two years. Jews were sent to Riga, Izbica, Thereriensadt and Auschwitz. Kappner said that only two Jews, a man and a woman, managed to avoid the deportations.

These events, which rendered Hassberge county all but Judenrein, prompted Kappner to organize her first exhibit in Hassfurt, population 14,000 counting surrounding villages. The last Jews of Hassfurt were deported on June 8, 1942. These days, there are no Jews in Hassfurt, but Kappner has heard that a few Jews, who prefer not to identify themselves as Jewish, have returned to the town. The synagogue, built in 1888, was left standing, and is now a suite of medical offices.

Kappner's inaugural exhibit dealt with the deportation of Jews from Lower Franconia, as have many of her subsequent exhibits. On principle, she has never asked for financial assistance, though she did accept a room in a school to mount the first one. "I wanted to be independent," explained Kappner, who retired two years ago.

Cordula Kappner

The first exhibit broke a taboo. "People tended to sweep such matters under the rug," she said. Nevertheless, it struck a chord. "People around here are sincerely sorry for what happened," she said, referring to the Hitler era and the Holocaust.

But a minority of diehards vehemently oppose her activities and remain unrepentantly anti-Semitic. In 2003, a vandal scrawled a Star of David on her house. Out of ignorance, cynicism or malice, the police cast the incident in a positive light, claiming it was meant to commemorate the Holocaust. As well, Kappner was the recipient of an abusive postcard. During the 1970s, vandals desecrated Jewish cemeteries in Memmelsdorf and Untermerzbach, and in 1988, they sprayed a Jewish cemetery in Burgpreppach with swastikas. In all, there are eight Jewish cemeteries in Lower Franconia.

In mounting her exhibits, Kappner has amassed a mountain of material that she stores in an archive in Ebelsbach, a scenic village in the folds of a dense forest southeast of Hassfurt where Jews once lived. Packed to the ceiling with documents, books and folders, the archive is housed in a small room on the second floor of Ebelsbach's municipal building. During my visit, the mayor personally offered his greetings and complimented Kappner on her dedication.

Her interest in German Jews was kindled by a Jewish teacher, a Holocaust survivor. He introduced her to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which had an enormous impact on her. "I couldn't forget it. I identified with the Jews."

Born in Dresden, in what would later become Marxist East Germany, she was raised in a Christian milieu. "We were apolitical. We were not Communists," said Kappner, a supporter of the left-of-centre Social Democratic party.

Her father, a soldier in the Wehrmacht, was based in France during the war, and did not fire a shot. But his brother was a Nazi.

Anti-Semitism was banned in East Germany. Yet anti-Semitic attitudes persisted, never really disappearing, she said.

Kappner, who is single, studied library science in Hamburg, in a building that housed a Talmud Torah school before the war. She arrived in Hassfurt in 1979, having been hired as director of the library.

Hassfurt, where prominent Nazi Fritz Saukel was born in 1894, invited former Jewish residents to a ceremony marking its 750th anniversary in 1988.

About 10 invitees showed up, and some came from as far away as Israel, which Kappner has visited 20 times in the last 35 years. She has also paid visits to Majdanek and Sobibor, the death camps in Poland.

In 1988, Hassfurt honoured the victims of Nazism by erecting a stylized sculpture in a wooded park. The grey monument, which is partially obscured by a tree and a bush, contains a biblical verse, rendered in German and Hebrew, from Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Kappner likes the sculpture, but believes it should be augmented with a plaque that explicitly mentions the Holocaust.

Like many Germans, she cannot understand how the Holocaust could have happened in a nation as civilized and advanced as Germany. "Civil courage is not a strong German trait," she claimed, a hint of sadness and regret in her voice.

Not all that surprisingly, she is ambivalent about being German. Her ambivalence is such that she drives an Italian-made Fiat rather than a German car. "I always see the gas chambers," she said. "In my next life, I'll be French," she quipped.

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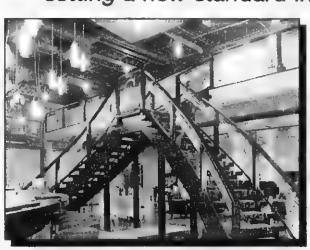

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Jewish Life

The blue and the grey

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Roots & Remembrance

It's hard to believe, but there were Jews in Toronto, and probably Montreal as well, who were drawing monthly pensions from the U.S. government as late as 1925 for their participation as soldiers in the American Civil War.

An index of Civil War pension recipients indicates that some 4,966 veterans of America's bloodiest conflict filed pension applications from Canada. Although there is no way to determine their religion, one may guess that hundreds of Jewish Canadians served as soldiers – and not all wore Union blue. Some would have sided with Britain and worn the grey uniforms of the Confederate South.

A search for common Jewish surnames like Cohen and Levine produces dozens of results from the Ancestry.com database. Abraham C. Cohen of Toronto, for example, filed for his pension on November 27, 1925, some 60 years after the end of the conflict. Cohen might have been only 15 years old or younger when he served.

Moses Bilsky (1829-1923), one of Canada's most notable Jewish Civil War veterans, is absent from the pension list. A founder of Ottawa's Jewish community, he was lured to California by the Gold Rush and eventually joined Abraham Lincoln's Guard at the beginning of the strife. Although never given the opportunity of serving in the east, he helped subdue a riot in San Francisco after Lincoln's assassination. He was back in Ottawa by 1869.

At least 30,000 Canadians fought in the U.S. Civil War, according to Toronto author Claire Hoy, whose book *Canadians in the Civil War* was published by McArthur & Co. in 2004.

Many were attracted by "generous signing bonuses of $200 or considerably more offered by Northern authorities to replenish their depleted ranks," Hoy writes. "Others were youthful adventurers caught up in what they saw as the romance and excitement of it all." Still others were kidnapped and sold to compliant U.S. Army recruiters, much as Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt.

Several Jews from the Canadian territories may have been part of the Union's 23rd Regiment from Cincinnati, which was stationed near Fayette, W. Va. in 1861. As Passover approached, 20 Jewish soldiers received permission from their commanding officer to observe the holiday. To their delight, a requested shipment of seven barrels of matzot, plus several Haggadahs, arrived in camp on the morning of Erev Pesach.

According to an 1866 account by Union soldier J. A. Joel, the group built a log hut for services and foraged the countryside for the other requisites of the seder. "We obtained two kegs of cider, a lamb, several chickens and some eggs," Joel wrote. "Horseradish or parsley we could not obtain, but in lieu we found a weed whose bitterness, I apprehend, exceeded anything our forefathers 'enjoyed.'"

The service began at nightfall and went smoothly until the bitter herb was to be ingested. "We all had a large portion of the herb ready to eat at the moment I said the blessing; each ate his portion, when horrors! what a scene ensued in our little congregation, it is impossible for my pen to describe. The herb was very bitter and very fiery like cayenne pepper, and excited our thirst to such a degree that we forgot the law authorizing us to drink only four cups, and the consequence was we drank up all the cider."

For Joel's complete narrative and other material about Jewish soldiers of the Civil War, please visit the website www.jewish-history.com.

Oh, those glorious High Park picnics

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Sephardi community in Canada. This column is part of a series chronicling the beginnings of the community in Toronto.

Through A Sephardi Window

The working week was long and hard. In the evening, people would arrive at home after their TTC rides and find that there was little time to do anything other than unwind, eat dinner, prepare for the next day and go to sleep. Such was the routine, week after week.

The weekends were looked upon, as I suppose they still are, with much anticipation. Saturday was Shabbat, with half the day spent in synagogue – praying yes, but also nurturing and maintaining social contacts, and celebrating life cycle events.

Then came Sunday. Ah, Sunday. This was the day to picnic. For us immigrants, Sundays, especially summer Sundays, represented an opportunity. During the week, especially in the winter, we were holed up in our apartments, as none of us owned houses (and certainly no one ever dreamed of owning a cottage). There were no backyards. We existed in an environment that was small and enclosed – travelling from office or factory to home, and back again.

But there is a human desire for open spaces – to stand under the sky with your feet planted directly on the ground, to feel the warm rays of the sun and a breeze on your face. These are needs that a concrete balcony could not satisfy.

Large extended families would participate in these Sunday outings. If you had no family in Canada, friends were adopted and became your family.

Boisterous groups would lay claim to choice picnic areas in places such as High Park or Jackson's Point. The first person to arrive would immediately commandeer as many picnic tables as possible. Then they would wait along the road to the park and direct others to the location of the campsite. The women would sit and play cards in the shade. Elsewhere, the men would gather and debate anything from sports to politics. We kids would play ball, romp and go swimming – but never, ever after eating.

Downwind was the site of the barbecuing. At lunch, all sorts of delicious meats – and even fresh sardines – were placed on the coals. Salads of all kinds were prepared and laid out. Cold beers were covertly consumed (this was Canada, after all).

Sunsets in lakeside cottages were for Canadians. We immigrants had to make due with public parks, and we relished this benefit of citizenship by every Sunday establishing a new campsite for ourselves, if only for one day. Poor Canadians, we thought. They have to go back to their same old cottage week after week. We, on the other hand, had our High Park and Grenadier Pond, as well as Jackson's Point, the Toronto Islands, and Wilket Creek Park (Earl Bales Park did not yet exist).

It was a marvellous time. What a shame it came to an end.

Parents began to buy houses and lamely traded these glorious picnic spots for their own backyards. We kids grew up and were no longer interested in going on these weekly excursions. We, too, became Canadian. Some of us even bought into the cottage lifestyle and bequeathed those coveted campsites to the next wave of immigrants to enjoy as a refuge from their own hot and cramped apartments.

Jewish Life

Clinton's failings and his successes

***The Survivor: Bill Clinton in the White House* by John. F. Harris, Random House.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

As U.S. president, Bill Clinton was nothing if not resilient; it was perhaps his most enduring and outstanding attribute.

Former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, Clinton's abrasive political opponent, once offered this barbed prediction: "Mr. President, we are going to run you out of town." He should have known better. In a previous encounter, Clinton had assured him: "Do you know who I am? I'm the big rubber clown doll you had as a kid and every time you hit it, I bounce back. That's me – the harder you hit me, the faster I come back up."

John Harris was the *Washington Post*'s White House correspondent from 1995 to 2000. In a clear, balanced, informed and scrupulously honest account, he describes all the significant events of the Clinton years, as well as the former president's conspicuous personal failings and hard-won successes.

Despite his widely denounced sexual misadventures and the dramatic impeachment process, Americans voted for him because of his undeniable charisma, unquenchable optimism and political astuteness. Opinion polls found that if he had been permitted to run for a third term, even after all the scandals and skulduggery, he'd have won with ease.

Harris is sure that however reckless and irresponsible Clinton could sometimes be in his personal relations, he nonetheless brought "a dutiful sensibility to his public life."

Although Clinton was often indecisive when vital decisions had to be made and although he examined and re-examined policy choices endlessly, he usually made the proper decisions in the end, Harris writes.

"On Bosnia in the early years and then on Kosovo in 1999, the president did shrink from military action while hostilities continued and innocent people died. But the war in Bosnia was settled at an administration-sponsored peace conference in Ohio in 1995, and a few weeks of American bombing persuaded [former Serbian leader] Slobadan Milosevic to give up his assault on Kosovo in 1999. By the time Clinton left office, Bosnia was in the midst of a peaceful recovery, and Milosevic had been deposed from power and was awaiting trial as a war criminal."

However, Clinton ordered the bombing of a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan – a decision he made, it has been suggested, to distract attention from [Monica] Lewinsky's testimony at the Starr inquiry. The inquiry was due to begin the day of the cruise missile attack – Aug. 20, 1998.

In the aftermath of the Lewinsky scandal, Clinton met with a group of clergymen at a prayer breakfast. He opined that perhaps something good could emerge for America's families from the sordid scandal and that by his example "the children of this country can learn in a profound way that integrity is important and selfishness is wrong." Clinton continued, "God can change us and make us strong at the broken places." How sincere his contrition was remains in doubt.

Harris devotes considerable space to Clinton's relationship with Israel. Toward former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, his feelings bordered on adulation. Some of his advisers observed that Clinton seemed to regard the gruff Israeli as something of a father figure.

At the Camp David peace summit in July 2000, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak offered more concessions to former Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat then ever before. Clinton pleaded with Arafat: "This is the best deal you're gonna get. For God's sake, don't turn this down. It'll never get better." But Arafat was unable or unwilling to accept the blessing of peace. The result was the senseless and bloody intafadah.

This unfailingly absorbing account serves as a necessary corrective to Clinton's own recent autobiography.

Readers' favourites, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Every week, I scour the Internet to tell you about the best Jewish and Israeli websites. But on the Internet, there's always something new and thankfully, people who want me to know about it. This week and next, I once again turn the column over to readers who recommend sites that have caught their eye – or may even have created themselves.

Batya Medad writes from Israel. "I write two blogs, as a proper Jewish Gemini should. The first, Shiloh Musings, contains essay, political commentary. They're based on my life, here in Shiloh. I weave the personal, spiritual and political with a dose of humour here and there." **[http://shiloh musings.blogspot.com/]** Medad continues, "Me-ander, my second blog, is both a poetic diary and notes and reflections on shiurim, Torah classes, I take on Tehillim, Psalms and Kohelet, Ecclesiastes." **[http://me-ander.blogspot.com/]**

Medad's range is indeed wide. Regarding the disengagement, she says, "We must keep reminding our fellow Jews of the immorality of their actions." She criticizes Jewish freelancers who give away their material to Jewish community papers and make life difficult for working journalists. And she talks about health issues, including having a good night's sleep and Brooke Shields and postpartum depression.

Larry Grossman, from Benicia, Calif., has written to update me about "the best portal to Jewish webcasting." He said that "The Jewish Webcasting Guide now catalogues about 150 [webcasts/ers worldwide] and has a backlog of about 100." Grossman has done an incredible amount of work listing sites such as Jadio, "Jewish lectures and discussions authored by some of the world's most compelling Jewish scholars," and jewTunes, "Youthful, hip and iconoclastic Jewish music webcasting." **[www.jewishwebcasting.com]**

Harris Gulko writes from Jerusalem, "I am an ex-Torontonian, formerly the national director of Jewish National Fund of Canada, now retired, living in Israel… I invite you to check out my website, which displays many of my original oil paintings – landscapes, seascapes, religious themes, Israeli sites, abstracts and more." **[www.gulkopaintings.com/gallery.html]**

And finally, three different kinds of singers. A few weeks ago, I told you about the Eurovision song contest in which Israel would be competing with 38 other countries for musical supremacy. Shiri Maimon surprised the competition by placing a respectable fourth with *Hasheket Shenish'ar* (*The Silence That Remains*). Brian Torobin writes, "If you did not get a chance to see the shows, here are two links to Dutch television's streaming feed of both the semifinal and the final." **[http://tinyurl.com/bwqdq]** You can watch it all or jump straight to Maimon at the 30:30 mark of the semi-final **[http://tinyurl.com/bwqdq]** and at 48:20 of the final. **[http://tinyurl.com/9s4el]** Greece took home first prize. You can watch Helena Paparizou's winning entry at 1:22:30.

Charlie Bernhaut writes, "I am a co-founder of Cantors World, an organization dedicated to reviving and promoting traditional chazzonus." What I particularly like about the site is that it not only celebrates such giants of Jewish cantorial music as Yossele Rosenblatt but also promotes new talent, such as Berel Zucker, winner of the Cantors World Talent Search. There's a section where cantors looking for employment and congregations looking for cantors can talk about themselves. **[www.cantorsworld.com]**

And Dan Hartal wrote with a request. He'd like me to do a column on Jewish rock bands. Sounds interesting... but I'd be derelict if I didn't mention that Hartal takes a particular interest in this topic because he is none other than "Schmelvis." As profiled in *The CJN* **[www.cjnews.com/viewarticle.asp?id=6077],** when you take some schtick and add Elvis, you wind up with… Schmelvis. And if you wind up at Schmelvis' site, you can watch him deliver his heartfelt ode *Love Me Blender*. **[www.elvisschmelvis.com/music.html]**

Do you have a favourite Jewish or Israeli website? Or have you created one yourself? Tell me about it at the address below and I may mention it in the future.

Don't forget, the Maccabiah Games are now underway in Israel, and Ynetnews.com is providing real-time coverage of the events. **[www.ynetnews.com]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Morgan praises relationship with Aborignals

Continued from page 3

community, including a letter-writing campaign and the lobbying of Canadian Jewish Congress... The decision by the advisory council is a clear indication of where the power in this country lies." He said he would not voluntarily relinquish the Order of Canada.

Jewish organizations welcomed the guilty verdict. Congress spokesperson Wendy Lampert said the conviction "is an expression to Canadians that this kind of hatred is unacceptable."

Congress CEO Bernie Farber said that at the press conference, Ahenakew "basically repeated the same anti-Semitic calumnies, a little more carefully."

In a statement released following Ahenakew's press conference, B'nai Brith Canada said, "Ahenakew has proved yet again that his hate crime conviction is fully justified.

"What is particularly outrageous is that Ahenakew hides behind the good name of First Nations peoples by invoking their communal history to justify his wilful promotion of hatred. His allegations of conspiracy theories targeting the Jewish community should be denounced."

Congress president Ed Morgan said, "Ahenakew's actions may have temporarily captured the attention of Canadians, but they do not define the relationship between the Jewish and Aboriginal communities. Our communities have a long history of interconnection and compassion for each other's issues, and that will not change because of an individual."

Morgan and Farber were in Yellowknife last week where Morgan addressed the AFN at the invitation of AFN chief Phil Fontaine. He said he mentioned the Ahenakew case in his address and the issue came up during discussions.

"I'm hopeful, and I think the AFN leaders are hopeful, that eventually there is a silver lining in this cloud. It will prompt us to get to know each other better," he said.

Fontaine has committed to participating in a mission to Israel, where developments in agriculture, water management and the resurrection of the Hebrew language interest Canadian native leaders, Morgan said.

For their part, Morgan and Farber agreed to visit native reserves to better understand conditions there.

Morgan was told by Aboriginal leaders that Ahenakew did not represent Indian groups. However, he did hear from some native sources that they feel more attention is paid to anti-Semitic outbursts than to the racism suffered by native peoples.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine presents a gift to CJC National President Ed Morgan following his speech at the AFN annual meeting last week.

Sentence upsets Jewish groups

Continued from page 3

Joel Richler, chair of Congress' Ontario region, said "our frustration lies in the fact this sentence cannot be taken as a serious deterrent for crimes of hate... A crime like this victimizes the survivors of the Holocaust, their families and the Jewish community. As such, it cannot be forgotten."

"These event traumatized the Jewish community as well as the community at large. No sentence will ever take away the hurt this young man and his accomplices caused," added David Engel, chair of the UJA Federation board.

B'nai Brith called the sentence "minimal" and said it "shows the need for review of hate crimes cases."

The sentence "shows just how weak the justice system is when it comes to hate-related activity," B'nai Brith said in a news release.

In the initial stages of Vandermey's case, the crown had charged Vandermey with the more serious offence of mischief against a religious institution, but that charge was withdrawn after his two accomplices – who, as young offenders, cannot be named – were acquitted of the same charge.

The judge in that case ruled the two were motivated not by anti-Semitism, but were merely attempting to do something to get themselves on television.

"Although the judge clearly recognized the impact on the community and the need to denounce such behaviour, in the end the sentence failed to meet the [judge's] intent," said Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith.

Furthermore, failure to proceed to trial with the charge of causing mischief to religious property "left the community unprotected. The sentence only exacerbated this procedural miscarriage of justice," Diamant added.

"This case demonstrates a clear need for a review of such hate crimes cases and the existing sentencing guidelines that apparently drive them," he said.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation said he wrote a statement to the court indicating he did not believe Vandermey appreciated what he did, "both because he was drunk and he didn't really understand what anti-Semitism was."

After having discussed the incident with him, he believes Vandermey is today "exceptionally contrite."

"As it all kind of hit him, he realized this was not only a vile and illegal act, he began to understand why the Jewish community was so outraged," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl told *The CJN*.

"He slowly began to come to grips with what anti-Semitism was and, in that process, began to regret what he'd done and [see] that it was connected to a long history of hatred to Jews."

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said Vandermey's parents asked him to talk to their son to help straighten out his life. Vandermey's father works for Beth Tzedec.

Vandermey volunteered to do maintenance work at the synagogue, as well as landscaping at the shul's cemetery.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said the sentence is appropriate and does send a message of deterrence to others. House arrest "is a statement of social censure," he said.

"I think it's a balanced decision that tries to take into account the anger and outrage of the community and the reality of this particular person," he added.

Prior to sentencing, Vandermey apologized in court for the hurt he caused.

"At the time, I did not know the extent of the fear I would cause in the Jewish community," Vandermey told Judge Paul Taylor. "This was due to ignorance and lack of knowledge in the way the Jewish people have been treated in the past and the way they are still being treated."

Court heard that on the night of the incident, Vandermey drank 13 bottles of beer at a party and decided to do "something stupid" to celebrate his 18th birthday.

In sentencing Vandermey, Taylor said "The need for denunciation is great.

"An attack on a specific group or religious institution has to be seen as an attack on each and every one of us and every religious institution," he stated.

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Coast to Coast

Montreal's UTT bomber didn't act alone, parole board reveals

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL –The teenager who firebombed a United Talmud Torahs (UTT) school last year was under the influence of a man described by police as a "known activist" who was never apprehended, a National Parole Board document reveals.

The document says the man was not accused "for technical reasons" and Sleiman El-Merhebi, 19, has refused to provide any details about the individual to police.

This information is contained in the board's written rejection of El-Merhebi's request for day parole or early conditional release last month, and it's the first official confirmation that evidence exists that El-Merhebi did not act alone.

Crown prosecutor Anne Aube said at his sentencing that she believed others were involved in the crime, but because there was no trial, the evidence was never made public.

Judge Jean Sirois described the arson as a terrorist act, but said there was no evidence that El-Merhebi was connected to an organization. In handing down a 40-month sentence for a crime that carries a maximum penalty of 14 years, Sirois cited as one reason the psychiatric opinion that he is not dangerous.

El-Merhebi began serving a two-year federal prison term on Jan. 18 after pleading guilty to the April 5, 2004, arson of the library of the St. Laurent UTT. He had been in custody since his arrest the following month. (The eight months he spent in custody before sentencing were counted as 16 months against his sentence.)

The board said police learned the "known activist" was in contact with El-Merhebi and "possibly influenced" him to commit the crime.

"According to the investigator, this individual is a known activist. For your part, you acknowledge having been encouraged by this man, but refuse to divulge" anything about him, the document quotes the board as telling El-Merhebi.

Although he has an otherwise spotless disciplinary record during his incarceration, El-Merhebi has completely refused to co-operate with the investigation of this individual, the board said.

The board turned down El-Merhebi's request for parole because there are "reasonable grounds to believe" that if he were let out he would "commit an infraction accompanied by violence before the expiration of his sentence," because authorities think he could be easily influenced to do so and remains emotional in his reaction to events in the Middle East.

The board also takes seriously the threat of more violence against the Jewish community contained in the note left at the scene of the crime, signed by "Les Brigades du Cheick Ahmed Yasine," referring to the Hamas spiritual leader assassinated by Israel in March 2004.

The board describes Lebanese-born El-Merhebi as immature, impulsive, short-tempered and susceptible to "the influence of people more fanatical" than him.

The parole board agreed that there appeared to be nothing in El-Merhebi's past to suggest he would commit a crime of this gravity and with such a hateful motivation. In Canada since 1992, El-Merhebi is described as having adapted well to the country, coming from a functional family and having no previous record or history of serious violence. He claims little interest in politics or international affairs.

The board also said it is "skeptical" of El-Merhebi's vague explanation of his actions that he had difficulty controlling his emotions, and said it's "perplexed" why he would resort to terrorism.

The board noted that the UTT arson was a premeditated hate crime and the note placed at the scene "left no doubt" that the Jewish community was being held responsible for actions of Israel. The note was clear in its threat to strike again and to do so more violently.

Hitler's art on the block

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The man who will be taking bids on several sketches and postcards by Adolf Hitler at a local auction later this month said he hates the Nazi dictator and all tyrants as much as anyone, but he is merely doing his job.

"My own grandfather was in a concentration camp," auctioneer Iegor de Saint Hippolyte of the Iegor-Hôtel des Encans auction house told *The CJN*. "But I'm doing it for the same reason I would sell a poster of Lenin or Trotsky. I have exactly the same feeling as they do, but it is part of history and also my job."

Jewish organizations expressed dismay last week about the July 19 and 20 auction of four architectural-type sketches and two greeting cards composed by Hitler during the 1920s and 1930s.

One of the greeting cards is a Christmas card sent by Hitler in 1935 wishing the recipient "most heartfelt good wishes" for the holiday and new year.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

"סימני מים" (Watermarks)

בחלק הראשון של המאה העשרים פעלה בוינה אגודת ספורט יהודית בשם "הכוח וינה". כשאבי רצה להגיד לי עד כמה מפגר הכדורגל הישראלי, הוא היה מספר לי בעיניים חולמות על נפלאות הכוח וינה. רק שלא ידעתי שנבחרת זו זכתה באליפות אוסטריה ובאליפות אירופה.

ירון זילברמן, קולנוען ישראלי רגיש ומוכשר, אסף את השורדות שבין נשות נבחרת השחיה של הכוח וינה והביאן לשחייה אחרונה בוינה ששים וחמש שנה אחרי שיזכו באליפויות, ולאחר שנאלצו להימלט משם בשנת 1938. סרט מרגש ונוגע ללב על נשים גדולות מהחיים, שהתפזרו לכל קצוות תבל, ועל המאמן האגדי שעשה אותן והציל את חייהן בהבריחו אותן לחופי מבטחים.

זהו הסרט הישראלי השלישי ברציפות שעומד ברמה בינלאומית גבוהה (" ללכת על מים" ו"מדורת השבט"), וזה בהחלט מעורר גאווה. יש לי הרגשה שדור צעיר של קולנוענים ישראלים "הבין עניין" ופיצח את המתכון לעשיית סרטים ברמה אירופאית טובה.

עשר בסולם קורן, אבל שישאר בינינו.

"אני לא מקיים הבטחות שניתנו לאברהם"

בימים קשים אלה של לפני התנתקות, מתחדד בישראל הבדל הדיעות בין הימין והשמאל. רוב גדל של ישראלים מאמינים בניתוק ובהפרדה. מיעוט מאמין שטוב לישראל להישאר בעזה. אירית החזירה לזכרוני את שירו של חנוך לוין שקולע לנושא:

"הנה הארץ השלמה שהובטחה לאברהם
לו ולזרעו אשר יהיה כחול על שפת הים,
אבל אני אינני חול אשר על שפת הים
ואני לא מקיים הבטחות שניתנו לאברהם.

מעולם לא חלמתי על חברון ואינני דואג לשכם
מה שמדאיג אותי זה לעבור את החיים שלם,
כי אינני חול על שפת הים
ואינני מקיים הבטחות שניתנו לאברהם.

את ביתי אינני בונה על שפת הנילוס ואשתי לא יושבת על הפרת
והתמתחתי יפה כל בוקר גם בין מטולה לאילת,
כי אינני חול אשר על שפת הים
ואני לא מקיים הבטחות שניתנו לאברהם.

אברהם יצחק ויעקוב נחים עתה בשקט בקברם
לי אין חשק לחפור גם את הקבר שלי לצידם
כי אני לא חול על שפת הים."

שירת הברבור של מבקר המדינה

מבקר המדינה, אליעזר גולדברג אומר בראיון סיכום שכיום השחיתות במערכת הפוליטית מסוכנת לישראל יותר מאשר הטרור הערבי. השבוע נחשף הקף הזיופים בבחירות למנהיג חדש למפלגת העבודה. ממש כמו מרכז הליכוד. אז יתכן שישראל עדיין ברשימת המדינות הדמוקרטיות, אך ברמת שחיתות כזו של מיניים פוליטיים-זוהי הופכת להיות דמוקרטיה על הנייר, אך לא ביומיום. קחו לתשומת לבכם ושישאר בינינו.

More Jews speak Russian than French, study finds

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Russian has surpassed French as the second most spoken language among Canadian Jews, according to an analysis based on the 2001 census.

The report on immigration and language among Canadian Jews, the fifth in an ongoing series by UIA Federations Canada on the community's composition, shows that Russian is the mother tongue of just over seven per cent of Jews in this country, or 26,500 people, and is spoken at home by a little more than 20,000 individuals.

By contrast, French is the mother tongue of 22,125 Jewish Canadians and is spoken at home by nearly 18,000.

English continues to dominate among Jews and Jewish homes in Canada. It's the mother tongue of 260,500 people, or 70 per cent of the community, and it's spoken at home by 310,000, or nearly 84 per cent of the Jewish population.

The surge in Russian speakers is attributed to the 16,295 Jewish immigrants from former Soviet republics who arrived between 1990 and 2001. They comprised half the total number of Jews who came to Canada in this period.

Because they are relatively new arrivals, former Soviets and their children still tend to speak Russian at home, explains Charles Shahar, the study's co-author.

However, the study shows that Jewish speakers of Russian and French are concentrated in specific geographical areas. The largest segment of those with Russian as their mother tongue is in Toronto, with 18,890. The numbers drop to 2,840 in Montreal, 1,230 in Vancouver, 980 in Calgary, 745 in Ottawa, 680 in Edmonton, and 320 in Winnipeg.

Mother tongue is traditionally defined as the first language learned.

Toronto also leads among those who speak Russian at home – 15,160, followed by Montreal (2,320), Vancouver (940), Ottawa (620), Calgary (560) and Edmonton (490).

Montreal has by far the largest number of Jews with French as their mother tongue –16,930 – followed by 3,230 in Toronto, 570 in Ottawa, and 435 in Vancouver. Montreal also leads in the number of French speakers in the home, with 15,425. Next is Toronto with 1,260 and Ottawa with 305.

The report lumps languages traditionally spoken by European Jews – Polish, Hungarian, Romanian and German among them – into one heading called "all other." Nearly 28,000 Canadian Jews fell into this category by mother tongue, and nearly 7,500 by home language.

Yiddish is shown to be still widely spoken in Canada, both as a mother tongue (20,430 people) and in the home (7,100).

Montreal has both the largest number of Yiddish speakers as a native language (9,705) and in the home (5,655). Shahar says this is because Montreal has a large elderly population as well as some 11,000 Chassidim, who typically have larger families.

In Toronto, 7,725 Jews reported Yiddish as their mother tongue and 1,255 speak it at home.

Winnipeg has the third biggest number of native Yiddish speakers, at 1,155, but, reportedly, only 40 individuals still speak it at home.

The 2001 census itself reported a 10 per cent decline in the number of Yiddish speakers in Canada, and a slight drop in those who speak Hebrew as their first language.

The UIA study found slightly more than 13,000 Canadian Jews whose first language is Hebrew and nearly 7,000 who speak it at home.

Toronto has 7,645 native Hebrew speakers and 4,190 individuals who speak it in the home.

In Montreal, the respective numbers are 3,160 and 1,755.

Finally, the report tallied 4,575 Jews in Canada with Spanish as their mother tongue and 2,255 people who speak it at home, most of them in Toronto (2,170) and Montreal (1,345).

Number of S. African Jews grew 50% from 1990 to 2001

In a front-page story in the June 30 issue on the UIA Federations Canada report examining Jewish immigration to Canada, *The CJN* neglected to mentioned the influx of Jews from South Africa.

According to the UIA Federations analysis, there were 6,110 South African-born Jews in Canada as of 2001.

The community's median age was 41.

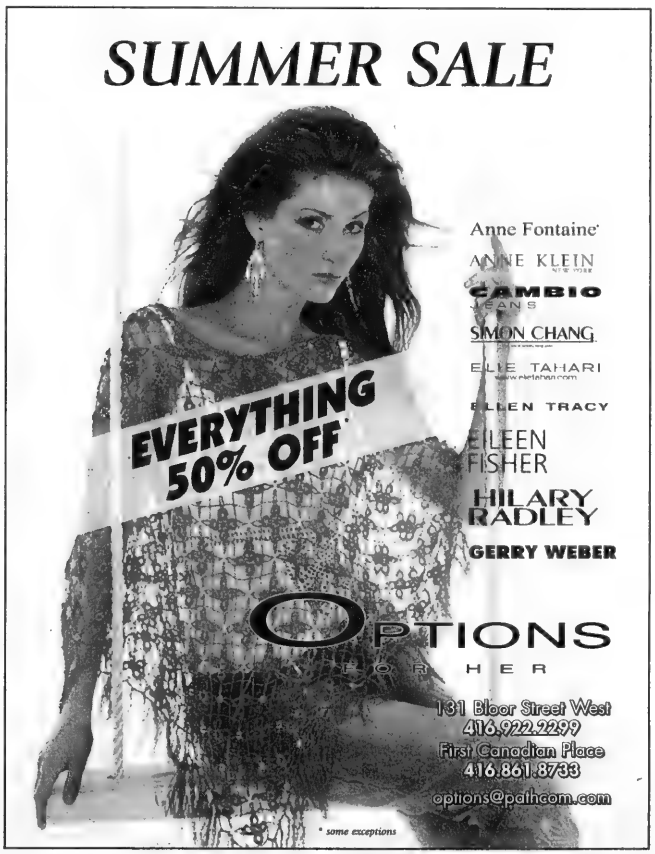
Of the total, 2,110 arrived between 1990 and 2001, an increase of more than 50 per cent.

The Toronto area had the highest number of South African Jews, with 4,370. The rest lived in Vancouver (715), Edmonton (185), Montreal (150), Calgary (145), Winnipeg (115), Hamilton (50), Ottawa and London each with 45, Kingston and Victoria each with 30, Regina (10) and 20 in Atlantic Canada.

The study did not provide figures for South Africans' levels of education or income.

— R.C.

A SPARKLING EVENT: About 1,000 sponsors and guests raised $550,000 last month at Sparkle, the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust gala. The proceeds will support brain tumour research and help fund programs and services for patients with brain tumours and their families, at The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Tumour Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital. Pictured are, from left, gala co-chair Holly Pencer Bellman; Nancy Pencer, honorary chair and president of The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust; and gala co-chair Stacey Cynamon.



Coast to Coast

New Israeli wine gets own section at the LCBO

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA – For the first time, an Israeli wine is being sold at the LCBO on a regular shelf labelled "Israel" rather than in the liquor store's kosher section.

"The LCBO has helped me make history," Barry Saslove said at the launch of his winery's Aviv Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 at an Ottawa LCBO outlet east of Parliament Hill.

"Up until now, all of the wines brought in were kosher, but I don't want it to be put in the kosher section. I represent Israel and for the very first time, Israel appears on the shelf alongside Italy," said Saslove, whose Saslove Winery is not kosher.

"The LCBO should be given credit for this, and they have opened the door for some of the other 220 [Israeli] wineries which do not necessarily produce kosher wine."

Saslove Winery is a family-owned and operated boutique winery located in Kibbutz Eyal in the Upper Galilee. A former computer engineer, Saslove was born, raised and educated in Ottawa.

"I went to Israel during the Six Day War and found purpose in life… I found that my individual existence in Israel had purpose and meaning," Saslove said. In 1971, he married an Israeli woman and they have built a life, a family and a business together in Israel.

A wine lover for many years, Saslove has been producing wine for commercial distribution for more than a decade. He has also written two books in Hebrew about wine and teaches wine-making courses at Israeli universities.

Saslove Winery is relatively small, producing only 55,000 bottles each year, but it has begun exporting its products, which are now available in the United States, Canada, England, France and Russia.

"In 2003, we decided to put our wines on the world market. We went to Bordeaux to the wine expo and came back with a medal. In 2005, we were named winery of the year," Saslove said.

Speaking at the wine launch and tasting, conducted jointly by Saslove Winery and the embassy of Israel, Israeli Ambassador Allan Baker also commended the LCBO for its efforts.

"As ambassador from Israel, I am extremely proud to be here today in the LCBO, in this wonderful ambience, with a prize-winning Israeli boutique wine," he said. "Why is Israeli wine so interestingly good? Israel is a very small country but there are many different regions with very different climates and growing conditions."

Saslove was pleased to have the Canadian launch of his wines in Ottawa and practically around the corner from his late father's business.

"My late father's business was Saslove's Meat Market, which is still in the Byward Market and still going strong. [It's now owned and operated by the Diener family.] He believed in quality and believed he had the best, and I have acquired his values. I believe my wine is the best, too," he said.

"I am here because I am closing a circle in my life… being here in Ottawa at the LCBO means another dream has come true. And the wine is good!"

Work on Vancouver Jewish museum to begin in fall

By PETER CAULFIELD
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — The fundraising drive for the new Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia has almost reached the half-way mark.

Catherine Youngren, chair of the museum steering committee, says 48 per cent of the museum's goal of $1.9 million was collected by the end of June.

She is confident they will reach 50 per cent of their objective by early fall when construction of the museum is slated to begin.

The museum, a project of the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia (JHS) in co-operation with the Jewish Genealogical Institute of British Columbia (JGIBC) is set to open in early 2006.

It will occupy space in the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver formerly occupied by The Jewish Family Service Agency.

The museum will contain an archives research room and a resource/reading room, as well as exhibit space.

Proceeds of the fundraising campaign will go towards outfitting the space, producing a permanent exhibit about Jewish life in British Columbia and covering museum operating costs for the first three years.

Youngren, president of the JGIBC, says members of the agency will contribute resource material and will provide volunteers to work at the museum.

"We anticipate regular visits to the museum from our resident Jewish community," Youngren says.

"We also will strive to have programming with cross-cultural appeal for the Vancouver community at large. We see lots of opportunity for school programs for both Jewish and non-Jewish students, and we hope that by effectively marketing our museum we will encourage visits from tourists and from international scholars."

The JGIBC has collections of family histories, and the JHS has collections of artifacts, photographs, recorded memoirs and memorabilia.

Most of the historical society's archival holdings are currently in storage, with limited access to researchers and other interested parties.

The museum is being designed by Vancouver architect Richard Henriquez.

Aldrich/Pears, planners and designers of museums around the world, has been retained as the exhibit designer under the direction of one of the principals, Ron Pears.

Jewish history in British Columbia began in the 1850s, when the first Jews arrived with the hordes of prospectors from California and eastern North America looking for gold.

Since then, Jewish communities have taken root in Greater Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna. Until a generation ago, Vancouver's Jewish community was small and insignificant. But beginning in the 1980s, stimulated by immigration from all over the world, the Jewish population began to grow quickly.

Today, Greater Vancouver has a Jewish population of approximately 30,000, making it the third largest Jewish community in Canada.

Members of the museum steering committee are Catherine Youngren, Gary Averbach, Shirley Barnett, Bill Gruenthal (JHS president), Richard Henriquez, Cyril Leonoff (JHS historian), Ronnie Tessler, Steven Turnbull and Rabbi Yosef Wosk.

Museum advisory committee members are Sheldon Chandler, Irene Dodek, Michael Geller, Mel Kotler, Dr. Robert Krell, Dr. Richard Menkis, Josephine Nadel, Stephen Shapiro, Rabbi Dr. Lewis D. Sutker and Sarah Tobe.

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Bertrand feels he was 'crucified' by high court

MONTREAL – Guy Bertrand has no regrets about having alleged that a vast Jewish conspiracy was behind the Canadian government's efforts to deport his client Leon Mugesera, a Rwandan exile accused of inciting genocide.

Bertrand, a well-known Quebec City lawyer, was severely reprimanded by the Supreme Court of Canada for the allegation, which it denounced as not only groundless, but also anti-Semitic. The denunciation was issued June 28 jointly with the court's upholding of the immigration minister's appeal of the overturning of a deportation order against Mugesera by a lower court.

"I am not going to hide the truth because an ethnic group is powerful. There are people who have manoeuvred to get Mr. Mugesera deported and it appears that they are Jews. This has nothing to do with their ethnicity. It's their behaviour that I condemn," Bertrand said in an interview in French with Canadian Press.

His conspiracy theory cast aspersions on Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), Supreme Court justice Rosalie Abella and her husband Irving Abella.

Bertrand said he was deeply wounded by the court's denunciation and is planning a retort.

"I have to do something. I was crucified in public. I feel crushed," he said.

The Quebec bar is looking into whether a complaint should be lodged against Bertrand with its disciplinary committee.

Bertrand also lamented in the interview that the court did not give a fair hearing to his motion for a stay of proceedings last November, in which he alleged Cotler plotted with CJC to get Rosalie Abella appointed to the court in order to influence the case against Mugesera.

"They gave me only 15 minutes to plead this case and they did not ask me a single question. They violated the principle of 'audi alteram partem' [hearing from the accused before condemnation]. Coming from the highest court in the country, that is an appalling error," said Bertrand, who has had a 40-year legal career.

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS
Will Return in August

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I love blueberries and I know they are supposed to be good for you. What makes them so good and are they equally good in baking as they are fresh?

A. Blueberries are very healthy. They are full of antioxidants and a good source of fibre. They also contain a unique pigment called anthrocyanins, which gives them their dark, rich colour and may be beneficial for brain cell function, although the research in this area is still developing. Blueberries are delicious fresh as well as in baking, but studies suggests that they lose a lot of their nutritional benefit when heated. So enjoy them fresh more often.

Q. A few years ago, I was told to take high doses of antioxidant vitamins, yet now I read that too much vitamin E may be hazardous. How much is the right amount?

A. I always caution patients that just because a little of something is good, it does not mean that more is better. Taking megadoses of any vitamin or supplement may have a detrimental effect on your health, and vitamin E is a perfect example. Most multivitamins contain between 25 and 65 IU (international units), which is well within the safe range; and most Canadians consume between 10 and 20 IU per day in their diet. However, many supplements contain 400 IU or more, and at these levels, trouble seems to occur. They may actually increase the risk of stroke and cancer.

Vitamins A, D, E and K are fat soluble vitamins, which means that if you take in more than your body needs, it will store them, not excrete them, a process that can build up over time.

Q. My elderly mother has been told that her potassium level is low. I would like to know what role potassium plays in the body and what are some good food sources.

A. Potassium is an important nutrient and electrolyte that has many vital roles in the body: building protein, maintaining fluids and blood pressure, helping neurons transmit brain signals and helping muscles contract, including the very important heart muscle. There are many easy ways to get potassium in the diet – baked potatoes with the skin are a great source, as are squash (like winter squash), spinach, papayas, bananas and artichokes.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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Coast to Coast

Cousins meet for the first time

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

These days, although many people don't know all the members of their extended family, most know their first cousins.

However, in years gone by, things were not so simple, with travel and communication being more difficult and taking longer.

In Toronto recently, first cousins Joe Samuels, 66, and Max Zeller, who would only say that he is well into his 80s, met for the first time in their lives.

"It's been fun to meet each other," said Samuels, who has lived in South Africa all his life.

He and his wife Rosanne are in Toronto to visit their son Frank before immigrating to Australia this month to be close to their two other children, Jonathan and Jessica.

Zeller and his wife, Helen, have lived in Canada since 1946, when they moved here from Germany. (Zeller was actually born in Lithuania and lived in Russia during the war before travelling to Germany.)

The cousins met for the first time at Frank's house over Shabbat tea, and they have seen each other a couple of times since.

Samuels' and Zeller's parents came from a family of six children – five boys and a girl – in Lithuania.

Although Samuels' father and Zeller's mother were brother and sister, neither cousin knew that the other existed because their parents never talked about their extended family or where their siblings ended up after leaving Lithuania.

Max Zeller, left, and Joe Samuels

A couple of years ago, Samuels' brother Peretz, who lives in Melbourne, Australia, began to put together a family tree, and this led Zeller's and Samuels' mutual Canadian first cousin, Danny Epstein, to contact Samuels while Epstein was on a visit to South Africa.

Through Epstein, Samuels became aware of his other Canadian cousins, including Zeller.

Zeller has one sister, Sonia, who also lives in Toronto, although Samuels has yet to meet her. Zeller also has two sons and four grandchildren.

Samuels, one of three brothers, has four grandchildren.

"We hope to see each other again," said Samuels, who plans to visit Toronto in two years for his granddaughter's bat mitzvah.

The Canadian Jewish news

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If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Allison and Jason Meshwork are proud and elated to announce the birth of their first child, Levi Axel Meshwork, born on Friday, June 24, 2005. Proud grandparents are Risa and Ed Feldman, Lindy Sulsky Meshwork, Avrom Brown and Barbara Ouanounou, Charles and Laura Meshwork. Levi is blessed with five great-grandparents; Freda and Michael Meshwork, Helen Rocket, Rhoda Finkelstein and Ben Sulsky. Great-grandparents in our hearts and minds are Louis and Rita Brown and Al Rocket.

BERALL - Murray and Melissa (nee Pasternack) are thrilled to announce the arrival of Carson Tyler on June 12th, 2005 at 5:20 p.m. weighing 8 lbs, 8 oz. Carson is being lovingly welcomed by his big brother Cole and his big sister Kaia. On hand for his spectacular arrival at Mt. Sinai Hospital were Bubbie Rhoda and Zaida Sam, and Uncle Mike (Beav) and Auntie Lisa. Carson is looking forward to meeting his many aunts, uncles and cousins, and especially Jason and Laura. Great-Bubbie Rose Birnbaum is anticipating a visit to Montreal very soon to meet the newest addition to the family. Carson is named in memory of his Great-Grandfather Abraham Berall, his Great-Great-Grandfather Jacob Silverberg and his Great-Uncle Henry Landis.

Mazel tov Elana & Elliott Biranbuam on the birth of Marley Rayne. Grandparents Rae & the late Mike Spilberg, Bernice & the late Aaron Biranbaum.

Happy first birthday Sebi Zylberberg. We love you! Parents Laura Parski & Edy Zylberberg; grandparents Julio & Jenny Parski, Bernardo & Graciela Zylberberg, Lili & Lior.

Mazel tov Allan & Michelle Kates on the birth of Ethan Philip. Proud grandparents, Lorriane Rosenberg, Carol & Steve Kates.

Ryder Lucas Borden was born May 18, weighing 6 lb. 7 oz. Delighted parents, Mark & Shauna Borden.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, July 11, is the deadline for the July 21 issue. There is no issue July 28. The July 21 issue will cover events from July 21 through Aug. 3. Monday, July 25, is the deadline for the Aug. 4 issue and Thursday, July 28, is the deadline for the Aug. 11 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Sunday, July 17

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh Group meets at 7 p.m. for videos and discussion on Jewish life. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942.

Monday, July 18

ANNUAL YIDDISH CONCERT

Don't miss the 24th annual Yiddish concert, "Gems of Yiddish Music," with performances by **Beyond the Pale**, **Janie Respitz**, and **Mitch Smolkin**. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah Synagogue, 100 Elder St. $10.

WON TON FOR THE SOUL

Join Na'amat chapter of Emunah Women for "Won Ton Soup for the Emunah Woman's Soul," an Asian-themed event featuring refreshments, entertainment and inspiration. **Jumy Kim** speaks about the "Top Ten Ways That Alternative Medicine Can Improve Your Health." 7:30 p.m. For information and registration, call **Terri** at 905-886-7640.

Tuesday, July 19

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women holds huge garage sales Tuesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. throughout the summer. Sales include items for the whole family, including books, kitchenware, clothing, shoes, toys, games and much more. Admission and parking free. 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100 or www.ncjwc-ts.org.

FAMILY CONCERTS

Toronto Parks offers free family concerts every Tuesday night at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, Earl Bales Park, through to Aug. 23. Tonight, Mega City Swing Band; July 19, the North York Concert Band; and July 26, The Choralairs. 416-395-7873.

HEALING SEMINAR

The Jewish Health Alliance and Refu'ah Shelemah present teacher and scholar **Sarah Schneider**, of Jerusalem, leading a one-day advanced text study with sources related to Jewish healing. $100. For information and registration, call 416-208-0610 or visit www.jewishhealthalliance.com.

Thursday, July 21

MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Beth Tikvah Synagogue sponsors "A Musical Celebration of Jewish Women" with **Lea Fuchs, Audrey Kaufman, Linda Segal** and **Andrea Shapiro**, accompanied by **Nathan Rosen**. 8 p.m. $5 at the door. 3080 Bayview Ave. 416-221-3434.

Other news

SUMMER ULPAN

The Hebrew Culture Organization of Canada offers a unique opportunity to improve your Hebrew this summer with intensive, interactive study two hours a day, July 18-21 and July 25-28. Beginner and intermediate levels offered. Classes held at 4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508. For information and registration, call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@bellnet.ca.

YIDDISH DANCE WORKSHOP

The Koffler Centre of the Arts, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, presents a Yiddish Dance Workshop with instructors **Steve Weintraub** of Chicago and **Helen Winkler** of Toronto, on Sunday, July 24. Morning session 10 a.m.-noon, $10; afternoon session, 1:30-4:30 p.m., $15, or both sessions for $20. Evening party, 7-10 p.m. $6, studio theatre. No partner or previous experience required. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and soft, comfortable footwear such as runners.

Continued on page 23

Jewish talk show airs on Kitchener radio station

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

He's photographed and interviewed stars such as actor Martin Sheen, poet Maya Angelou and primatologist Jane Goodall.

He runs a photography studio, has co-authored a book, holds motivational seminars for students, volunteers at seniors homes and plays the guitar.

As if he isn't busy enough, Torontonian Barry Shainbaum is also the host of a new Jewish talk show that runs live every Sunday at 11 a.m. on Kitchener's Christian radio station CJTW, 94.3 Faith FM.

As motivated and ambitious as Shainbaum is, he didn't always have such control over his life.

When he was a teenager, he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, a mental illness characterized by episodes of mania and depression.

But Shainbaum beat the odds and overcame what is usually thought to be an incurable condition. He now has a message for others suffering from the illness that, along with therapy and medication, a dose of spirituality can help in the healing process.

"If you talk to any doctor, most of them will say you have it for the rest of your life. I went off medication 16 years ago. I'm not ill, I'm cured," he said.

"The transformation came from all the years in psychotherapy and the medication… But when you heal your emotions, you can change your brain chemistry. If you believe that we are also spiritual beings – we're not just a body you put pills and needles into – a balance can be restored."

He said that in his case, his ordeal was a long, painful process during which he considered suicide, but he added that finding strength "from without" is a large part of overcoming any obstacle, mental or physical.

"Part of my message is not to accept that you'll never be healthy. Stay on your medication as long as you should, but at some point there may be a breakthrough where you may be able to get past something."

Out of his suffering and long journey toward mental health, the photographer was inspired by people such as the late Charles Templeton, a journalist, author and evangelist, and Dr. Nathaniel Branden, a psychotherapist and philosopher, to write a book about integrity and inspiration.

"*Hope and Heroes* is about people who, I think, have made the world a better place. I photographed and interviewed 47 people who are in the book," he said.

Shainbaum said the people featured in the book went through life challenges of their own. From Dr. Phil (McGraw) to Nelson Mandela to Julia Butterfly Hill, who lived on a California Redwood tree for two years to protest clear-cut logging, he hopes their stories will inspire others the way they inspired him.

But Shainbaum's determination to spread the word of hope did not end with the publication of his book in 2003.

While promoting his book at Faith FM recently, the station manager was impressed with Shainbaum and his gift of gab.

"They had me on their show a few weeks ago to talk about my book and the manager called me and said, 'How would you like to have your own show?'"

While the manager truly felt Shainbaum was articulate enough to host a radio talk show, he also had another reason for offering him the gig.

Barry Shainbaum **[Sheri Shefa photo]**

"To keep the [Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission] happy, you have to have multiculturalism," Shainbaum said.

"They wanted to have a certain amount of Jewish issues – I am Jewish – and they like that [the show is] not going to be all Jewish issues. In addition, it will cover issues of mental health and spirituality beyond religion."

He said at least every other show will address Jewish issues, and the others will cover anything from photography to business to mental health.

"This is a Jewish show. This won't cover issues on Christianity. For the Christian community that listens, it will give them insight to Judaism and Jewish values. For the Jewish community, I will be able to open the door to people I have personally met and put my particular spin on it," he said.

"There will be a connecting thread of messages for people to connect with their problems or with their children and take steps to face challenges. My own message is that the hell I've overcome has given me strength and a belief."

As a staple of the program, Shainbaum promises to end each show with excerpts from the recorded interviews he conducted with the subjects in his book.

"I'll be bringing on Dr. Phil at some point, Maya Angelou, who is Oprah's mentor, Martin Sheen and others. You'll be able to get an insight into the people. Shimon Peres, the former prime minister of Israel – a very insightful, philosophical man – I'll be playing his interview."

His first show, an introduction to what listeners should expect in the coming weeks, aired July 10. Shainbaum has already booked Israeli psychic Uri Geller and actor Ed Asner to appear on the program as guests in the near future.

The show can only be heard on the radio in Kitchener, but those outside the city can listen to it on the web at www.faithfm.org.

What's New

Continued from page 22

Bring a water bottle. Registration form and details available at www.yiddishdance.com or call **Teme Kernerman**. 416-636-1880, ext. 364.

TORAH STUDY FOR WOMEN

Nishmat's Yarchei Kallah with **Chana Henkin** takes place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 26-28, 9:15a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. The topic is "Challenges to a Newborn State: Readings in Ezra, Nechemia and Zecharia." This is an opportunity to enjoy text-based learning for women of all levels. Texts are supplied in English and Hebrew. Call 416-789-4883 or e-mail nishmat@rogers. com for information.

INFO EVENING AND CLASS

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School holds an information evening and sample class Monday, July 25, at the First Narayever Synagogue, 187 Brunswick Ave. 7 p.m. For information, call **Loretta Tanenbaum** at 416-667-1717.

ATERET SHALOM SCHOOL

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School begins classes in two branches in fall 2005. The new facility is at Bakersfield Public School, 121 Misty Sugar Dr. Classes will continue at York Hill Elementary School at Hilda and Clark avenues. The school offers classes from junior and senior kindergarten through Grade 7 and a bar/bat mitzvah program, including individual tutoring. The program also includes music, arts and crafts, Israeli folk dancing, Hebrew and history, as well as classes on holidays and prayers. For information, call 905-886-1457 or visit www.ateret.ca.

VISUAL ARTISTS GROUP

Visual artists from the ages of 18 to 50 who work in mixed media, painting and drawing and would like to network with other artists are invited to join a new group that plans to meet weekly. Call 416-208-6940 or e-mail tralamina2000@yahoo.ca.

JVS SERVICES

Jewish Vocational Services offers free employment programs for women over 25 who need support to re-enter the workplace. The service offers one-on-one counselling, job-search workshops, career-exploration groups and a transition-to-work group. As part of the program, there is access to job postings, computers, the Internet, a fax machine and a photocopier. All job search assistance is offered in a caring and supportive environment. For information, call 416-682-9095, King and Yonge location, or 416-661-3010, Finch and Keele location.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants are held every Tuesday morning 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to join a JIAS Conversation Café. Practise English in a casual and friendly environment with other newcomers and JIAS volunteers. For a location, call **Jodi** at ext. 30.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Today's Woman: A six-week group for women who want to make a change in their lives and wish to discuss relevant issues. Topics include time and stress management, building self-esteem, assertiveness and improving communication skills. Begins Tuesday, July 19, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Living With Teens: Parenting your adolescent without losing your cool – a six-session group. Topics include setting limits, letting go, parents' rights and responsibilities, keeping the lines of communication open, realistic expectations, and the pressures of drugs, alcohol, dating and sexuality. Begins Wednesday, July 20, 7:30-9 p.m.

Fathering After Divorce: A four-week group to help single fathers understand the crucial role they play in their children's lives and to help them maintain the connection they have with their children. Begins Thursday, July 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.

All programs take place at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. July 14, lecture on the current situation in Israel. 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, July 27; bingo, Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m; Hebrew classes, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Casino Niagara/Fallsview, Wednesday, Sept. 21. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn takes place Tuesday, July 26, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **Barry Flexgold** speaks about "Albert Einstein, He's Jewish But He's Not Jewish: His Life and Times." A kosher dairy lunch is provided. Members $5, non-members $7. Reserve in advance and at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

Computer Labs run weekly on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. and noon. One-on-one assistance available. Book at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267.

Montrealers Group meets once a month. The next meeting is on Monday, July 18, in the Fireside Lounge 11 a.m.-noon. Register at the service desk, ext 2267. Free.

Digital photography, scanning and storytelling, Thursdays 1-2:30 p.m. To register, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, Sept. 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** for information at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. June 28, movie.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Incognito," new and recent works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter,** is on exhibit July 14-Oct. 2 in the Koffler Gallery. Opening reception Thursday, July 14, 7-9 p.m. Artist talk 7 p.m.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Openings are available mid-August for the "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail" courses. Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

Ongoing six-week weight-management program includes lifestyle management, behaviour modification and moderate physical activity. Call 416-885-0375.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for fall classes in babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Registration is open for September 2005 for the morning preschool and full-day day care. Programs include a morning school Tic Tac Two program, 9-11:30 a.m. offered two, three or four days a week; a morning nursery school, 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; morning junior and senior kindergarten, 9-11:30 a.m. or 9-1 p.m.; and a full-day day care for toddlers 18 months through senior kindergarten. Programs include music, fun centre gym, swimming, Hebrew for groups (three years of age and up) and Discovery Museum for preschool and up. For information, registration or to book a tour call ext. 248.

CHERNEY HONOURED: Erica Cherney, left, an active member of the Peterborough community, was recently presented with an honorary doctorate of law by Roberta Bondar, chancellor of Trent University, at this year's convocation ceremony.

NA'AMAT INSTALLS NEW PRESIDENT: Na'amat Toronto installed its new executive and portfolio chairs at a recent gala tribute to members at Adath Israel Synagogue. Newly installed president, Orit Nusbaum, left, received the president's gavel from her predecessor, Malka Weisblum. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Straitman, Rose	June 24/05	117 Alexis Bl
Perelman, Riva	June 25/05	Private
Lugassy, Esther	June 25/05	193 Gailcrest Cir
Lobl, Milena	June 27/05	32 Oakhurst Dr
Lebo, Herschel	June 28/05	43 Larabee Crt
Banarer, Moises	June 28/05	Private
Tweyman, Fay	June 28/05	555 Cummer Av
Zollman, Edward	June 29/05	Private
Solomon, Fay	June 29/05	2 Buchan Crt
Shtaynbok, Cicilya	June 27/05	Private
Mandel, Edith	June 30/05	6 Risa Bl
Dizenhouse, Esther	June 30/05	18 Cedarcroft Bl
Tweyman, David	July 1/05	555 Cummer Av
Cugelman, Anne	July 2/05	4300 Bathurst St
Bennett, Geoffrey	July 2/05	196 Forest Hill Rd
Levy Bennett, Fred	July 3/05	7601 Bathurst St

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JUDY G. MORTON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 31st, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. north of Major Mackenzie
Habonim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SOL ASHER ZELIG SEGAL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 24th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., 3 km n. of Major Mackenzie
Labour Zionist Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

George W. Glass, Q.C.	Jun 25/05	360 Bloor St E
Viola Rotish	Jun 25/05	51 Riderwood Dr
Georgina McKenna	Jun 26/05	300 Bloor St E
Herman Stark	Jun 27/05	650 Church St
Ann Storfer	Jun 28/05	89 Skymark Dr
Susan Smith	Jun 30/05	717 Broadview Av
Daryl Gurvey	Jun 28/05	107 Bingham Av
Helene Rotenberg	Jun 30/05	3147 Michael Cr
Larry A. Zeldin	Jun 30/05	9 Deer Park Cr
Ethel W. Auster	Jul 1/05	61 St. Clair Av W

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Albert Oberndorffer	Jul 2/05	3560 Bathurst St

CHARFOOS, HERBERT S. ז"ל
AGE 94 DIED JULY 6, 2005

Beloved husband of Renata Charfoos and the late Henrietta Charfoos. Dear father of Ronald (Lynda) Charfoos & Carol (Dr. Charles "Husky") Tator. Loving grandfather of Ira Tator, Michael (Carinne) Tator and Julie Tator, Aaron (Nichole) Charfoos and Amye Charfoos. Great grandfather of Isabella Charfoos. Brother of the late Samuel Charfoos and the late Dorothy Lustig. Brother-in-law of Belle Geller, the late Anne Friedman, the late Bernard Barris and the late Manuel Barris. Services and Internment were held in Detroit. For further information call THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL, 1-800-325-7105. www.irakaufman.com

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On Campus

Exchange program launched between U of M, Tel Aviv U

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Gerry Schwartz, one of Canada's leading businessmen, may live in Toronto now, but he hasn't forgotten his alma mater.

The University of Manitoba announced last month that Schwartz, who graduated from the university in the early 1960s, has donated $500,000 to establish the Arni C. Thorsteinson International Exchange Program at its I.H. Asper School of Business.

The program will allow undergraduate business students at U of M and Tel Aviv University (TAU) to learn through collaborative exchange programs between the two universities.

Gerry Schwartz

The first such program is scheduled for later this summer.

Rob Warren, director of the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship, said four of his U of M students will be in Tel Aviv from July 30 to Aug. 10, while four students from TAU will be in Winnipeg from Aug. 10 to 20. The students will be studying financial modelling and preparing business plans for a technology venture. On the last day of the program, they will present their business plans to a team of investors.

"This gift shows that Gerry Schwartz has great faith in the ability of the University of Manitoba to deliver world class programs," Warren said.

Schwartz, who also has a degree from Harvard University, began his business career at a corporate law firm in Winnipeg before joining a company on Wall Street involved in mergers and acquisitions. He returned to Winnipeg to go into business with the late Israel Asper. In 1977, they co-founded CanWest Capital, now known as CanWest Global Corp.

In 1983, after parting ways with Asper and CanWest, Schwartz and two employees founded Onex Corporation, the director of which is his friend and colleague Arni C. Thorsteinson, a long-time business leader in Manitoba. In recognition of Thorsteinson's work and friendship, Schwartz established the program in his name.

"This program represents a tremendous opportunity for our students to experience the business culture of another country," Warren said. "Israel is unique in this respect because of its reputation for entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial development. Israel is second only to the United States in the number of high tech start-ups. Our students will get a chance to see a lot more biotech and IT stuff in Israel. And Tel Aviv University is a world-class institution with a strong finance program."

The Thorsteinson program, which is scheduled to run for 10 years, is open to U of M students with high grade point averages who are in their third or fourth year in commerce.

Warren said future exchanges are still in the planning stages.

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Israel, Canada pitch in on London bombing probe

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — Intelligence officials and detectives from about two dozen countries – including Israeli investigators and Spanish ones who worked on the 2004 Madrid bombing case – met last weekend with British officials to discuss leads in last week's terror attacks in London, British police said Monday.

"We told them what the state of the investigation was" during the private meeting Saturday at Scotland Yard, which included British police and the MI5, Britain's domestic intelligence service, a Metropolitan Police spokesperson said.

"If they can offer any material assistance, we're not going to turn it down. In order to help us, they needed to know as much about our investigation as possible," the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

He said the large size of the international meeting at Scotland Yard was unusual, but that it was called to quickly inform as many officials as possible without interrupting the investigation.

Other countries involved were Canada, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States, the spokesperson said.

British police have promised a manhunt and heightened security after more than 50 people were killed and 700 wounded in the morning rush hour blasts that shook London's subway and ripped apart a double-decker bus in the deadliest terror attacks on London since World War II.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said there were signs Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda, the group responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States that launched the war on terror, was involved in the London bombing.

A day after four bombs tore through three underground trains and a double-decker bus, British police confirmed the death toll had risen to more than 50, with 13 people killed in the bus explosion.

Three Jews are feared to be among the victims.

Susan Levy, 53, from Hertfordshire north of London, was on the Piccadilly line train that was part of bombings near the Russell Square station.

In a statement, her husband Harry said: "Susan was a devoted and much-loved wife and mother of two sons. We are all devastated by our loss. She was a valued and respected member of her extended Jewish family and will be deeply mourned and sadly missed by us and her many friends."

Israeli expatriate Anat Rosenberg, 39, was aboard the bus that was blown up. Her boyfriend, John Falding, told Israeli media that Rosenberg was speaking to him by cellphone when the blast occurred. "I heard shouting, and then the call was cut off," he said.

> ***'It has the hallmarks of an Al Qaeda-related attack'***

Also among some two dozen people unaccounted for after the attacks is London resident Miriam Hyman, 33. Hyman's father, John, told *Yediot Achronot* that she called him from outside King's Cross subway station when her train was evacuated after the initial blasts occurred, but she has not been in contact since.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said that some 50 Israelis vacationing in London had not been in touch with their families since the attacks, but there was no immediate concern they were among the casualties.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who a day earlier had basked in the glory of London receiving the 2012 Summer Olympics, condemned the attacks and blamed Islamic extremists.

"It has the hallmarks of an Al Qaeda-related attack," Straw said at the G8 summit in Scotland, which was taking place as the bombs went off.

The "Secret Group of Al Qaeda's Jihad in Europe" claimed it was behind the attacks, but the claim could not be immediately verified. In a posting on a website, the group called them punishment for Britain's involvement in the war in Iraq and invasion of Afghanistan. It said Italy and Denmark were on warning for their support of the U.S.-led coalitions in both countries, too.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke, Britain's top law enforcement official, said investigators were concerned that while the London bombers are still at large, they could strike again. "That is of course the No. 1 preoccupation that the police and security services have at this moment," he told BBC radio.

Based on evidence recovered from the rubble, investigators believe some of the bombs were on timers, a U.S. law enforcement official said. Investigators doubted that cellphones – used in the Madrid train attacks – were used to detonate the bombs in the London Underground because the phones often don't work in its tunnels, the official said.

A senior U.S. counterterrorism official who spoke on condition of anonymity said there was no confirmation "at all" that suicide bombers were involved.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon instructed his cabinet not to make any comments equating the London bombings with the situation in Israel.

On learning of the terror attacks Thursday morning, Sharon telephoned Britain's ambassador to Israel, Simon McDonald, and asked him to pass on to Blair his and the Israeli government's shock at the "heinous crime committed against innocent British civilians."

Sharon also asked to convey the Israeli people's condolences to the bereaved families and the British people and said that at these moments, Israel expresses solidarity with them. The world must unite in the war against terror, he said.

Israel was ready and willing to provide any assistance, medical or otherwise, that Britain may require, the prime minister told McDonald.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz contacted his British counterpart, Geoff Hume, to express his condolences and say Israel would continue to be part of the international alliance against terror.

President Moshe Katsav sent a telegram of condolences to Queen Elizabeth II. "Every individual has the basic right to live without fear of terror and violence," Katsav wrote. "This crime further emphasizes the obligation of all the world's nations to join hands and unite in a war to eradicate terror and its perpetrators whoever they may be."

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem went into action on learning of the attacks in London, receiving more than 2,500 calls from concerned citizens who asked ministry officials for help in locating family members in London.

"This time, we were well-drilled and efficient," the director of the situation room, Yossi Alfassi, said. "The moment we realized we were dealing with a large incident, more personnel were called in to the situation room and we also opened a situation room at the Israeli Embassy in London."

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom also expressed Israel's sympathy and solidarity with the people of Britain following the attacks. "We are speaking about a very severe blow to London, to Britain," Shalom told Israeli media. "At these moments, all of us are together with them."

For its part, the Israeli Embassy in London said it was unaware of any Israeli casualties, embassy officials told *Ha'aretz*. Israel placed all its embassies around the world on high alert in the wake of the blasts.

With files from JTA.

'I still didn't know what had happened'

Continued from page 1

in the street, all on their mobile phones. There seemed to be a lot of police, but no particular reason to be panicking. London had just been awarded the Olympic Games for 2012 and there was certainly a sense of "typical, we can't even get the transport right," because I was convinced that there had been some kind of incident at Euston station and that the commuters had been thrown off the trains.

A woman tapped on my offside window. "I don't think you can go much further," she said. "There's been some sort of an explosion."

I thanked her, but assumed it was a gas explosion and stayed in my traffic lane.

A policeman walked over. "In one minute," he said to me firmly, "I want you to pull as tight in to the curb as you can so that an ambulance can get through."

I obeyed. The traffic moved forward. We were diverted around in a circle, past, though I didn't know it, the bombed bus. The traffic kept going, down Gower Street and past University College Hospital. And suddenly the ambulance and police sirens grew louder and louder, and on either side of me there were vans of police dogs, the dogs barking louder and louder as the sirens wailed. Fire engines struggled down narrow London streets. At Southampton Row, a member of the public stood in the centre of the crossroads and directed the traffic so that the ambulances could get through.

And I still didn't know what had happened. Despite a high level of Jewish alert on terrorism, bombing in London had simply never occurred to me. How naive is that? I finally got to work to be greeted by a flood of anxious colleagues – those who had made it in – and phone calls. I burst into tears. I had been so close to that bus, so close.

I have been glued to the TV and the papers ever since. This week, the police are re-opening Tavistock Square, and the cars and buses will go through again. That will include me, because though I will be scared, I'm damned if I see why these *mamzerim* should stop me from leading a normal life. London has seen these people off before: the Nazis, the IRA, and now, perhaps, Al Qaeda. It's still my city.

Jennifer Frazer is a reporter with the Jewish Chronicle *in London.*

Housing ministry to shift national priorities

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In a move to bolster its Jewish character, Israel has started to channel funds for new housing from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the Galilee and the Negev, an Israeli cabinet minister disclosed in a conference call with North American journalists last week.

"We've shifted our order of priorities," Isaac Herzog, the Israeli minister of construction and housing, told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York City.

Since the 1967 Six Day War, the Israeli government has invested heavily in housing in the territories. But from now on, the emphasis will be reversed, suggested Herzog, the Labor party's chief whip in the Knesset.

"We're trying to bring new people to the Galilee and the Negev," he said, describing them as areas of "future growth" in Israel.

At present, there is an Arab majority in the Galilee, and the Negev is under-populated.

Last month, Herzog, the son of former Israeli president Chaim Herzog, stopped work on 50 construction sites in unauthorized outposts in the West Bank.

He was speaking last week ahead of Israel's scheduled withdrawal from Gaza and four isolated settlements in the northern West Bank.

Herzog said the Labor party joined Prime Ministter Ariel Sharon's coalition government to ensure that the disengagement, slated to begin in mid-August, is carried out in full.

There is no chance it will be delayed, he declared, saying a postponement would be "unfeasible and unrealistic."

Settlers who think the withdrawal will be postponed are labouring under an illusion, Herzog asserted.

The withdrawal is important for demographic reasons, as it will help assure a clear Jewish majority in Israel, he explained, addng that the alternative is a one-state solution.

Calling it "futile" to retain an island of almost 8,000 Jews in a sea of more than one million Palestinians in Gaza, Herzog said 40,000 soldiers will be deployed to evacuate the Jewish settlers.

He called the planned pullout, which will cost Israel $1.5 billion (US) over three years, "a complex and painful process."

Many of the settlers who have accepted the withdrawal want to be resettled as a group. All of them will have access to new homes in the northern Negev or around Ashkelon.

Most settlers will co-operate, but "a strong nucleus" will resist and try to derail the withdrawal, even by force, Herzog predicted.

Some of the settlers agitating against the disengagement by day are negotiating with the government at night, he said.

He accused some of them of whipping up fears that Israel will face a major terrorist threat after its withdrawal from Gaza.

Downplaying this scenario, Herzog said Gaza may be as relatively quiet as southern Lebanon, which Israel relinquished five years ago in a similar unilateral withdrawal.

If necessary, he added, Israel will use vigorous military means to quell terrorism originating from Gaza.

"If we have to go back to Gaza, we'll do it big time."

He warned the Palestinians that Israel is not leaving under duress, but in accordance with its strategic interests.

In the meantime, Israel wants assurances from the Palestinian Authority that it can manage Gaza after the last Israeli troops leave.

Israel intends to remove synagogues and graves from the settlements, but a decision has yet to be made on whether the settlers' homes will be demolished, Herzog said.

His personal preference is for the buildings to be left intact. He said the Palestinians want the buildings to be levelled so that high-density neighbourhoods can be built.

As for the settlers' greenhouses, some may be left for Palestinian farmers, he said.

Herzog did not speak about the status of the remaining settlements in the West Bank after Israel's withdrawal, but he did say that finishing the separation fence should be Israel's priority.

Without elaborating, he said Israel may take additional unilateral steps in the territories.

Israel to have largest Jewish population by 2006

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel will have the largest Jewish population in the world by 2006, when it will surpass the United States for the first time in history, the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute said Monday.

Planning institute president Avinoam Bar-Yosef presented the research group's annual report on "the situation of the Jewish people" to the Knesset immigration and absorption committee on Monday. The institute, which is partly funded by the Jewish Agency, concluded that the State of Israel is the single guarantee of the Jewish people's continued existence. Bar-Yosef will submit the report to the government next week.

Today about 5.28 million Jews live in the U.S., with 5.235 million living in Israel.

The report projects how many Jews there will be in 2020. Israel is the only country in the world expected to see significant growth in the size of its Jewish population, while all other communities in the world are expected to shrink or remain stable. The overall number of Jews in the world is expected to rise by half a million people.

The Jerusalem-based institute predicts that there will be 6.25 million Jews in Israel in 2020, compared to 5.25 million Jews today. In North America, the number of Jews is expected to remain stable, at about 5.5 million. The number of Jews in Europe is expected to drop from 1.25 million to 1 million. In the former Soviet Union, the number of Jews is expected to shrink from 380,000 to 180,000.

The rate of assimilation is expected to be slightly less than 50 per cent in the U.S., 60 per cent in Germany and Hungary, and 80 per cent in the former Soviet Union.

Highs and lows for Canada at Maccabiah

The start of the 17th annual Maccabiah Games was an event-filled one for Canadian teams.

Canada's soccer team stunned defending champion Argentina with a 1-0 upset win on Monday. Shmulik Hazan of Thornhill, Ont., scored what turned out to be the only goal, in the 20th minute, after the Canadian forward took a pass from Isaac Levy, also of Thornhill, and his 25-foot kick found the upper left corner of the net.

"It was instant jubilation," said Hazan, a former member of Canada's under-16 national team. "The goal was big, but even bigger was the success of frustrating Argentina's defence in the final half."

Another Thornhill player, Canadian goalkeeper Colin Berenhaut made three outstanding saves in the final 10 minutes of the game.

"This win was huge and against a country that has traditionally put together some very strong teams," said Canadian coach Salim Brahimi of Montreal.

It was the first time Canada had entered a soccer team in these Games.

In men's softball on Sunday, Canada blew a 3-0 lead and lost to the United States 10-3 – suffering its worst defeat in the history of the Games. However, the team redeemed itself somewhat, crushing Mexico 9-2 on Monday, in a game they led from the start. Adam Sargon of Toronto hit a home run in this game to give Canada a 4-0 first inning lead.

On Monday, the United States had a four-run fifth inning to come from behind and beat Canada 6-4 in men's baseball. Mark Nadler of Montreal hit a two-run RBI single in the bottom of the fourth that tied the game at 2-2, but the United States got to pitcher Stephen Osterer of Ottawa in the top of the fifth with four runs on seven hits.

In Jerusalem, Canada's first win of the Maccabiah games came from the Junior Womens basketball team. Ahead 32-27 at halftime, Canada went on to beat Australia 63-51. Ali Cherniak of Toronto was the game's top scorer with 16 points while Montrealers Randi Kosinstone and Lauren Tajfel each added 11.

The Canadian Junior Womens soccer team opened the Games on Sunday – but with a loss. They trailed shortly after the start of the game and ended up on the losing end of a 4-2 game with Mexico. Down 3-1 at halftime, Canadian goal scorers were Liora Berger of Richmond Hill, Ont., and Nicole Markowitz of Toronto. Canada missed seven scoring chances in the final half.

G-8 nations promise $3 billion to the PA

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — The world's industrialized nations backed plans last week to pump $3 billion into the Palestinian Authority economy over the next three years as part of efforts to secure peace in the Middle East.

International special envoy James Wolfensohn, helping coordinate Israel's planned Gaza withdrawal, sold the plan to leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) nations during a three-day summit in Scotland.

"When the disengagement plan happens over the next few weeks, it is essential we build the infrastructure of a state on the Palestinian side. This money can help us do this," British Prime Minister Tony Blair told reporters.

Wolfensohn, a special envoy for the "Quartet" of the United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations, said last month he wanted the cash for projects that could include a seaport and infrastructure programs in Gaza.

Palestinian officials welcomed the announcement, but said the money must be disbursed quickly to help rebuild the Gaza Strip after Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer.

Faryar Shirzad, the senior U.S. negotiator at the G-8 summit, said a key part of what Wolfensohn was going to do was to "widen the circle of donors, including donors in the Arab world."

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Third summit seen

Mahmoud Abbas said he expects to meet Ariel Sharon before Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip in August. The Palestinian Authority president has met the Israeli prime minister twice since succeeding the late Yasser Arafat, but the last summit, in June, was marred by mutual recrimination over renewed fighting in Gaza. "I said that the meeting was difficult and the results were small. But there was agreement on continuing contacts and holding another meeting with the Israeli prime minister after completing preparations that can lead to better results," Abbas told the London-based *Asharq al-Awsat* newspaper. "It will be before the date of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza." Israeli officials said no date has been set for a third summit.

Israel helps in comet science

Israeli astronomers provided America with data on the U.S. aircraft that struck a comet last week. The *Jerusalem Post* reported that Noah Brosch, director of the Wise Observatory in Mitzpe Ramon, said Israel is the only country from Australia to Western Europe with skies clear enough to obtain useful data. "We are at the right longitude to provide data," Brosch said. "China was a partner, but there was rain and they couldn't see anything. We, of course, have clear skies over Mitzpe Ramon at this time of year." Scientists say the data provided by the collision could reveal details about the origins of the solar system.

Lynching probe deepens

A second Israeli was arrested in connection with the attempted lynching of a Palestinian rock-thrower in Gaza. The 19-year-old suspect, from the West Bank city of Kiryat Arba, was taken into custody after police identified him among a crowd of activists alleged to have stoned the Palestinian during confrontations in the Gaza village of Muwassi last week. Another suspect was also arrested last week. Televised images of the attack on the Palestinian, who was injured while in army custody, prompted Israeli authorities to pledge a crackdown on individuals who constitute the core of political opposition to the upcoming Gaza withdrawal.

Indictment in attack on gays

Yishai Shlisel, a resident of the haredi community of Kiryat Sefer, was charged with attempted murder after being arrested during this month's stabbing spree at Jerusalem's gay pride parade. Three people who took part in the parade were wounded. The suspect was quoted by the media as saying in Jerusalem District Court that he acted on God's orders. City Hall had tried unsuccessfully to ban the annual parade, arguing it would offend the religious sensibilities of many Jerusalem residents.

Cash sought for Gaza plan

Israeli officials are expected in Washington, D.C., this week to ask for special funding for the Gaza Strip pullout. They're seeking hundreds of millions of dollars to help re-house evacuees in the Negev and Galilee regions.

Two terrorists slain

Security forces killed two Palestinian terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last week. A two-man cell from the Al-Aqsa Brigades tried to ambush Jews en route to Joseph's Tomb outside Nablus on July 7, but they were fired on by troops guarding the pilgrims. One terrorist was killed. Hours earlier, soldiers repelled an Islamic Jihad attack on Morag, in the Gaza Strip, killing one gunman and wounding another.

Police chief urges calm

Israel's police chief urged settlers slated for evacuation not to resort to violence. "The soldiers and police are carrying out their mission as empowered by law. It is important to remember that after the disengagement, a new day will dawn, and that we as police will continue to protect and serve the evacuated residents anywhere else in the country," Moshe Karadi said.

Files from JTA

SPIRITUAL DEDICATION

A new spiritual centre for Ethiopian Jews was recently opened in Ramle, a town 20 kilometres southeast of Tel Aviv that has a large population of Ethiopian Jews. Over the past few years, Keren Hayesod (United Israel Appeal) has helped to establish 13 spiritual centres for the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel.

Le Monde guilty verdict sparks debate

By LAUREN ELKIN
JTA

PARIS — What began as a debate about freedom of the press after the appearance of a fiercely anti-Israel article has devolved into a clash of special interest groups.

In late May, a Versailles court of appeals found *Le Monde*, France's newspaper of record, guilty of "racial defamation" for a June 4, 2002 article titled "Israel-Palestine: The Cancer."

It's not the first time the French media have asked where exactly the dividing line lies between legitimate criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism, but it is the first time the pro-Israel side has won its case in court. The decision, therefore, was initially welcomed in the Jewish community.

In the past month, however, the French intellectual elite has re-centred the debate around the figure of Edgar Morin, one of the article's three authors.

Morin, who is Jewish, is a well-respected sociologist and a member of France's intellectual elite. Some see the controversy over the treatment of Israel in the French media being co-opted by the intellectuals at Morin's side, who claim the debate about free speech for themselves.

Any gratification the Jewish community initially took in the ruling has turned to outrage as the controversy has evolved, and as Morin's backers attempt to "contextualize" the article, blunting its explicit anti-Semitism.

The court cited two particular passages from the article as racist. The first reads: "One has trouble imagining that a nation of refugees, descendants of the people who have suffered the longest period of persecution in the history of humanity, who have suffered the worst possible scorn and humiliation, would be capable of transforming themselves, in two generations, into a dominating people, sure of themselves, and, with the exception of an admirable minority, into a scornful people finding satisfaction in humiliating others."

The second citation reads, "The Jews, once subject to an unmerciful rule, now impose their unmerciful rule on the Palestinians."

The court ruled that the article's offence rests in the implication that "all the Jews of Israel humiliate the Palestinians for their own satisfaction" and that "all Jews around the world" take part in this satisfaction and persecution.

The prosecuting groups – France-Israel and Lawyers Without Borders – sought the equivalent of approximately $18,000 (US) in damages. The court awarded each group the equivalent of approximately $3,583 in legal fees and a symbolic $1 for damages, and *Le Monde* was ordered to print a retraction.

But the story is far from over: the fees have not been paid, no retraction has appeared, and *Le Monde* is appealing the judgment.

Court cites French paper for 'racial defamation'

"We cannot allow jurisprudence like this to stand," Catherine Cohen, the attorney representing *Le Monde*, told the *Guardian*, a British newspaper.

Immediately after the decision, CRIF, the umbrella group of secular Jewish organizations in France, expressed its satisfaction: "The CRIF has always believed that criticism of Israeli policy falls under the heading of free and democratic debate, but that it must not be expressed through bias or through the demonizing of Israel or the Jewish people."

Outside the Jewish community, reaction to the ruling was surprisingly muted. Journalist Tom Gross noted in the *Wall Street Journal* on June 2 that though the ruling was a "landmark," it had been all but ignored in France and elsewhere in Europe.

Then, on June 21, *Le Figaro* came to *Le Monde*'s defence, complaining about the "oversensitivity" of "these types of associations," which seek "to censure the most insignificant article that has the slightest hint of truth to it."

The Jewish press responded indignantly. One writer on the pro-Israel website Primo-Europe.com reminded critics "that in 2002, when the article in question first ran, people were parading in the streets of Paris and other French cities crying 'Death to the Jews!' believing they had a right to do so because of such articles."

On June 17, Morin sat down with the Swiss journalist Sylvia Cattori to speak in his own defence, explaining that he views his writings on the Arab-Israeli conflict as a "diagnostic."

He also pointed to the timing of the article – it appeared in 2002, as Israel went on the offensive against Palestinians in the Jenin refugee camp who had carried out scores of terrorist attacks.

"It was the moment of Jenin, of the greatest repression. From that arose the need to intervene, to bear witness," Morin explained. The article was intended to "sound an alarm."

He protests that the offending passages were taken out of context and that "it is made very clear that it is about the Jews of Israel, not those of [Paris] or Brooklyn, who persecute the Palestinians."

As "L'Affaire Morin," so dubbed by the French press, heats up, Morin's assistant, Catherine Loridan – whose e-mail address was printed at the bottom of an article in *Liberation*, a left-wing daily, about a petition circulating in defence of Morin and his co-authors – has been receiving hate mail.

"It's the Dreyfus Affair in reverse," Morin complained to *Liberation*. "It's the Jews who persecute me."

Not everyone is buying that argument.

"French society, or at least its elite, seems no longer to be able to understand the meaning of words, not to mention its own duties and responsibilities," responded Nicole Leibowitz on Proche-Orient.info, a pro-Israel website.

Notable signatories on the pro-Morin petition include postmodernist philosopher Jean Baudrillard, artist Sophie Calle, the editor of the *Nouvel Observateur* newspaper, and the sociologist Michel Wieviorka, who wrote a recent study of anti-Semitism. Also signing were far-right leaders such as Yvan Aumont and Alain de Benoist.

Several Jewish outlets condemned the petition, saying the signatories acted to preserve friendships in their clique, rather than out of intellectual honesty.

"I would bet that many of those who signed the petition didn't even read Morin's article," Clement Weill-Raynal, president of the Association of Jewish Journalists for the French Press, said on Radio Communaute Juive, a Jewish station. "Some of them no doubt signed out of favouritism, out of ignorance, or out of simple intellectual conformity."

Gilles-Williams Goldnadel, president of France-Israel and Lawyers Without Borders, told Radio J, another Jewish station, that before the trial even began, "these so-called intellectuals tried to explain to us in their learned manner that we are guilty of judicial harassment."

He went on to say that opponents predicted they "would lose the case because it limited freedom of expression."

"If we hadn't followed through with this case," he said, "we would have established a legal precedent in which anything might be possible for some people because of their social position."

Alain Finkielkraut, a celebrated French Jewish philosopher, critiqued the trial in an article in *L'Arche* magazine in 2004, arguing that no matter what the outcome, "our enemies will interpret it in the same way: as a new proof of the intolerance, the sectarianism, and, let's not be afraid to say it, of the McCarthyism of the Jewish community."

Finkielkraut was right: in her story about the Morin controversy, Sylvia Cattori accused "Jewish militants" of practising "a sort of McCarthyism."

Neither side shows any indication of conceding. For now, *Le Monde*'s appeal remains to be decided, and the debate rages on.

Morin, for his part, plans to collect his writings in a volume titled *Racist and Anti-Semitic Writings*.

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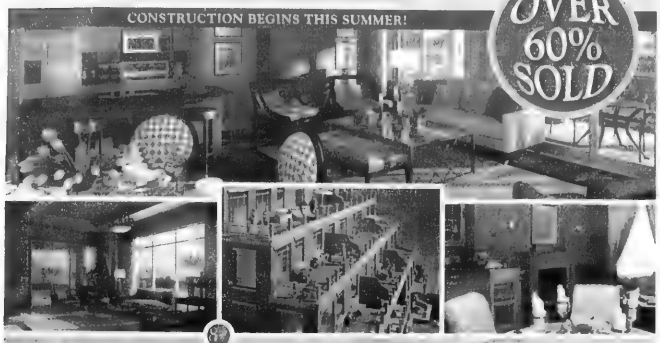

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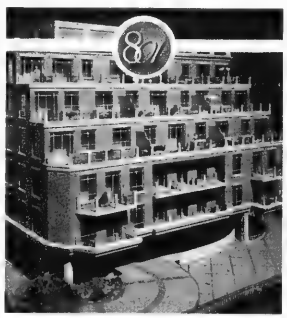

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Blurry images of Auschwitz toy with the imagination

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

Walking away from Auschwitz, his mind numb from exhaustion after two weeks of photographing one of the world's most evil settings, Daniel Ehrenworth buried his face in hands and sobbed.

"It's just such an overwhelming place," the 27-year-old artist says on the phone in Toronto. In Poland, he shot more than 100 rolls of film for his recent book *Holocaust Dream,* published by the MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie, Ont.

The book offers, as the introduction says, "The story of a dreamer returning to the site of a personal apocalypse, and seeking the starting point of a new human narrative."

It's a series of black and white photographs that aren't typical clear shots. Instead, they are blurry images that toy with the viewer's imagination and leave you grappling with the meaning.

And meaning is exactly what Ehrenworth is all about. The young artist is quickly carving out a reputation as a deep thinker who looks creatively at his work. He has exhibited at Gallery 44 in Toronto, the Khyber Centre for the Arts in Halifax and the New Gallery in Calgary. His photographs have appeared in *Maisonneuve* and *Hive Magazine*.

Some of Ehrenworth's more controversial projects include a photo essay created from webcam shots. The *Globe and Mail* called the essay "confrontational and sexually graphic."

Ehrenworth, who grew up in Ottawa, said that while other kids might have been dreaming about GI Joe or sports, he was having dreams about the Holocaust.

"Being in that place [Auschwitz] must have been like being in a dream. The physical world remains, but rules of existence are skewed," he says.

Ehrenworth borrowed money, raised money and worked at nightclubs to finance his trip to Poland. He spent two weeks in Auschwitz as part of his fourth-year thesis project at Ryerson University. He would shoot every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with his assistant.

An Ascension To Heaven, one of the photos by Daniel Ehrenworth.

When he returned to Toronto, he started showing the photographs at galleries. He received much praise and soon, much to his surprise, the MacLaren Gallery in Barrie called and a publishing deal was negotiated. The book was released April 20, which, Ehrenworth is quick to point out, is Hitler's birthday.

For his part, Ehrenworth offers a philosophical look at the terrible death camp. Some might see his point of view as controversial. He says he approached Auschwitz with a positive view, as opposed to the traditional negative one. He believes that Auschwitz ended human history, meaning that a new civilization started.

"If Auschwitz exists at one end of the evil spectrum, it means that its exact opposite exists," Ehrenworth says, explaining that he is influenced by Jean-François Lyotard, a leading postmodern thinker. "What Auschwitz truly stands for is a testament for humans to do good."

Ehrenworth says it took him six months to decide on the picture order for *Holocaust Dream*.

"I would wake up in the middle of the night and arrange the pictures on the walls," he says.

His grandmother is of Ukrainian descent and his grandfather is Austrian. Like most survivors, his grandparents never told him about the Holocaust. He was raised Jewish and still believes in the traditions of the religion but says, "I am not religious and I don't believe in God."

Ehrenworth was recently in Iceland, shooting for a new series called "The Sea of Ending," which will explore the triangular relationship between truth, belief and presence.

"It wasn't a conventional idea. You don't think of Iceland when you think of Judaism [but] Judaism is just ideas," he says.

The UJA and Toronto Jewish Arts Council provided Ehrenworth with a grant for the trip.

Next up?

"Egypt," he says. "I am not quite sure why yet."

For more information, visit www.danielehrenworth.com.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

DOCUMENTARY FOCUSES ON FREUD AND HITLER IN VIENNA

Toronto filmmaker **Manfred Becker** examines the philosophies and strange parallels in the lives of two men who shook the 20th century in *Neighbours: Freud and Hitler in Vienna*. The hour-long documentary, which has aired on the History channel, contains some rare footage of Freud taken by his pupils.

"Each man saw himself as a liberator, and sought to convince others of the incontestable truth of his beliefs," Becker says. "Freud, a Jew, wanted to liberate man from the unconscious – those things that we can't control – to free us from those instincts and desires. Hitler used those very instincts to subjugate people and to 'liberate' the German people from his perceived enemy, the Jews."

A Hugo Award winner for best direction, the film is being screened twice next week at the Camera Bar, 1028 Queen St. W. (west of Ossington Avenue). $10. Sunday, July 24, 7 & 9 p.m. 416-530-0011, www.camerabar.ca.

* * *

Names in the News: Toronto writer-poet **Anne Michaels**, whose first novel *Fugitive Pieces* (1996) won a huge international readership and many literary prizes, was in London recently, collaborating on an art project with artist **John Berger**. A reporter from the *London Jewish Chronicle* found her "instantly warm and approachable" as well as charming because "she hasn't fallen prey to the curse of taking herself too seriously."

Michaels, who let the Holocaust-related themes of *Fugitive Pieces* marinate in her brain and on the page for more than a decade before her manuscript was published, has been working on a second novel for nearly eight years, she told

Continued on page 31

Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Continued from page 30

the *Chronicle*. "I feel a relationship with the people who read me and a very great responsibility to them to go all the way and, for me, that also means at any moment scrapping what doesn't seem true, not being afraid to begin all over again."

Subject and theme of the work-in-progress? All Michaels would say is that it contains "various historical events and the personal response to them… There's history, there's science, there's engineering, there's architecture. Again, it's drawn on a vast amount of research and detail to try and grasp at a few things that seem true."

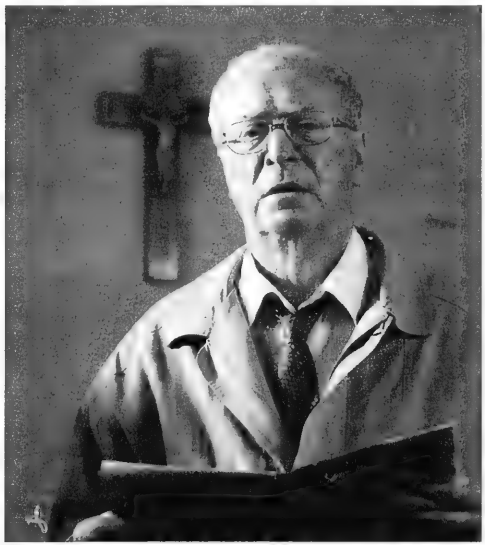
* * *

Banned in Beirut and Cairo: "What this amounts to is Holocaust denial," Toronto-based film director **Norman Jewison** told the *Toronto Star* recently after his 2003 film *The Statement*, based on the political thriller by **Brian Moore** about a French Nazi war criminal on the run, was banned in Lebanon and Egypt.

Neither country will allow the film to be shown in theatres or DVD copies to be imported for sale.

Lebanese censorship authorities condemned Jewison for "promoting sympathy for the Jewish cause," while the Egyptians rejected the movie as "Jewish propaganda" that depicted the Jews as victims of persecution. Previous films banned in Beirut include *Schindler's List* and *The Pianist*.

The film, which stars **Michael Caine**, received a positive critical reception but fared poorly at the box office. It relates the story of **Paul Touvier**, an officer in the Nazi-collaborating Vichy regime who was convicted of the murders of seven Jews. Touvier, aided by right-wing elements in the Catholic Church, spent more than 40 years evading capture in southern France before being apprehended in 1989.



Banned: Michael Caine in *The Statement*.

* * *

Jewish Rock of Ages: Having settled a trademark infringement lawsuit with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, the founders of a website celebrating the Jewish contribution to rock music are back in business under the name Jewsrock.org.

The former Jewish Rock and Roll Hall of Fame now offers a renamed "Challah Fame" listing hundreds of Jewish rockers. The site also offers more than a dozen essays on Hebraic rockers under the heading "Shul of Rock" as well as a "Jew or Not?" quiz.

Bob Dylan, **Billy Joel**, **Lou Reed**, **Carole King**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Neil Diamond**, **Paul Simon**, **Bruce Springsteen** drummer **Max Weinberg** and **Beatles** manager **Brian Epstein** are among the many personalities included in the A-to-Z listing. Each entry presents a snappily written and informative paragraph of biographical details.

The two journalists and the radio- company executive behind the non-profit website agreed to change their site's name to avoid a protracted legal dispute with the Cleveland museum. "These guys are an enormous establishment and institution, and we're just three Jewish guys with a computer," said co-founder **Jeffrey Goldberg**, who added that the publicity from the lawsuit has generated immense interest in the site.

* * *

At the Galleries: "Incognito," a show of works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter**, is at the Koffler Gallery, July 14 to Oct. 2. Opening reception, Thursday, July 14, 7 to 9 p.m. with an artist talk at 7 p.m.

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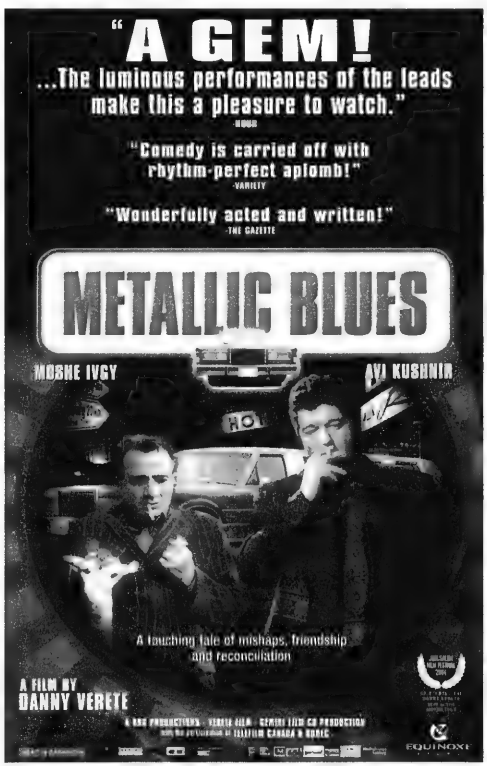
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Veteran Toronto actor plays reporter in Crowe movie

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

We've all heard the stories about Russell Crowe. The latest is that he allegedly hit a concierge with a phone in a SoHo hotel, but there've been countless other news reports about his loose fists.

For one Toronto actor, he not only got to see Crowe throw a punch, but he also hung out with him on the set of the recent boxing movie *Cinderella Man*, and apparently, he's a pretty nice guy.

"At first I was going, 'Oh my god, I know this guy's reputation,' but for some reason Russell took a liking to me," says Judah Katz, 45, one of the few Toronto actors who had a role in the Ron Howard movie.

Katz's positive experiences with Crowe were just beginning. Playing one of the reporters, he spent 30 days working with the star and got to see his craft first hand.

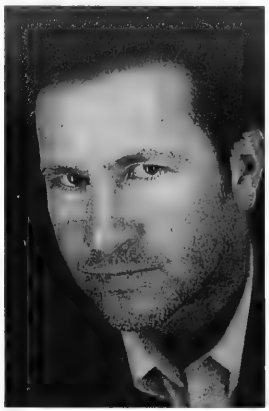
"The two of us clicked professionally," he says. "He's super bright, really a smart guy. He also has a photographic memory. In the boxing scenes Russell not only knew all of his moves for his five fights absolutely perfect, but he knew everyone else's moves too."

While Katz admits that Crowe's perfectionism put some people off, he says the Australian wasn't being callous, he just wanted the best from his co-workers.

"I learned from him to really want the best. He never compromises. In one boxing scene against Max Baer, Russell did it a bunch of times and then stopped and picked up the ring announcer's mike. He talked to the 3,000 extras and told them all 'This scene is about you guys, I need you to make this work.' And he just took over the scene, but really what he was doing was saying 'let's do this the best we can.'"

Getting extras to do their best is one thing, but bringing out perfection in an experienced actor like Katz is another. The Montreal born performer has been acting for 20 years, working alongside James Spader in *The Pentagon Papers*, Beau Bridges in *Out of the Ashes* and Holly Hunter in *Crash*, just to name a few. Katz says *Cinderella Man* not only brought out the best in him, but was the best film experience he's ever had, in part because he was able to observe one of Hollywood's most prolific directors.

"Ron Howard was an absolute rock. He was extremely focused, doesn't really take part in any of the small talk and he's in work mode from the second he walks in. He would ask me, 'What do you want to do here, what do you want to see here?' and he'd a give a little tweak and I would never hear from him the rest of the day."



Judah Katz

Naturally, Katz thinks one of Howard's best qualities is his eye for talent.

"He hires people he trusts and you can see that all over the place. There was no real reason to hire me for this role, but he wanted experienced actors all around him. It was one less thing for him to worry about."

It was clear from Katz's first meeting with Howard that the director trusted the actor enough to have him land one of the film's more important roles.

"Howard is a very smart man. He really understands how actors work. Instead of saying most of the lead roles have been cast out of the States and now I have to fill everything up with locals, he thought 'I'm gonna give some really meaty audition parts for the big roles to these local actors.' He also made me feel at ease within seconds (of meeting him). Before I even got to him he got out of his chair, gave me a big smile, and shook my hand."

After finding out he was cast as one of the reporters in the film, it was time to research the role, but Katz had never heard of James Braddock, the Depression-era boxer who resurrected his career by knocking out heavyweight champ Max Baer.

"It's a film about family," says the actor who has two kids of his own. "It goes right to your heart. It's during the Depression when they couldn't feed their own children. They didn't have enough money for medicine. It's a heartbreaking story. A lot of people at the time could relate to what was going on with James Braddock, which is why he got the nickname Cinderella Man."

Katz can't help speaking passionately about the movie, as family is as important to him as it was to Braddock. It was his father who encouraged him to pursue his acting dreams and supported his decision to go to acting school.

"My father was my mentor. I would never have been an actor without him. To have the blessing of your father to go into the arts is pretty rare."

So will Katz support his own kids if they catch the acting bug?

"My wife and I always encourage the kids to do whatever they like, but we've discussed that acting professionally, if they would choose to do so, will not happen when they are children."

Correction

In "Toronto-born poet wins PEN award" (*CJN*, June 30), a 2005 PEN prize winner was incorrectly named. The winner of one 2005 PEN award was Pierre Joris, for his tranlation of Paul Celan's *Lightduress*.

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'Retired' gallery owner Av Isaacs launches major exhibition

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery director/curator Judi Schwartz had told retired art dealer and gallery owner Av Isaacs he should consider launching of a major exhibition that would challenge, titillate and capture the mind.

Isaacs, 79 years young, always curious and reaching out, was ready for Schwartz' proposal, and the idea for "Issacs Seen" was conceived.

A risk taker, Isaacs had fostered the controversial, the daring, the experimental, for five decades, but his initial plunge into business came when he was still studying political science and economics at the University of Toronto.

***Kitchen Door and Esther* by Christiane Pflug.**

Together with fellow U of T student Al Latner, he founded University Framers, geared primarily to diploma holders.

"We did very well on a part-time basis," he notes, "so like fools, we thought it would be a good thing to do. After a year, Al got married and I bought him out for $1,500 in war bonds."

Between 1950 and 2001, Isaacs established an art shop and galleries (including two devoted to Inuit pieces) in Toronto's Yorkville area.

Originally, to make a living, he did framing, carried art supplies and sold reproductions. Artists came for supplies, and feeling comfortable, they became the nucleus of a community – William Ronald, Graham Coughtry, Michael Snow, Joyce Wieland. Critic Robert Fulford also showed an interest.

Isaacs, not yet knowledgeable, somehow instinctively gravitated toward the talented, the searchers. His reputation spread as growing numbers of artists and clients found their way to his galleries. The artists were young Canadians with a nationalistic bent, and Isaacs says, "I encouraged it because I believed that there were a lot of creative people around, but also because of the cultural monster to the south of us. I felt that unless we kept stressing our own, we were going to be overwhelmed."

The galleries are closed now, but Isaacs' response to Schwartz's proposal of a major exhibition was positive. Neither anticipated the scope of what would follow. Among those who came on board were experts in all manner of disciplines – painters, sculptors, poets, musicians, craftsmen and curators offering a profound tribute to a remarkable individual.

"Isaacs Seen" is set in four venues: the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, the University of Toronto Art Centre, the Textile Museum of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

"Regarding Av" at Justina M. Barnicke is essentially a private view of Isaacs the collector. A sturdy pair of tailor's scissors perhaps reminds Isaacs of his father's drygoods store. *Jackpot Charlie* recalls his childhood gambling days in the local cigar shop where the right numbers could yield a prize (this, like in-store slot machines was later banned). A portrait of Isaacs with Pely Bay Inuit artist Agnes Nutuuk, features Isaacs in Arctic garb but sporting quirky red socks. A logo designed for the Isaacs Gallery at Cumberland and Yonge, finely gilded by William Kurelek who had apprenticed as a master gilder, draws attention. Kurelek quietly revealed that he could also paint, and Isaacs showed many of his works.

"Gallery Re-View" at the University of Toronto Art Centre is truly diverse, eclectic, says gallery manager Maureen Smith to explain the mood here.

Two Travellers in a Land Strange and Not So Strange, monumental in size, is a sculpture covered in burrs. Yes, burrs. It's of a man and woman walking along, carrying their shoes, from the concept of Viktor Tiuk.

In contrast are *The Water Quilt* by Joyce Wieland, a fabric embroidery on loan from the Art Gallery of Ontario, and Wieland's totally different *Paint Phantom*, a striking oil on loan from the National Gallery in Ottawa.

Smith's favourite is Richard Gorman's *Spitfire*, oil and acrylic in feel-good yellow with slashes of bright red set off by dark green (Art Gallery of Ontario).

In *Kitchen Door and Esther*, an oil on canvas by Christiane Pflug, a slight little girl seen from the back sits in the doorway, perhaps just dreaming – of what? Beyond, in front of her, are trees and an open patch of sky (Ottawa's National Gallery).

"Closet Collector" at the Textile Museum of Canada encompasses many facets of needlework and stitchery. Facing the entrance to this section is a portrait of Isaacs actually knit by Martha Black, his former assistant and associate director from about 1970 to 1990. She is now a curator of ethnology, a branch of anthropology that analyzes cultures by relating to their historical development, at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

While Isaacs concentrates on Canadiana, he travels abroad and has brought back beautifully embroidered pieces from Asia, which he has donated to the Textile Museum. "What has captivated me most about textiles is the human touch, the singular personal connection in the hand made object," he says.

"Two on the Scene, Photographs by Michel Lambeth and Tess Taconis" is a limited but telling collection of photographs, which conveys a sense of the era of the Isaacs Gallery in the 1960s and 1970s. Remembered are some of the key personalities associated with the gallery – Joyce Wieland, Dennis Burton, William Kurelek, Michael Snow.

Available for purchase at the Isaacs Seen venues is *50 years on the art front*, a gallery scrapbook compiled by Donnalu Wigmore. This is a comprehensive beautifully printed and illustrated volume.

"Regarding Av" continues until Aug. 18 at the Justin M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto.

"Gallery ReView" continues to Aug. 5 at University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle (416-978-8398).

"Closet Collector" continues until Sept. 25 at the Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre Ave., Toronto (416-599-5321).

"Two On the Scene: Photographs by Michel Lambeth and Tess Taconis" continues to Sept. 25 at the Art Gallery of Ontario (416-979-6656).

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Don Mills / Steeles	--	3:00pm
Don Mills / Finch	--	3:10pm
Leslie / Finch	--	3:15pm
Bathurst / Centre	10:30am	--
Bathurst / Finch	10:40am	3:30pm
Bathurst / Sheppard	10:45am	3:45pm
Keele / Wilson (Coffee Time)	11:00am	4:00pm
DEPART CASINO	6:00 pm	11:00 pm

PICK UP A COMPLIMENTARY BUS TICKET
WITH THIS AD AT COFFEE TIME (KEELE/WILSON)
★ RESERVATIONS ONLY
PROMOTION ENDS JULY 22, 2005
*ENJOY OUR SPECIAL GENIE SERVICE: IN-BUS SNACK AND BEVERAGE SERVICE
Reservations & Information:
☎ 416.298.1023
Program and schedule subject to change without prior notice. Must be 19 years of age older and have valid Government-issued ID to board buses destined for Casino Rama.

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

5 HOUSES FOR SALE
10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
15 HOUSES FOR RENT
20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT
24 HOUSES WANTED TO BUY
25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS
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80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET
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245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
246 VOLUNTEERS
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248 DAY CARE WANTED
250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE
255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE
258 HEALTHCARE WANTED
259 SENIORS
260 BUSINESS PERSONALS
265 PEOPLE SEARCH
270 PERSONALS
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279 PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY
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325 GARAGE SALE

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358 BRIDAL
365 CARPENTRY
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370 CATERING
371 CERAMICS
372 CHUPPAHS
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380 CLOTHING
382 COUNSELLING
385 COMPUTER
386 DANCING
387 DECORATING
390 DRIVING
392 DRY CLEANING/LAUNDRY
394 EDUCATION
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425 JEWELLERY
427 JUDAICA
430 LEASING
431 LANDSCAPING/LAWNCARE
432 LAWYERS
433 LESSONS
434 LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES
435 LIQUIDATION
438 LOCKSMITH
439 MAKE-UP
440 MISCELLANEOUS
442 MUSICAL SERVICES
445 MOVING
449 PEST CONTROL
450 PAINTING/WALLPAPERING
452 PARTY SERVICES
455 PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
477 SECOND HAND STORES
478 SCHOOLS
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
482 SIGNS
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED

"RETREAT IN THE CITY" – YONGE & ELGIN
Nova custom built home designed by David Wooldridge. Unique in design & layout. 2 Years new. Hardwood + limestone flooring, designer kitchen, 70 x 483 ft lot, pool + more. $2,450K. Michelle Schipper** & Tanya Jivov** ext. 289/319

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS - $1,449,000
Charming & formal, 4 bedrooms with gracious principal rooms. Main floor family room, lush treed garden. A chance to live on one of Toronto's finest streets. Michele R. Noar* ext. 268

ARNOLD & ATKINSON * NEW PRICE!
Magnificent fully reno'd home w/the finest fin's incl. limestone, Crema Marfil, maple cabinets, 5+1 BRs, + loft, 6 baths, 2 kitchens, pool & more. $1,379K. Michelle Schipper** ext. 289

1ST PRESENTATION * 10 BELLAIR ST.
Exceptional upgraded suite in Yorkville. 2 BRs + library, 2 frplcs. 2 balconies, 9ft clngs, SW views of lake & CN tower. Approx. 2164 sf. $1,350,000. Elise Kalles** & Natalie Kopman* ext. 315

EXCLUSIVE LISTING – BATHURST/N. EGLINTON
Well maintained 10 yr old home. Hardwood floors throughout, 4 BRs, 5 baths, lrg e.i.k., family room, 2 car gar +++ Finished basement with separate entry. Walk to synagogue, shops & transportation. Only $699,000. Paula G. Bernstein* ext. 228

FOREST HILL LUXURY BUILDING...
With all amenities! Steps to Forest Hill Village and St. Clair W. subway. Breathtaking N.W. exposure & ravine view! Customized wheelchair accessability. Approximately 2000sf, 2 bedrooms & den. $599K. Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

SENLAC / FINCH * 55 x 132 * $499,000
Move right in! Modern kitchen, walkout to patio & garden, open concept living/dining room, 3 bedrooms, separate entrance to apartment, close to bus stop. Cheryl Graff* ext. 272

BATHURST / LAWRENCE – VERY SPECIAL!
Renovated with quality & taste 2 bedroom + family room. Lower level bedroom, 3 new baths, central air. Huge pie shaped lot. Must be seen! $449,000. Michele Rosen* ext. 294

BATHURST / CLARK CONDO
Spacious penthouse in great building. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, solarium, close to Promenade Mall. Parking next to elevator. $223,900. Linda Evans* & Diane Landry* ext. 523/615

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

YORKVILLE/ANNEX - $1,649,000
Dramatic Space Built in 1997. Custom finishes, Wonderful Mstr ste, 2 Pkg. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

FULLY RENO – 5 BDRM – $939,000
One of the Prime Streets – Great Family home – top of the Line Kitchen, 3 Bths, Large Fam Rm. Judy Hendler* 416-488-2875

26 HILLMOUNT AVENUE! 5+2BR 4BTH!
$879K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+2Pce! Nanny Ste! Try Your Offer! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CHAPLIN ESTATES - $799,000
Updated 4 bdrm, 4 bath, family room on main, 2 decks, working fireplace. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

78 ALEXIS BLVD! FAB 4+1BR 4BTH!
$679K! Bathurst S/Sheppard! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! Nanny Ste! Gorg'us 40x161'! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NEW LISTING! AVENUE/LAWRENCE $619,000
Gorgeous updated 3+2 bdrm, 3 bath, sep. LR with w/o to deck, sep entr to finished basment. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

ALLENBY AREA – ST[SOLD]MENTS - $610,000
3 Bdrm plus tandem 4th, lead windows, wood trim, cedar deck, private drive. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW/Y. MILLS EXEC. TOWNHOME!
$568,513. 3 Bdrm + den with walkout to balc! Fam Rm walkout to patio! Double garage! Veronica Key** 416-785-1500

1ST AD! 94B ELLERSLIE AVENUE! $539K!
Yonge N/Sheppard! Lux 3+1Br 4Bth T.H. Facing Park! Fab Open Concept! B/I Grge! 10+! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

5A HEATHDALE ROAD! 3ST 3BR 4BTH!
$515K! Bathurst N/St Clair! Incredible Semi! B/I Grge! Oversized Deck! Subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

11 THORNBANK ROAD! LUX 6+1BR 11BTH!
$2,380K! "Old Thornhill"! Sensational Res! Mn Fam+Lib+2Pce! 3Car Grge! Fab 100x281'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

67 DENLOW BLVD! RENO 4+1BR 4BTH!
$1,980K! Leslie/York Mills! European Flair! Stunning Décor! Indoor Spa! Lush Lot! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

LOVELY 4 BEDROOM HOME
Like A Semi, Fin Bsmt, 3Bath, Skylight, Parking 4 2 Cars, Best Location, Call Georgina Koltai* 416-226-1987

JUST LISTED! $259,900 LESLIE/STEELES
Immaculate 3Br Townhouse With W/O To Yard! Walk To Great Schools! Marilyn Feldman* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

1ST AD! FABULOUS 2 BDRM, FOREST HILL $669,000
Great N/E views, newly renovated, gorgeous kitchen, 2 bvaths, pool, concierge, near subway. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

2 COVINGTON ROAD #405 $269,900
Fab Location, Bathurst/Lawrence, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Upgraded, Concierge. Judy Lenkinski* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

CEDARVALE UPDATED DESIGNER HOME
$2,950, 3 Bedroom, Family Room. G. Mitchell** 416-488-2875

YONGE/LAWRENCE, 4 BDRM + DEN $2,500 RENO'D
Over 2000 sq ft, backing onto Ravine, 2 parking. S. Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/ST. CLAIR EXECUTIVE UPPER DUPLEX $2,300
Updated 4 Bedroom, 2 Baths. S. Merrick* 416-488-2875

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

ESSIE SHER

BATHURST/NEW WESTMINSTER
$699,900. Just listed!! Gorgeous 5 Bdr, 5 Bath. All bells & whistles, Fam Rm, Library, 9 ft ceiling, granite, hrdwd. + more. 10+++.

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
$862,000. 5 Bdr. Charming, sunfilled home. Upgraded. Desirable Street. Fin w/o Basement + Separate entrance. Open plan Kit/Fam rm, w/o to Cedar Deck. Value!!

Sutton Group Realty Specialists Inc.
416-256-7000

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

WILMINGTON/SHEPPARD
3 bedroom bungalow, 2 baths, 2 kitchens, L-shaped liv & din room, fin bsmnt, double drive garage, move in condition, Don't Miss.

WILSON HEIGHTS/ALLEN RD
Custom built 3 bdrm, 3 baths, huge liv & din, family sized kitchen, fin basement with priv entrance, lrge lot, 2 car garage, steps to all.

416-633-7373

SALLY ROSEN
905-764-7111
CLARK & BATHURST
Large 4 bdrm 2 storey home, main floor family room, fin bsmnt, 2 car gar. $2,300/mo.
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$1,155,000 YORKVILLE GEM
Tree Canopy Garden Terrace off living rm., Solid Cherrywood flrs. throughout, 4 bdrm. Hidden Oasis on Quiet Cul-de-sac, 2 prkng., panoramic southern vistas!

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

BATHURST-WESTMOUNT ½ ACRE LOT!
Exquisite 5 bedroom home, finished basement, 7 washrooms, glass block, ¾" oak floor, nanny's quarters, interlock circular drive, extras galore! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Choice of 4 custom homes to be built! From 2500 sq.ft to 4400 sq.ft, high ceilings, top quality finishes, great lot sizes! Call *Carey Rosenzweig

• • •

CENTRE-DUFFERIN ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
Large 4 bdrm upgraded home, 9 ft ceilings on main floor, stainless appliances, built-ins, extras galore! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-WESTMOUNT – MUST SEE!
Exquisite 4 bedroom home, completely renovated, designer décor, new broadloom, hardwood, interlock, walk-in closets in all bedrooms. Extras ++ *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-REGENT "HERITAGE ESTATES"
Large 4 bedroom, newer roof, air, main floor laundry, extras galore! Must see! $499,000. *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-ATKINSON
Stunning 4 bedroom home with separate entry to basement apartment. Close to top schools, shopping & transit. Great family street. *Carey Rosenzweig

• • •

BATHURST-HWY 7 "THORNHILL WOODS"
Fab 3 bedroom freehold townhhome, 2 years new, appliances, air, vac +++ Shows great, must see! **Mark Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES $279,900
Large 3 bdrm townhome, end unit, feels like a detached (only attached by small part), fenced, new vinyl windows & doors, parquet, appls, central air. Finished bsmt w/fireplace. *Ted Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Large 2 bdrm condo, split bedroom layout, new ensuite, appliances & window coverings, locker, shows great! *Ted Waxman

• • •

CLARK-HILDA "CONSERVATORY"
Just listed! Large 2 bedroom, 2 baths, balcony, unit, bright & spacious! Open House Sunday July 17th from 2-4 pm at 333 Clark #204. *Sarah Rovet

• • •

BATHURST-DREWRY-ANTIBES
Large 3 bedroom corner suite – 2 washrooms, newer appliances, facing south-west. Close to all amenities. Shows great!

• • •

NEW WESTMINSTER-CENTRE
1+1 bdrm condo, about 800 sq.ft, lots of upgrades, balcony with unobstructed view. Immediate poss. $199,900. *Mila Gurfinkel

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES - $189,000
Fab 2 bedroom condo, unobstructed north view, 2 washrooms, appliances, underground parking. Shows well. *Ted Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

BATHURST-CENTRE – BRAND NEW!
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, $1350/month. Possible short term rental. Could be available furnished. *Mila Gurfinkel

• • •

BATHURST-HWY 7 "THORNHILL WOODS"
Exqusite 4 bedroom, part finished basement, thousands $$ in upgrades, 2nd flr computer room, granite, Hardwood ++. Extras galore, unbelievably elegant home. Mist see! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK ON SPRING GATE
Custom home about 3400 sf, prof fin bsmt, very private backyard with mature trees & large deck. Great family home across from park, steps to schl, bus, shops. *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

• • •

"ROSEDALE NORTH" – JUST LISTED!
Stunning 4 bdrm with 9 ft ceilings, finished bsmt, totally redecorated and updated. New kitchen & baths, granite counters, limestone floors, hardwood floors & berber Carpets. Extensive landscaping plus pool & hot tub. Steps to Hebrew schools & Rosedale North PS. Must see! *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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Highly prestigious central location. Call David Eichorn* at (416) 787-1712. Special consideration to buyers of this condo who also list their current home with us.

ONLY A FEW LEFT: one just right for you!

- 910 sq. ft .....$ 291,800
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- 1,715 sq. ft. .....$ 599,100
- Penthouse 2,135 sq. ft. + huge terrace $1,049,000

BATHURST / WILSON — SPACIOUS EXECUTIVE HOME
4 + 3 bdrms., 5 baths, on generous deep lot in desirable Armour Heights! Main floor fam. room + library, renovated dream maple kitchen + granite counters. **ALL THIS FOR ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

AVENUE ROAD / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
AFFORDABLE LUXURY IN HOT AREA! Custom built, upgraded detailing throughout! 4 bdrms., 4 baths, granite counters & floors, hrdwd. floors on both levels, coffered ceilings, crown mouldings, marble fireplace ++. **REDUCED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE TO $819,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — ATTN. BUILDERS & RENOVATORS!
51 foot lot with opportunity for possible redevelopment for two semis. **ONLY $499,900 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD FOR 99% OF ASKING PRICE

Detached 3 bedroom, 2 storey home on 50 ft. lot in prime central location! Renovated kitchen & bath, hardwood floors, sep. entry to basement. Backs onto parkette! **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE — ESTATE SALE!
Fabulous 40 x 122 ft. building lot in prestigious location close to luxury homes. **OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME — ONLY $499,000! ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

PRIME RENTALS, IDEALLY SITUATED!

- **BATHURST / BEDFORD PARK** 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 storey home close to bathurst, $1,500 / mo.
- **BATHURST / GLENGROVE** 4 bedroom custom executive home, 3,000 sq. ft. + basement, $3,200 / mo.
- **BATHURST / LAWRENCE** 3 bedroom home, newly renovated & decorated, $1,650 / mo. LEASED

BATHURST / PRUE CONDO
10 PRUE — RARE OPPORTUNITY! Spacious 1,700 sq. ft. luxury unit. 2 bdrms., 2 baths, hardwood floors throughout, built-in bookcases. Faces landscaped terrace. **ASKING $489,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst Manor sidesplit, near Beth Emeth, 2 kitchens, 3 bth, fin. bsmnt., CAC, dble. gar., long-term lease. Avail. Sept. 1st. $2372+/mo. 416-733-1844, x24.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

THE CONSERVATORY 333 CLARK AVE. W.
Motivated Sellers/Make an Offer!! Just Move In! Total Renovation (2004). Granite Kitchen, 2 Bdrms, 3 Baths, lrge Living/Dining. Open terraces, Gorgeous unobstructed views, (2,225 sf+), lrge locker, 3 pkg.
CAROL MINTZ 416-489-2121
ROYAL LEPAGE/J&D

CLARK-HILDA
Beautiful 2 bedroom + den, eat-in kitchen, walkout to balcony, parquet, 2 baths.
R. ROSENBAUM
Homelife/Cimerman R.E.
416-226-9770

BATHURST/ANTIBES
Bright & cheerful! Lrg 2 bdrm, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, ensuite storage & lndry, 3 new appls, faces park, Sabbath elevator.
PAULINE GOLD
Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.
905-764-7111

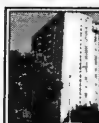
Yonge/Clark, spacious 2 bdrm., 2nd floor, 1646 sq. ft., close to bus. Call 905-762-0186.

Bathurst/Clark, close to Promenade Mall, 2 bdrm. condo for sale immed. 905-886-3184.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003 or 822-4003

SKYMARK DON MILLS & FINCH
Skymark II: renovated throughout. SW corner, 2 bedroom + family + 2 baths. SOLD
Skymark I: open concept, 2 bdrm w/lrg living rm + sol.
Skymark 85: classic reno, 2 b.r., 2 baths, 2 park., locker.
SANTEE LEUNG, B.E., SKYMARK'S SPECIALIST



130 NEPTUNE DRIVE
Large 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, approx 1,500 sq ft. Renovated from top to bottom. Hardwood floors, ceramic tiles, eat-in kitchen, new plumbing and unobstructed view from balcony of CN Tower and park. Quiet building, close to TTC, HWY 401 and Yorkdale Mall. **$184,900.**

OPEN HOUSE
Jul 17 – 12 to 4

Call... IOURI TCHOUMAK
Re/Max West Realty Inc
416-917-6921- Cell
416-769-1616 - 24Hr.

BathurstSteelesCondos.com
2 Bdrms, Free Colour Brochure
GideonWaichenberg.com
Sales Representative
416-520-5700 - Cell
905-764-6000 - Office
Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst-Steeles/Townsgate, lrg. lux. 1550 sf, 2 bed., + sunroom, corner unit, all amens. 2 parking. $2200/mo. Call 905-731-3321, 647-299-0371.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Centre
New condo., 1bdr. + den, 2 bths., prkng., rec. cntre.
Tom Tauro, Broker
Homelife Bayview Realty Inc.
905-889-2200

Bathurst/Clark, close to Promenade Mall, 2 bdrm. condo for rent immed. 905-886-3184.

55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED

28 yr. old female looking to rent apt./condo or shared living. Call Lara, 416-835-8349.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bath./Glencairn, 1 bdr furn bsmt apt, n/smkr/pets, full kit/bath, sep ent. $750/mo. 416-787-4154.

Bathurst/Sheppard, country feel in the city, spacious, bright, clean boutique apts., quiet ravine setting off main sts., newly reno, TTC, 1 bdrm. avail. Oct./Nov. 905-474-3600, 416-633-1484.

Bathurst/Wilson, newly built 1 bdrm. bsmt. apt. on quiet St. High ceilings, priv. entry, carpeted bdrm, close to TTC, no smk/pets. Prkng, lndry & util. incl. $650/mo., avail. immed. Please call 416-635-6632.

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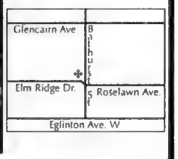
75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Luxury Apartments for Rent

The Eldorado
2500 Bathurst St.

Few Remaining Call Today!



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- Laundry Facilities on each Floor
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- 2 Bedroom + Den: 1,700 sq. ft.
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416-931-2206
OPEN HOUSE every Sunday 10-2

BATHURST-SHEPPARD

ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths. Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl. 6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or 416-631-0388 - Super

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Wasaga Beach, $495/wk. Kosher & Shomer Shabbat community suitable for family. 830 River Rd., sand, bch., shul, cholent! David 416-256-1600.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

South Florida. Selling, buying, new const. Call me for all your real estate needs. Enid Berk Hey, 954-292-2298, **Keyes Realty.**

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SERVICE DIRECTORY Section

Israel & the Jewish World

Keeping an African Shabbat

Continued from page 1

"The people in the community are especially grateful for our efforts. They have been waiting for this library for over three years."

Rosen said she wanted to incorporate her "Jewish values in an international volunteer experience."

The 22-year-old recently graduated from the University of Victoria and decided to go to Ghana as an extension of her studies.

In June, Rosen and Gilbert attended an orientation session in New York, where they met their American colleagues and prepared for the seven-week stay in Ghana.

On June 24, they met with the elders of Kpeme. The village is a 3½-hour drive from Accra, Ghana's capital.

Project co-leaders Yaniv Snir and Shira Epstein in an online diary on the AJWS website wrote, "We had a meeting with the chiefs… and members of the community under a tree in the village centre. It was a wonderful ceremony during which the chiefs welcomed us into their community… and vowed to take care of us during our stay."

The construction of the library began a few days after the group's arrival.

"In three work days, we have dug the three-foot-deep trenches for laying the cement foundation to the building," wrote Snir and Epstein.

Participants work on the building with members of the community and attend formal learning sessions led by their group leaders.

Rosen said in a recent session they "covered cross-cultural experiences. Other topics include poverty, globalization and sustainable development."

Mike Blasenstein, a spokesperson for AJWS in New York, said the "learning sessions concentrate on issues in development and how Jewish principles can drive compassionate and sustainable change for the world's poor."

Tal Schreier, a Toronto native and Osgoode Hall Law School graduate, received a small stipend and airfare from AJWS for her year-long placement at a legal aid clinic at the University of Cape Town.

"I worked on the Refugee Rights Project, which gives legal advice and support to refugees and asylum seekers in Cape Town," said Schreier, who recently returned to Toronto. "The project aims to help the refugees with their integration needs into South African society."

Back in west Africa, Gilbert and Rosen are keeping kosher and Shabbat.

"We are eating very well – lots of plantain and yams." said Gilbert. "We have a kosher kitchen and a vegan menu."

Kosher vegan menus aside, this summer program is Gilbert and Rosen's tzedekah and personal response to African poverty. Maybe the world's leaders and concert goers could learn something from the activity in this small west African village.

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Maccabi golfers to host reception for terror victims

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Maccabiah Games may be a thrilling sports extravaganza, but for the Albert family of Toronto, it also provides the opportunity to do a mitzvah.

Two of the Alberts, father Michael and son David, are competing on Canada's golf team. David's mom, Pam, will accompany the golfing duo to Israel and has arranged an eventful off-course agenda to keep the family busy. In addition to setting up two three-day tours and a team dinner in Caesarea, the site of Israel's lone golf course, she has arranged a reception at the team's hotel for Israeli victims of terror.

The reception will be a joint event held under the auspices of Project Tikvah, the Maccabi World Union's (MWU) special program to rehabilitate victims of terror through sports therapy, and the One Family Fund, an Israeli organization that aids terror victims.

The jointly sponsored evening will allow "athletes to show the victims of terror that Jews in the Diaspora support and want to help them," Pam said. Fifteen Israeli families will participate in the evening along with Canada's golf team: the Alberts, Jeremy Freedman, Howard Ganz, Howard Gold, Steve Goldenberg and his son Jay, and Bradley Sherman.

The Tikvah Project provides athletic activities such as horseback riding and swimming to aid in the physical and psychological recovery of terrorism victims, Pam said.

According to the MWU website, 139 adult and child victims of terror participate in the project, with a waiting list of 400. "Project Tikvah tries to restore victims to a normal life by making funds available to participate in different sports. Our aim is to give them warmth, love and restore their self-worth and confidence," the website states.

The One Family Fund is an Israeli organization that collects money and assembles human resources, including people who have suffered through terror attacks, to volunteer time and money to help families of terror victims, its website said.

One Family Fund provides financial assistance for immediate and long-term needs that government agencies don't provide. It also arranges for volunteers to visit hospitalized victims or houses of mourning.

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MACCABI FAREWELL
Canada's Maccabi athletes are in Israel this week, competing in the 17th Maccabiah Games. Before they left, they got together for a farewell barbecue at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Seen here are some of the medal hopefuls.
[Benji Feldman photos]

Maccabi Canada official Allen Gerskup with tennis star Sharon Fichman, 14. Fichman will carry Canada's flag at the opening ceremonies.

Canada's junior basketball squad

The karate team

The rugby team

Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman, C.A.

Should African debt be forgiven? The mitzvah of tzedakah contains a dual component: helping those in need and instilling in the donor the recognition that wealth is a gift from God. Giving money where it is politically correct and popular may make us feel good about ourselves, but it runs the risk of diverting dollars from more worthy causes. We must prioritize our needs, recognizing that we have to balance conflicting goals.

On the one hand Judaism posits that the poor of the local community come first. In practical terms, that means as long as people are dying waiting for medical treatment in Canada, it would be difficult to justify giving large (or perhaps any) sums of foreign aid. Jewish law also states that our first priority in charitable giving is giving food to the hungry, which would seem to indicate that at least some foreign aid to the extremely needy would be mandated – perhaps by diverting spending from "non-essential services" or perhaps designating profits from discretionary spending such as lotteries or "sin" taxes to facilitate such aid.

However, the issue of aid to Africa is much more problematic, owing to the hundreds of billions of dollars that have been squandered on waste and outright corruption. Jewish law forbids giving tzedakah to people whose integrity is questionable – let alone outright cheats – and would bar giving aid to corrupt officials. Under such circumstances, any aid must be given directly to the poor and overseen by people who are free to act with integrity and dignity.

Judaism has always seen charitable giving as a last resort, to be used only when loans and investments are not feasible. Creating a society that is dependent on the largesse of other wealthier nations is a distortion of some of Judaism's deepest values. The optimal approach, which can enable the giving of tzedakah to literally billions of people, would be investment that creates jobs and wealth. This can and may only take place in an open and transparent environment that's free from corruption.

While I see no moral obligation to forgive loans even when dealing with upstanding people (or honest politicians), the granting of interest-free loans is tzedakah in its highest form. Halachah even forbids requesting repayment of a loan when the debtor legitimately has no means of repayment.

Thus, the cornerstone of foreign aid would be a combination of investment, interest forgiveness and liberal loan repayment criteria, where applicable.

Send comments to info@torahinmotion.org.

SWEET DREAMS SOUP

1 small potato, peeled, chopped	1/8 tsp. nutmeg
2 tblsp. butter	1/4 tsp. salt
1 small leek, chopped	1/2 tsp. pepper
2 large carrots, finely chopped	1/2 stalk celery, chopped
1/2 tsp. grated fresh ginger	2 1/2 cups milk
1/4 tsp. thyme	Garnish: carrot curls and croutons

Boil potato in 2 cups water for 15 mins. Drain; save broth; set the potato aside. Melt butter in a soup pot on medium heat. Add leek, half the carrots, ginger, thyme, nutmeg, salt, pepper. Sauté 5 mins., stirring well. Add celery, remaining carrots, cooked potato; potato broth. Add 1 cup water and stir.

Bring to a boil; reduce heat; simmer, covered, about 20 mins. Blend 2 cups soup with milk until thick and smooth. Return the blended soup to the soup pot, and stir.

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REVIEWING THE HOUSING PLANS: Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon recently visited the area around Nitzan, just north of Ashkelon, one of the sites intended to house families being evacuated from Gaza.

[Israel Sun photo]

Jews through the eyes of a mailman

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Strangely, I can see you better in some ways than you can see yourself. Physically, this is the case because you are restricted by the dimensional limits of the mirror or the silent lake that reflects your image, unlike my eyes that see you three-dimensionally.

Your character – your way – also appears differently through my judgment than yours. I have the advantage of objectively scrutinizing your outward behaviour, sometimes mixed in with an understanding of your insides, giving me a type of insight unavailable to you.

This, too, is the case with a community, in our case the Toronto Jewish community. Its members define it of course, but it is also characterized by its non-Jewish neighbours, business associates, sociologists and documentarians.

And then there are the mail carriers. How do the carriers whose routes fall within the Jewish corridor see us? After all, are they not privy to intimate details of our lives, such as the origin of our investment statements, our subscriptions and postcards from our children in camp? Surely these frequent messengers have a distinct awareness of our people.

Well, recently I had a beer with one such individual at the Lazy Lizard Pub. John has been delivering mail for 24 years, 20 years in the Lawrence Avenue and Bathurst Street area, a Jewish crossroads with a large haredi population.

John's an intriguing character. His friend tells me he is a member of Mensa, a society for people whose IQ is in the top two per cent of the population. His right shoulder kind of droops, a condition he says in an occupational hazard stemming from years of delivering hoards of High Holy Day greetings, Chanukah cards, *The CJN* and heavy parcels wrapped in thick brownish-grey paper with postage from Israel. John's experience tells him they are likely "holy books."

The wind-blown postman, a son of a doctor, expresses deep admiration for the Jewish people on his old route. He says they are "very kind folk" (with the occasional curmudgeon on Caribou Road and Stormount Avenue) with sincere interest in his welfare.

He sips his suds and tells me a story – one with an Isaac Bashevis Singer flavour – of a "charming" old devout woman whom he delivered mail to for two decades. Staring skyward, John reminisces about her and says she was "as lovely as could be… gracious and generous."

He said she would always give him gifts when the holiday season came around, once tipping him $100 and once giving him an "exquisite" serving tray she purchased for him while visiting Jerusalem. I imagined a rainy Monday morning when she invited him in for a cup of coffee.

John's eyes teared as he told me he mourned deeply after her passing. I was intrigued by his heartfelt nature and the significant human interaction that occurs while we're not looking. I wondered what the aged woman's bank teller felt (individuals often compassionately connected to their geriatric customers) when she heard she died.

John liked the younger people on his route too, especially the children, curious about his job and the world outside of their own. His beer mug remained in his hand, but still on the table as he recounted an ordinary morning, when a 10-year-old boy "with strings hanging out" asked him, "John, why does the whole world want to kill the Jews?" John replied sadly that he didn't know.

According to this veteran mail carrier, the Jewish people at Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue receive a relatively large amount of mail. John says the people are mostly amiable, inquisitive and giving.

Our Jewish community. Who are we? The answer, at least in part, lies in the minds of the cleaning lady, the grocer, the hairstylist, and no doubt – the mailman.

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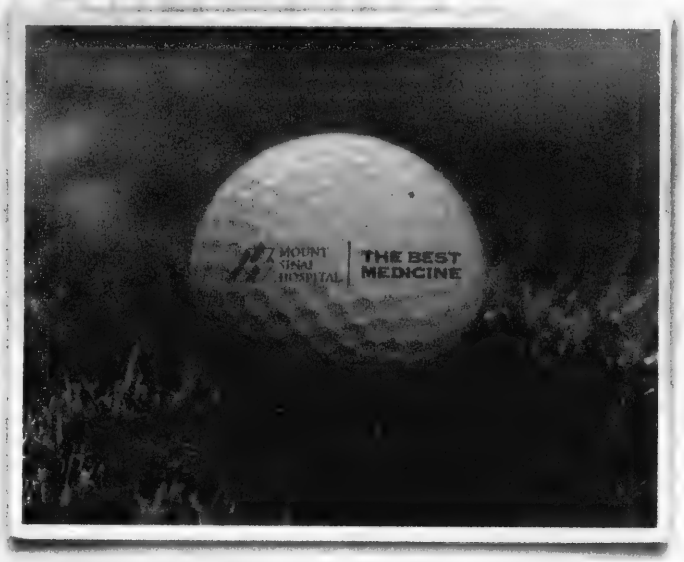

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'Welcome home, to the Holy Land'

[Isranet and Benji Feldman photos]

Some of the 200 new olim from Canada disembark from the chartered El Al flight that brought them to Israel last week. At left, brothers David, left, and Yonatan Sherman were all smiles before takeoff. At right, a youngster heads to the El Al counter in Toronto before starting his journey. ***Please see related feature on page 29.***

North American olim set one-day record

Some 200 Canadians were among 500 people to arrive in Israel last Wednesday, July 13, in the largest ever, single-day aliyah of North American Jews to Israel.

Two flights, sponsored by Nefesh B'Nefesh and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), left Tuesday afternoon from New York and Toronto. They were the first of six charters this year carrying 3,200 North American olim through these organizations.

This is the first year since 1983 that more than 3,000 North Americans will make aliyah, and it was the first time a planeload left from Canada.

The new olim were met at Ben-Gurion Airport in Israel by Prime Minster Ariel Sharon, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres and JAFI chairman Zeev Bielski.

"Aliyah is the primary goal of our government, the future of our great people. Life in Israel is not always easy, but I promise you we will do all we can to assist you on your journey home," Sharon told the olim.

"We need you more than ever," he said. "Welcome home, to the Holy Land."

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The News in Brief

CANADA

Downtown Revival

VANCOUVER — An initiative sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver hopes to open a community centre in downtown Vancouver to meet a growing demand for services from the increasing number of Jews in the area, the *Western Jewish Bulletin* reported this month. When the 2001 census came out, community planners were surprised to learn that 1,200 Jews lived downtown, and current estimates say about 2,000 Jews now live there, out of about 22,000 Jews in the Vancouver area. The Downtown Jewish Community Centre Project attracted more than 70 people to its inaugural event, a Passover seder in April, and got a healthy turnout for a Shavout picnic, organizers said.

WORLD

Synagogue Reopens

CAIRO — A Cairo synagogue built in 1934 was slated to open last week for the first time in many years. *Ha'aretz* reported that the head of Cairo's Jewish community, Carmen Weinstein, and Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Shalom Cohen, arranged to reopen the synagogue, which had been closed because so few Jews remain in Egypt. Cohen said the Israeli Embassy will help to maintain the synagogue.

Sapling Planted

CHICAGO — A rare sapling grown from a maple tree planted by children in the Theresienstadt camp was to be planted in Chicago this week in a special ceremony at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The seed for the tree was given by a sympathetic camp guard to Irma Lauscher, a teacher in the concentration camp who held secret classes for children.

Art Centre Opens

OXFORD — A multimillion-dollar centre for Middle Eastern art opened at Oxford University, with money from a British Jewish philanthropist. Iranian-born professor David Khalili pledged about $4.8 million (Cdn) to create the Khalili Research Centre for the Art and Material Culture of the Middle East. The complex opened this month in the heart of the university and is intended to become the world's most comprehensive centre for the study of visual cultures of the Middle East. Khalili, an art collector and scholar, is co-founder and chair of the Maimonides Foundation, which promotes dialogue between Jews and Muslims.

Newspaper Fined

VILNIUS — Lithuania's leading national daily newspaper *Respublika* was fined the equivalent of $1,000 (US) for printing an anti-Semitic article last year. The July 7 decision is seen as a victory for the local Jewish community, which took the influential newspaper's owner, Vitas Tomkus, to court. He was found guilty of inciting ethnic and religious hatred for an article with the headline "Who rules the world" and a picture of a Jew holding a globe. Simonas Alperavicius, the leader of Lithuania's 5,000 Jews, called it the "worst attack on the Jewish community since Lithuania's independence" from the Soviet Union 15 years ago. Tomkus would not apologize and said he would appeal.

Sharon Visit Protested

PARIS — Demonstrators in Paris protested Ariel Sharon's July 27 official visit to France. Sources estimated the turnout earlier this month against the Israeli prime minister to be about 2,000 people, a low number that some attributed to the fact many Parisians go on vacation in the summer. According to a statement from protest organizers, who call themselves the Collective Against the Visit of Sharon to France, President Jacques Chirac's decision to invite "the butcher Sharon" to France "is to insult all those who refuse colonial violence."

Vacationing Israeli Treated London Victims

LONDON — A vacationing Israeli doctor gave first aid to victims of one of the London bombings.

Benny Meilik, an emergency surgeon and consultant at Tel Aviv Medical Center, was eating breakfast with his family at a hotel in the British capital July 7 when he heard the blast that tore through the London Underground's Piccadilly Line. "I have heard enough explosions to know what they sound like, and when I heard the boom I sprang into action," the *Jerusalem Post* quoted him as saying later.

Dr. Benny Meilik

Accustomed to working with victims of Palestinian terror attacks, Meilik helped pull out and treat casualties of the bombing, one of four that tore through London's public transportation system that day, killing at least 50 people.

"I have worked on many, many victims of bomb attacks, and I can say this is as bad as any I have seen. I have a lot of experience in treating blast victims, and this bomb was powerful," Meilik said. One of the commuters he treated praised the "Israeli hero" in remarks to reporters.

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CIJA to be reviewed, says new UIAFC president

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The future of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), launched at the beginning of 2004 as a kind of superstructure to the community's existing public advocacy organizations, is about to be reviewed.

"It will undergo a complete re-evaluation, an independent evaluation, in the fall, with a report due by the end of the year," said Stanley Plotnick, the new president of UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC).

"Intuitively, I think [CIJA] is working well. We see some changes taking place. We are explaining ourselves better to non-Jews, but whether this is cause-and-effect, we can't really say."

Plotnick said it was not yet decided who would conduct the evaluation. He added that when the Toronto-based CIJA was founded, it was understood that it would be reviewed within 18 to 24 months.

Plotnick agreed that the existence of CIJA may have created confusion in the public's mind over its role in relation to the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), the organizations it oversees. CIJA also supports the National Committee for Jewish Campus Life.

"But I can tell you there was confusion for many years before about what the CIC does and what CJC does," he said. "CIJA is an attempt to define the roles of the CIC and CJC, to make sure that each knows what the other is doing."

While its effectiveness may be debated, Plotnick said, he is confident that CIJA is efficient and is not just another layer of bureaucracy.

"Total administrative costs are now less because of centralization. There is one accounting office today instead of three, for example."

CIJA was created as a separate body by UIAFC, in concert with a group of leading businessmen, who wanted to increase the Canadian government and public's support for Israel and issues of Jewish concern by taking a more sophisticated strategic approach. CIJA was to streamline and co-ordinate the community's advocacy efforts and mobilize broad-based action.

Substantial additional financial and human resources were allocated. Hershell Ezrin, a former diplomat, political adviser and public policy expert, is CIJA's chief executive officer.

Plotnick, who succeeds Shoel Silver of Toronto, stressed that strengthening the "partnership" between Canadian Jewry and Israel is one of the main goals of his two-year term.

"The ties between Jewish Canadians and Jewish Israelis have to be continuously reinforced. When there is a crisis, everyone jumps in to help, but at other times, it's a diminished priority."

Canadian Jewry's support of Israel should not only be monetary; the community has a responsibility, he thinks, to explain Israel's position and policies to government and opinion-makers.

Plotnick, a past president of Montreal's FEDERATION CJA, firmly believes that Israel is "the primary identification of the Jewish people," and how Israel fares is directly linked to how Jews everywhere are regarded.

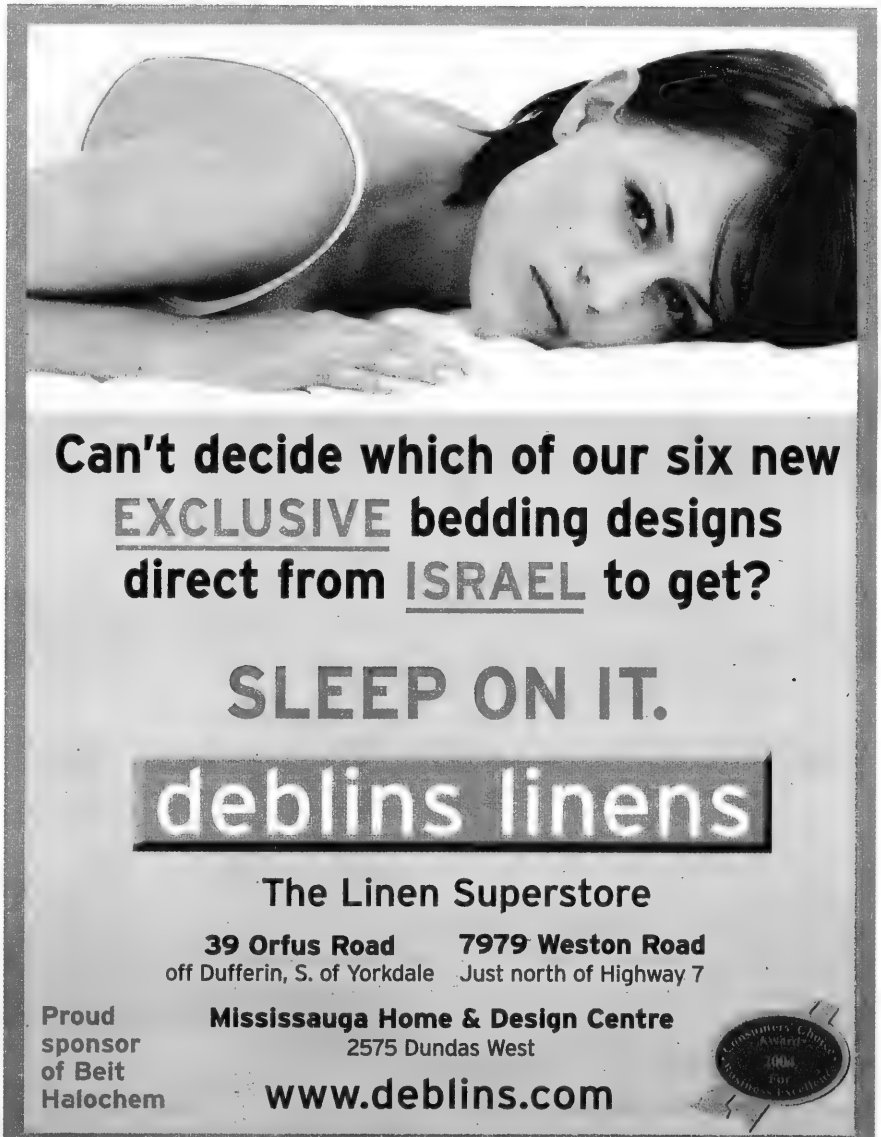
However, he also believes in maintaining a strong Jewish life in the Diaspora, although he feels the number of countries where that is possible is declining.

"The success of Israel is important to the success of Jewish communities in the world... It reflects back on us... There is no contradiction in supporting a strong Israel and a strong Diaspora."

Within Canada, Plotnick is committed to maintaining and bolstering small Jewish communities. He'll visit Halifax in August to meet leaders of the Atlantic Jewish Council, and over the next six months, he will try to get to all of the member communities from coast-to-coast.

"I want to see what they need and if we can help them. I believe it is the responsibility of the large communities to support the smaller communities," he said. Keeping young people in the smaller communities and grooming them as future leaders is a big part of his goal.

Continued on page 19



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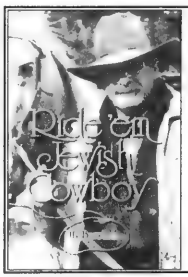

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Going for your dreams at Stratford

From the editor's desk

Last month in this space I wrote about two exciting young artists – Jennifer Waiser and Gabriel Wolinsky – both from Ottawa who are part of the company of actors and dancers at the Stratford Festival this year. Two other actors, both appearing on Stratford's stage for the first time, merit our attention as well.

The 40-ish Evan Stillwater is a veteran of the theatre. In fact, this is his 11th season at Stratford. But it is his first on stage. For the past decade, he has been a tailor, a cutter of costumes in Stratford's wardrobe department. His work in the wardrobe room, however, has been the colourful and creative filling in a stage and theatre career sandwich.

Well before Evan picked up the tailor's scissors and thread, he was an actor, a graduate of both the National Theatre School of Canada and the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in the United Kingdom.

The youngest of three brothers, the Winnipeg-born Stillwater went to Ramah Hebrew School until Grade 7 and then to public school in Grade 8. In his conversation with *The CJN*, he spoke constantly with cheerful authority and recurring expressions of gratitude. "I was very fortunate to have auditioned for [writer, producer and director] Richard Ouzounian at the end of my studies with the National Theatre School," he said.

Evan Stillwater

The legendary Ouzounian granted the emerging thespian a full year's apprenticeship at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg. After Manitoba, Stillwater said he "flitted" around the country in various stage roles, trying to hone his still embryonic skills. He felt a strong need to gain more experience, to perfect his talents. Thus he went to England, where he enrolled in the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

"I was very lucky to have met and studied with the people whose paths crossed mine," Stillwater said. "It felt kind of bashert. It all happened the way that I guess it should have. Studying in the U.K. was a great way to get the tools you need to go on the road."

And Stillwater has spent a lot of time "on the road" with theatre companies across the country, including in Winnipeg, Banff, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

After his stint studying and working in Britain, Stillwater returned to Canada, where he won the key part of Reuben Calish in the film *The Outside Chance of Maximillian Glick*. Despite the success of his performance, the young actor still needed to secure an income in the highly competitive though restricted Canadian theatre market. And it was not always easy. Thus, rather than waiting on tables like so many aspiring actors of his and every generation, Stillwater decided to help out in the wardrobe department at the Theatre Centre in Winnipeg.

Sammy Rosen

It was a mature and inspired decision. He learned to live in the rarified wardrobe department of theatre companies, to cut, sew and create costume patterns, and to master the highly specialized behind-the-stage wardrobe needs of his fellow actors. But he could not yet surrender his desire to return to the front of the stage. Thus he put down his needle, thread and scissors after last season and enrolled in the Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training.

It takes a great deal of courage and determination for someone to test himself that way in mid-life, suddenly alongside peers and classmates who are much younger. But he passed the test and this year, the eclectic Stillwater picks up actor's greasepaint rather than thimble and thread. He performs in *The Brothers Karamazov*.

If Evan Stillwater's career is a testament to diverse skills, wide-ranging theatrical talent and veteran resolve, the still-climbing trajectory of Sammy Rosen's nascent career is a testament to precocious talent and youthful zest.

At the age of 19, Sammy Rosen is the youngest member of the company. Born in Thornhill, the gung-ho, effervescent teenager has already been dancing for 13 years. He moves smoothly through ballet, tap, jazz and even acrobatics.

Rosen studied dance at Vlad Dance Co. and eventually graduated from the Arts York program at Unionville High School. After he graduated high school, he worked for a year and then won Stratford roles in *The Tempest* and in *Hello Dolly*. "It was a shock to learn that I actually got the job," Rosen said.

He told *The CJN* that his parents have always been supportive of his theatre aspirations and today he "couldn't be happier. There are so many people here who inspire you and make you want to go to work every day. It is a blessing to be working here, learning from everybody. It is simply incredible to watch the people here."

Not surprisingly, the young dancer has a rigorous regimen to keep himself fit and trim and ready for the onerous physical demands of his roles. He spends a great deal of time at the gym, and is careful about what and when he eats.

What advice does he offer to other teenagers trying to make it in theatre?

"If you want it, go for it." Don't let the naysayers wear you down, he says "Go to the next job. Take the criticism. Going for your dreams is something you should never put aside." — ***MBD***

WOULD-BE SAILORS LEARN FROM THE BEST

Former U.S. Olympian swimmer Mark Spitz, who broke several world records and won nine gold medals in the 1968 and 1972 Olympics, was in Israel for the 17th Maccabiah Games. Last week, he went to the Tel Aviv marina to sail with a group of youngsters, some of whom were victims of terrorism.

[Isranet photo]

Israelis cope well with terrorism, sociologist says

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Terrorism is a useless tool for changing people's behaviour and "has hardly any effect on anything," an Israeli sociologist told the World Conference on Disaster Management last week in Toronto.

Alan Kirschenbaum, a professor at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, was presenting a study based on information gathered from 800 Israeli households. It showed that people simply learn to live with recurring catastrophes such as suicide bombings or hurricanes.

"[Israelis] adapted in such a way that it practically didn't change their lifestyle. On average, when there is a suicide bombing of a bus or a restaurant, two hours later you'd never know anything was there," Kirschenbaum told the 15th annual conference, held July 10 to 13 at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre.

According to Kirschenbaum's study, more than 65 per cent of Israelis report having a family member or friend who has been hurt or killed by an act of terrorism.

"We're talking about a massive number of people that have been affected by terrorism. You'd think they'd be running home to put a quilt over their heads and hide. But it doesn't work that way," he said.

People adapt by becoming better informed, by making sure their friends are OK, by becoming more aware of suspicious people, and by turning to God, he said.

Hank Helleman of Collective Protection Engineering Inc. talks with *CJN* Intern Sheri Shefa inside the IsoArk at last week's disaster management conference. The glove, foreground, can be used to treat patients inside the isolation chamber. [Benji Feldman photo]

"As they say, praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

Kirschenbaum's hope is that terrorists will see that they are wasting their time, because people get used to the idea of "preparing themselves for the next blast."

He added: "Adaptation is an integral part of social resilience. We [humans] have the capacity to be resilient. If we didn't, we wouldn't be here.

"Eventually, terror, like natural and technological disasters, will have less and less of an impact on our daily behaviour. The secret of our survival is behavioural adaptation, and we do it very well."

The conference, organized by the non-profit Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, bills itself as the only North American event of its kind that attracts world experts to discuss "the full spectrum of disaster management issues," including how to prepare for major incidents such as wide-scale blackouts, SARS or tsunamis.

In addition to Kirschenbaum, Israel was represented by Ruth Geva, the project co-ordinator with the Jerusalem Association of Community Centres and Councils, and by an exhibit showcasing the IsoArk, an isolation chamber developed by Beth-El Zikhron Yaaqov Industries, Israel's leading supplier of biological, chemical and nuclear protection technologies.

Hank Helleman, of Collective Protection Engineering Inc., a Beth-El subsidiary that markets the IsoArk, said the collapsible isolation chamber can quickly turn a room into a controlled environment in the event of an emergency.

"[It] can be used... when you have too many people coming into a place, especially like a hospital, when there is a threat like SARS, avian flu, or a biological or chemical attack," Helleman said.

"When someone is infected with something, we can isolate it."

The IsoArk's air filtration system exceeds the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for isolation rooms, he added.

Continued on page 17

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Ahenakew stripped of Order of Canada medal

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson last week accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Council of the Order of Canada and revoked David Ahenakew's membership in the order.

The move came days after a provincial court judge in Saskatchewan found the former native leader guilty of promoting hatred against Jews. Ahenakew, who served as chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), was convicted for calling Jews a disease and saying Adolf Hitler was right to kill six million Jews in the Holocaust. Ahenakew was ordered to pay a $1,000 fine.

In a news conference following his conviction, a defiant Ahenakew said he would appeal the verdict. He also said he would not voluntarily give up his membership in the order and he blamed Jewish groups for lobbying to have his membership revoked.

Canadian Press reported that the Governor General's office will give Ahenakew some time to return his Order of Canada medal before it determines how best to remove it from him.

The advisory council began the formal revocation process at its regularly scheduled semi-annual meeting on June 29.

In a news release, the council stated, "Irrespective of the outcome of the legal proceedings involving Mr. Ahenakew, the council considers that his actions have brought disrepute to the order."

Ahenakew was appointed a member of the Order of Canada on Dec. 18, 1978.

Ed Morgan, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, said stripping Ahenakew of his membership "is quite appropriate. An Order of Canada is not a right, it's an honour."

Ahenakew, he continued, "is not the kind of person we should be honouring in this way."

Of the 4,000 people named to the Order of Canada, only one other person has lost his or her membership. In 1998, Alan Eagleson, former head of the NHL Players Association, was stripped of the honour after he was convicted of fraud.

Blacks in Darfur experiencing 'African Auschwitz'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the deserts of western Sudan, an estimated 2.5 million to three million black Muslims are eking out a miserable existence in refugee camps a Toronto doctor calls an "African Auschwitz."

Surrounded by "genocidaires," murderous militiamen drawn from the country's Arab Muslim population, they fear to leave the camps. Only the elderly venture outside to forage for food and firewood. Young men who do so are murdered, women raped. The very old stand a chance of being left alone by the "janjaweed" militiamen, who act with the support of the government in Khartoum.

Dr. Norman Epstein, founder of C.A.S.T.S. (Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan), said Black Muslims in Darfur are dying at the rate of 10,000 to 20,000 a month thanks to a genocidal policy perpetrated by the Khartoum-backed janjaweed. And while the United States has labeled the atrocities "genocide," the U.S. government, the United Nations, European states and the Arab League have done little to put an end to it.

"Political expediency" in many world capitals is trumping any humanitarian impulses that could save Darfur refugees. And the western world's invocation of the phrase "never again," to refer to the prevention of genocide, rings hollow, he added.

"I think 'never again' is a euphemism for international quiet," he said. "It's just become a way of releasing guilt."

Epstein believes it is up to middle powers to take the lead in alleviating the suffering of Darfur refugees. Canada, for its part, is leading an international effort to intervene to aid small detachments of African Union (AU) troops already on the ground who could protect the camps.

The AU, a coalition of African states, has sent 3,000 troops to guard the refugee camps, but the force is inadequate and it does not have the equipment, communications and logistics support it requires. Senator Roméo Dallaire, who as a Canadian general headed the UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide there, is leading a task force attempting to support and reinforce the AU soldiers in Darfur, Epstein said.

Despite Canada's efforts and the wide publicity given to the fate of Darfur's black Muslim population, relief efforts "are going on way too slowly."

The United Nations is paralyzed by the competing interests of its Security Council members. China gets five to 10 per cent of its oil from Sudan and is looking to ramp that up; Russia sells its surplus military equipment to Sudan while the United States is overstretched militarily and has a working intelligence-gathering arrangement with Sudan, Epstein said.

The Arab League defends Sudan at [UN] General Assembly "at every turn" and European states see no strategic interest in Darfur. That has bred an apathetic reaction.

"It really comes down to the unfortunate reality that strategic interests trump humanitarian interests," Epstein said.

While the problem in the western Sudan continues, immediate relief could be provided 414 Sudanese trapped in Iraq, Epstein said. Unable to safely return to Sudan and with their work visas expired, they are in a sort of limbo. They are suspected of being terrorists and they have been harassed by the Iraqi government. Criminal elements have attacked and kidnapped them.

Epstein would like to see Canada admit them as refugees, just as it did Kosovans during the conflict there.

Epstein said one group that has stepped to the plate in the last year is the Canadian Jewish community. It has taken to heart the meaning behind "never again" and has worked hard for the Darfur victims of genocide. Epstein lauded Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith Canada, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Reform Jewish organizations for joining other lobby groups to press the Canadian government to use its resources to intervene.

Epstein said despite lack of progress by the international community, "I am cautiously hopeful that with Canada taking leadership...that these people might get some help. But I'm still very concerned."

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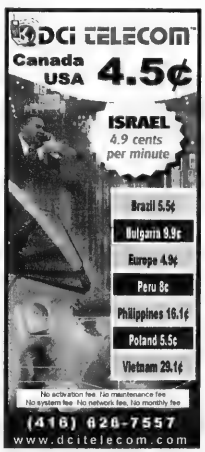

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Attacking Israelis, but wounding Abbas

Inspired, perhaps, by the mourning and the sorrow following the incineration of some 53 innocent people in London a few days before, the radically violent Islamic Jihad in Tulkarm let loose its own terror on Netanya last week and killed five Israelis. Two days later, as if part of a macabre, blood-letting competition among murderers, Hamas and Al Aksa launched a rocket attack against Nativ Ha'asara, a community within the Green Line (the boundaries before the Six Day War) just north of Gaza, which killed another Israeli.

It took very little time for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to spring into action against the terror groups, sending the army into Tulkarm to find the planners and masterminds of the Netanya bombing and to attack a number of Hamas installations in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, however, was very slow to respond. He referred to the Netanya bombing perpetrators as "idiots." His indignation, though, seemed linked more to expedience rather than revulsion for and condemnation of violence. He emphasized that "only those directly linked to the [Netanya] attack would be punished."

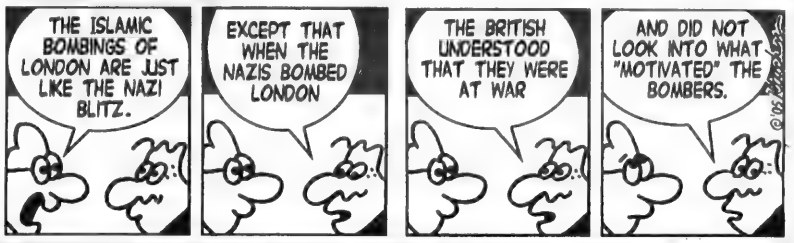
With disengagement over the next horizon, and Palestinian elections not far behind, Islamic Jihad and Hamas are fighting with Abbas for control of the Palestinian agenda as well as the property that will soon be vacated. It was not surprising therefore that Palestinian police clashed with Hamas forces when Abbas went to Gaza last Thursday to attempt to cajole or plead with Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders into abiding by his rules, at least until the disengagement from Gaza by Israel is complete.

Abbas declared a state of emergency in Gaza on Thursday night, after dozens of Hamas gunmen stormed two Palestinian police posts in the northern Gaza Strip. But Abbas will have to declare much more than a temporary state of emergency against the fundamentalist, Iranian-backed rejectionists who lead the campaign against Israel, and, truth be told, him. He will have to declare war on them.

But he is unwilling. And thus, the central irony of last week's violence against Israel remains unresolved: when the Palestinian terrorists attack Israel, they wound Abbas and the economic prospects for a future Palestinian state. Neither the Group of 8, nor the U.S. Congress, nor Canada, will be eager to give foreign aid to a lawless society, which is what Palestinian society will surely become if Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aksa Martyrs wrest control of Palestinian society away from the tentative Abbas.

25 years ago in The CJN

- As the Knesset debated formally declaring Jerusalem Israel's capital, Arab delegates to the United Nations called for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and for Israel to agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state.
- The opening of the Moscow Olympics was marked in Ottawa by a student vigil and rally. Petitions demanded the release of Jewish and Soviet prisoners of conscience.
- Canadian Jewish Congress asked secretary of state Francis Fox to delete "la croix" ("the cross") from the French version of *O Canada*.


Dry Bones
THE ISLAMIC BOMBINGS OF LONDON ARE JUST LIKE THE NAZI BLITZ.
EXCEPT THAT WHEN THE NAZIS BOMBED LONDON
THE BRITISH UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE AT WAR
AND DID NOT LOOK INTO WHAT "MOTIVATED" THE BOMBERS.

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London terrorism is no shock

England has been a centre for promoting Islamic violence against the western world for at least two years ('A sense of shocked disbelief,' *CJN*, July 14). In that time, little action was taken to discourage hatemongers, as it was thought that appeasement would save England from terrorism. It didn't.

This spreading and promoting of hate and violence inevitably resulted in the bombings in London. It should have been no surprise. It should have shocked no one.

We in Canada have followed a similar weak-kneed policy in dealing with terrorist cells, immigration, and those promoting violence and anti-western feeling. I hope there will not be more "shocked disbelief" from our community as we have been amply warned of the future results of a do-nothing policy.

Jonathan Usher
Toronto

* * *

Truth in journalism

There is no arguing with your demand for high standards of truth in journalism ("Trust is essential," *CJN*, July 7). The actions of parachuted *Globe and Mail* freelancer Carolynne Wheeler in deliberately filing a false report as to the locale and other details about a summit meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas are reprehensible, as was the attempt to defend her by a tissue of more lies by *Globe* editor Guy Nicholson.

And yet, in the greater scheme of things, that objective journalism is often the exception rather than the rule.

Samuel Levy
Côte St-Luc, Que.

* * *

We need more Jewish babies

I was saddened, yet not surprised to see your June 30 article chronicling the stagnation of the Canadian Jewish population ("Immigrants account for small rise in Jewish population," study finds).

The Jewish community of Canada has experienced negligible growth rates, even as it has welcomed tens of thousands of immigrants. The Jewish communities in the United States, Israel, and throughout the world are experiencing similar hardships.

Where are the communal Jewish organizations in fighting this ominous tide? What steps are being taken to reverse this trend? Have any Jewish leaders taken an interest in the future of their community, or have they resigned themselves to dwindling numbers?

The Jewish community in Canada and elsewhere is doomed to shrink further until it is understood that higher birth rates in the Jewish community are the only way to ensure growing numbers.

Jewish education alone is a misleading placebo in the battle for Jewish continuity. The only guarantee is more Jewish babies. Period.

Robert Walker
Richmond Hill, Ont.

* * *

Winnipeg's Jewish museum's funding

I was struck by two headlines, "Winnipeg Jewish museum facing cash crunch" and "JNF Negev galas raise $1.4M out West." (*CJN*, June 30).

Why does the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg determine that of all its beneficiary agencies, only the Jewish Heritage Centre (JHC) and its museum must be seriously cut back because of other community priorities?

A museum was included in the construction of Winnipeg's Asper Jewish Community Campus as a condition for obtaining a capital grant from the federal government. But from the outset, Winnipeg's federation and campus leadership failed to make proper provisions for ongoing funding of the museum.

Federation keeps reducing its allocation to the museum, while the campus board increases its rent. If the museum and the JHC are not a Jewish community responsibility, whose responsibility are they?

Abraham Arnold
Winnipeg

* * *

Says play equates Israel with Nazis

Liliane Atlan, in her play *Les Mers Rouges*, which was recently presented at Toronto's Fringe Festival, has turned the tale of her family's struggle to survive during and after the Holocaust into a "moral equivalence" propaganda piece ("Sephardi love songs featured in Holocaust survival play," CJN, July 7).

It is during a dialogue about Israel's war with Lebanon that the play takes a turn for the worse. According to the play, Israel sent its young boys to Lebanon in 1982 to have their tanks destroy Arab homes and to enter refugee camps to harm little children, and the play emphasizes that the Israeli soldiers "liked it." The moral equivalence of Israel becoming the Nazis to their neighbours is almost impossible to miss.

Talk about theatre that makes you sit up and take notice. One moment the audience is asked to feel the pain of the murdered six million, and the next we are asked to applaud a performance morally equating Israel with the Nazis.

How indecent of Atlan to smear the memory of the Holocaust victims, her family included, just to try and stick a knife in the back of Israel.

To find any moral equivalence between the Nazi Holocaust and the soldiers who fought, fight and died to keep Israel safe from terrorism is abhorrent. This play deserves to be boycotted by all who abhor the Nazi ideology and cherish the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Robert Gasner
Toronto

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Perspectives

Remembering Canada's Yiddish poets

By SIMCHA SIMCHOVITCH

When I arrived in Montreal in the summer of 1949, I found a lively environment of Yiddish speakers, writers, teachers and admirers of Yiddish literature.

The *Kanader Adler*, published by Hirsh Wolofsky and edited by Israel Rabinovitch, was still appearing as a daily Yiddish newspaper, as it had since 1907, and the Jewish Public Library, in its old location on Esplanade Street, was a hub of Yiddish cultural activities. There were two day-schools where Yiddish language and literature were taught, the Peretz Shule under the direction of the distinguished educator and Yiddish writer Yakov Zipper and the Folkshule with the Yiddish and Hebrew scholar Shlomo Weisman at its head.

Simcha Simchovitch

After working in a leather shop for my first two years in the city, I was admitted to the United Jewish Teachers Seminary of Montreal, where I studied, full-time for three years, Yiddish literature from such outstanding teachers and scholars as Yechiel Stern (brother of Yaakov Zipper) and Shimshon Dunsky. My first collection of Yiddish poems (published in 1950) led me to join the Association of Yiddish Writers of Montreal.

In my 1990 book *Blendiker Horbst*, I included a narrative poem titled *Canadian Yiddish Poets,* in which I listed 22 poets and related something about each of them.

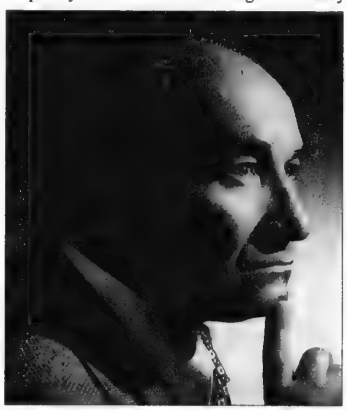
First among that group were three internationally known Yiddish poets: Itzhak-Yakov Sigal, Melech Ravitch and Rachel Korn.

Sigal arrived in Montreal at age 15 and worked for many years as an operator in a tailor shop. Later, he was a teacher in one of the Yiddish afternoon schools, and afterward, till the end of his life in 1954, he was literary editor of the *Kanader Adler.*

Sigal was a very prolific writer. His poems, articles and essays appeared steadily in the *Kanader Adler* and many other Yiddish periodicals, and he authored 10 thick volumes of Yiddish poetry. Yakov Glatstein, the eminent Yiddish poet and critic, considered Sigal's 1950 book *Sefer Yiddish* to be a monumental work of Yiddish lyrical poetry.

Ravitch was already widely known in Poland as an avant garde poet, travel writer and secretary of the Warsaw Union of Yiddish Writers. He arrived in Montreal in 1941, and he became the head of the public lectures program, called Folks-Universitet, of the Jewish Public Library. Ravitch was also a prolific writer, publishing poetry, as well as essays and book reviews, in Yiddish papers all over the world. Ravitch lived a Spartan life. He was a vegetarian and an admirer of Baruch Spinoza. He urgently preached the creativity of a new "bible" – a sanctioned anthology of the best of Jewish writing from the last 1,000 years. In one of his last books, *The Crowning*, he envisioned the arrival of a new American- or Canadian-born poet who would carry the torch for Yiddish poetry on this continent.

The third luminary was Korn. She, too, was already known in Poland before the war as the author of mature poetry and stories about the life of Jewish village dwellers. Korn's book of collected poems, *Home and Homelessness,* published in 1948, was greeted as a major contribution to post-Holocaust Yiddish literature.



Peretz Miransky

There were also a number of Yiddish poets who came to live in Montreal before and in the years after World War I. Among them was the poet Ida Maze, who was held in high esteem both as a lyrical and children's poet and for giving assistance to Jewish immigrants, especially the Yiddish writers who arrived after World War II.

Beside her, there were a number of less prominent poets: Esther Segal (sister of J.I. Segal) and her husband Abraham Shkolnikov, Mirel Shatan and Shabetai Perl, and the Peretz School teacher and Yiddish scholar Moshe Shaffer.

First among that group were three internationally known Yiddish poets: Itzhak-Yakov Sigal, Melech Ravitch and Rachel Korn

In 1930, poet Noach Gotlieb arrived from Kovno. The author of 10 books of poetry, Gotlieb was a short, sickly man, poor and gentle. He was supported by his wife, who peddled his books all over the city.

Aside from the poets associated with the Montreal writer's union, was the "proletarian" poet Sholem Shtern, whose poetic novels and narratives (*The White House, The Family in Canada*) about the life of Jewish immigrants in Montreal were translated into English and French. Sholem's brother, Yiddish teacher Israel Shtern was the opposite of his brother, a romantic and mystic poet steeped in Kabbalah and classical English literature.

In Toronto, there was also a group of Yiddish poets associated with the Communist-leaning United Jewish People's Order. Abraham Nisnewitch published his lyrical and social poems in the *Toronto Wochenblat* and other left-wing publications. Shimon Nepam, author of several books of revolutionary poetry, worked for many years as a streetcar conductor with the TTC; and Yudika Zik, a very talented lyrical poet, was a seamstress at the Tip Top Tailors factory.

After World War II, a new group of Yiddish writers arrived in Montreal and Toronto. They had survived of the German death camps or fled to the Soviet Union. Among them were poets Chava Rosenfarb, Peretz Miransky, Yitzhak Goldkron, Joseph Rogel, Shlomo Mitzmacher and myself. All of us contributed according to our talents to enriching the treasury of Canadian Yiddish poetry.

After publishing several books of poetry, Rosenfarb became a renowned prose writer, author of several novels on the destruction of the Lodz Ghetto and the martyrdom in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Rogel's poetry, in Yiddish and English, was permeated with the pain of losing his kin in the Holocaust. In addition to being a fine lyrical poet, Miransky became known for his masterful fables, and both Goldkorn and Mitzmacher produced, besides poetry, essays on Jewish books and writers.

Poet Mordechai Husid was proficient in both Yiddish and Hebrew and authored several books of short stories. He was the last editor of the *Kanader Adler*, when it became a weekly, and his demise coincided with the end of this Canadian Yiddish tribune.

All in all, I mentioned in my memorial poem 22 names of Canadian Yiddish poets. However, there were a few more poets I left out who are worthy of being remembered. One of them is the first editor of the *Toronto Jewish Journal*, a Yiddish daily that, beginning in 1913, appeared for more than 50 years. His name was Hershel Hirsh. Besides being a prolific journalist, translator and storyteller, Hirsh wrote two books of original and rhymed Yiddish fables, published first in Toronto in 1915 and enlarged in a Montreal edition in 1918.

No major Canadian-born Yiddish poet has emerged yet

In 1917, also in Toronto, a tiny volume of Yiddish poetry was published by 16-year-old Percy (Pesach) Matenko, son of Yitzhak Matenko, principal of the National Radical Jewish School, the forerunner of the Workmen's Circle Peretz Shule. Afterward, the young Matenko published many Yiddish poems in the *Toronto Jewish Journal* and other periodicals. After receiving his doctorate in linguistics from Columbia University, Percy Matenko remained a lover of Yiddish, but he devoted his time and talent to literary studies in English.

A similar wunderkind of Canadian Yiddish poetry was Montreal-born Aaron Kristalko, son of Yiddish teacher Shifre Kristalko. His volume of poetry titled *Gut Morgen Dir Velt,* published in 1954, was greeted by poets Sholom Shtern and Zishe Weinper as the arrival of a new Canadian-born major Yiddish poet. However, Aaron Krishtalko, like Percy Matenko, soon abandoned Yiddish writing and became a teacher at an English college in Montreal.

Another unique figure among Canadian Yiddish poets was Abraham Seltzer, who arrived in Montreal in 1924 and worked in a millinery shop. In his free time, he wrote sensitive lyrical poems. Some were published in periodicals, the rest left in the Canadiana Archive of the Jewish Public Library in Montreal. Due to an unhappy love affair, at the age of 24, he committed suicide by drowning himself in the St. Lawrence River in 1930.

Today, in addition to me, there is only one other person writing and publishing Yiddish verse in Canada. Grunia Slucky-Kohn, a Holocaust survivor who lives in Montreal, is the author of several poetry collections. One of them won a Toronto Jewish Book Award. She publishes her poems and fables in the *Algemeiner Journal*, a New York Yiddish weekly, and other Yiddish periodicals.

Despite the fact Yiddish language and literature are taught at McGill University, the University of Toronto and several other Canadian institutions of higher learning, no major Canadian-born Yiddish poet has emerged yet. The creations of close to 30 highly talented Canadian Yiddish poets remain hidden and neglected on the shelves of libraries and archives. Except for a book on the earlier Yiddish poets by Hanania Kaiserman (published in Montreal in 1934) and the *Lexicon on Hebrew and Yiddish Writing* by Chaim Leib Fox (Montreal, 1919), no serious study of Canadian Yiddish poetry has appeared. Only a tiny fraction of the work of Canadian Yiddish writers have been gathered into the two anthologies that have been published so far appeared (in 1966 and 1982). Even less has been translated into English. The works of several generations of Canadian Yiddish poets still wait to be researched, read and appreciated by future generations.

Simcha Simchovitch is a poet and Yiddishist who lives in Toronto.

Opinions

Excellence is not perfect

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Excellence is the MBA's mantra. It is the adjective most frequently used in describing thriving businesses. A search of Amazon.com will show that no less than 4,693 books, most of them business related, have the word excellence in their title. This is quite understandable, because excellence in business can make the difference between profitability and bankruptcy.

You don't have to be a businessman to understand the importance of excellence. Everybody wants to be excellent at something. One of the great themes of both philosophy and theology is that true happiness is found only in the excellence of the soul. Indeed, the Bible makes clear that God's creation of the earth is one of excellence, repeating seven times in the first chapter that the creation "is good" or "very good." Excellence and perfection seem to be the divine blueprint.

Remarkably, perfection fails. The first time a human aspires to what "is good," she eats forbidden fruit. This inauspicious beginning to human history foreshadows a lengthy narrative of human failure. In fact, the aspiration for perfection is often the very thing that leads to failure.

Perfectionist standards can often be destructive. Perfection at work comes with a price. The workaholic may excel at his job, but will not have the time to enjoy the fruits of success. Achieving perfection at home is just as costly. For the Martha Stewart wannabe, entertaining and decorating is a daunting task. Every brioche must have panache; every custard must be a gastronomic masterpiece. Unfortunately, the culinary tour de force arrives with high blood pressure and a nervous breakdown. Ironically, perfection in one realm often brings about imperfection in another realm, as if to remind us that humans were programmed to fail.

Actually, human error is an actuarial fact, an ever-present reality of everybody's lives. One can only trust machines to be perfectly accurate. Any human attempt to replicate the rigid efficiency of machines is bound to be a cold and unhappy fiasco. Aspiring for absolute perfection is both quixotic and frustrating.

Where human excellence is found is in the creative use of failure. Imperfection may be flawed in many ways, but it is the perfect environment for human growth. Indeed, what is most meaningful about life is the daily drama of our struggles with imperfection. Those who can find useful lessons in past failures have found the perfect way to master an imperfect world.

The midrash states that tshuvah, repentance, the religious response to failure and sin, was part of the world's blueprint. What this suggests is that inadequacy is inevitable, and true human excellence is finding a positive use for failure. Or, to paraphrase the well-known cliché about lemons and lemonade, "When life hands you failure, make tshuvah."

In life, any hope for perfection is itself imperfect. True excellence is finding a way to transform failure and make spiritual lemonade.

Let's disengage from the polarizing rhetoric

Gil Troy in Montreal

As Israel's disengagement from Gaza approaches, extremists from both sides dominate the debate. Shrill voices describe a wrenching gamble in absolutist terms, as either good or evil. The fanatics share a clarity I lack, demonizing those who disagree with them and myopically ignoring the risks in both pulling out and staying put.

How can disengagement supporters ignore Palestinian terrorists' feelings of vindication? Hamas' Mahmoud Zahar told the *London Times* on April 14 that "nobody can deny that if Israel is going to leave the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank that was because of the intifadah, because of the armed struggle, because of the big sacrifices of Hamas for this goal." The day before, *WorldNetDaily* quoted Zahar's confidential memo vowing that "withdrawal from Gaza is not the end of the story."

After the London bombings, with the West insisting that terrorism does not succeed, does anyone have second thoughts? In a sane, just world, instead of rewarding the Palestinians with $3 billion (US), wouldn't British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President George W. Bush tell Israel, "We understand your desire for clearer boundaries, but please postpone the pullout until we pressure Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to crush terrorism, so the message is clear: zero tolerance toward terror entails zero concessions?"

Leftist venom for "the settlers" is equally unfathomable – they spit out the term like a curse. Remember, Israel entered Gaza after a war of self-defence that was triggered by hostile neighbours – and the hatred remains. Many "peaceniks" can empathize endlessly, sympathize promiscuously, even rationalize Palestinian terror, yet treat fellow Jews contemptuously. Can't we commiserate with the individuals who must uproot their homes, their communities and even their cemeteries, because few doubt what Palestinians would do to Jewish graves left behind?

At the same time, I can't understand how disengagement opponents can claim God says anything about Jewish settlements in Gaza. My Bible says Gaza was Philistine land, while my history books note that even former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin tried to return Gaza to Egypt – an offer Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat shrewdly refused. I cannot abide those who odiously compare the Gaza pullout to Holocaust-era expulsions, equating a sovereign Jewish state's political calculations with Nazi evil. Moreover, I cannot explain how moral democrats can overlook the moral and demographic challenges stemming from controlling 3.5 million Palestinians, even while seeking Israeli security. Finally, can we forget that Israeli government subsidies attracted many individuals to Gaza, and that their sales contracts reserved the government's right to buy them out, if necessary?

Amid the haze, this is what I know.

First, Israel deserves tremendous credit from the world for being the only country in history to offer land legitimately won from a neighbour in self-defence for peace – credit it will never receive.

Second, it's not appropriate for me to proclaim publicly where Israel should draw its borders. People I respect on both sides of the issues have earned the right to hash it out by paying taxes, serving in the army and voting as Israeli citizens.

Third, disengagement supporters should welcome "the settlers" into their new homes enthusiastically, saluting their sacrifices when the government asked them to live on the border, and saluting their sacrifices in leaving their homes.

Fourth, disengagement opponents must echo MK Effie Eitam, hesder yeshiva rabbis and other disengagement critics who nevertheless renounce violence and won't encourage soldiers to disobey orders. Democracy's fundamental social contract provides rights to dissent and responsibilities to obey. Too much Jewish blood has been shed already for Jews to threaten other Jews. We should excommunicate anyone who crosses the line, from overzealous police officers to overzealous zealots.

Finally, even if the headline-seeking and polarizing hysterics of the right, left and media triumph and the debate degenerates, remember that Israel won its latest war. No matter what Hamas says, the disengagement emerged only after Israel crushed the Palestinian Authority, justifiably. Disengagement is part of a broader strategy that seeks clearer boundaries with an effective fence. Israel showed that terrorism kills individuals, but can unite a nation. The Palestinians expected Israel to crack, never anticipating Israelis' disciplined ferocity, tactical creativity, and social solidarity.

Israelis have provided a model for New Yorkers, Londoners and others targeted by Jihadists. Israel can now demonstrate how citizens can disagree vehemently but not violently, democratically but not destructively, all the while remaining patriotic as their government seeks complicated answers to confounding questions.

Blue, white and orange must embrace each other

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

On the way from Ben-Gurion airport, strips of coloured cloth were thrust toward the car window. At points where traffic to Jerusalem slowed or stopped, there they were: young Israelis, offering drivers the narrow strips of blue, or orange, or blue and white, that could be seen waving from the antennas of many of cars on the road.

The coloured strips were a chromatic shorthand for political positions pertaining to the contentious issue of the impending Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, scheduled for Aug. 16. Orange is the colour of the settlers' movement, an offshoot of the orange stars worn briefly several months ago by Gaza settlers and their supporters in an ill-considered analogy between the Jewish residents of Gaza and the Jews of Europe under Nazism. The star soon disappeared as a public emblem of the settlers, but orange remained as their symbol.

The blue strips, and blue and white strips tied together, connote approval of the Israeli government's plan to withdraw from Gaza. A young man who offered the bi-coloured ones explained, "It's the colour of the Israeli flag." Recently discharged from regular army service into a reserve unit, he had lost several friends defending settlements in Gaza. The loss of life on behalf of a region that he felt had neither strategic value nor biblical roots (it was Philistine, not Israelite territory) had persuaded him of the correctness of the government's present determination to relinquish Gaza.

En route from the airport, my husband, who has the heart and soul of a historian and archivist, wanted to collect all of the coloured cloths waved in our direction as artifacts of a particular moment. My brother set the kiddie locks on the car windows. "Collect them on your own time," he told us, "and not in my car." My brother's car, barely half a year old, was pristine: no cloths of any colours, no bumper stickers. And he intended to keep it that way. It's not that he had no opinions on the matter of withdrawal. "I'm political." He explained. "My car is not."

Who could blame him? About a year ago, the Israeli rap group Hadag Nahash released *The Sticker Song*, with lyrics by the renowned Israeli novelist David Grossman. For some time, Grossman had been keeping track of slogans he'd seen on bumper stickers, eventually composing a poem that juxtaposed them ironically against one another, undercutting the absolutism expressed by the stickers and highlighting the danger of reducing complex political positions to simple phrases.

The catchy slogans may provide effective rallying cries, but they make more difficult the possibility of reasoned talk between parties who differ. In the video for the song, singers wear clothing that stereotypes the groups whose political opinions are represented in the lyrics: army reservists, religious settlers, hip Tel Avivians, followers of Reb Nachman of Bratslav, Arabs, and others.

As the song progresses, each singer becomes progressively angrier, reflected in gestures and voices. Each one's image is reflected alone in multiple mirrors, suggesting that the simplification inherent in slogans prevent us from speaking with anyone who is not exactly like us.

Israelis and supporters of Israel hold a range of political views. Feelings run deep because the issues matter. The progress of the country is bound up in each person's ability to empathize with his or her political opponent, without the stereotyping that slogans inspire.

In a recent interview in *Ha'aretz*, Yehonatan Bassi, the man charged with implementing the disengagement from Gaza, observed, "My job is to remember that although the process is correct and necessary, it is the residents of Gush Katif who are its casualties. They are the casualties of the inconsistent policies of the Israeli government in the 1970s and 2000s."

While polls indicate that the majority of the country favors withdrawal from Gaza, Bassi warns that "the crucial test for Israel today is whether it knows how to embrace the settlers. Will the country understand them and identify with them and nurture them?"

Bassi's challenge extends well beyond the specifics of Gush Katif. Israelis and lovers of Israel must reach beyond divisive sloganeering to embrace, identify with, and nurture one another.

The Kirshner File

Russian immigrant leaves an impression

At the relatively tender age of 24, Lena Gorelik is riding high. With a published novel behind her, and a second novel bubbling in her brain, she is remarkably successful. Not bad for a writer whose knowledge of German was nil until her arrival here 13 years ago.

Sheldon Kirshner in Munich

Gorelik, arguably Germany's answer to the Russian Canadian novelist David Bezmozgis (*Natasha and Other Stories*), is the author of *My White Nights*, a melange of fact and fiction. Anja, the central character, is a young Jewish woman coping with her dual Russian and German identities in her adopted homeland.

"In the end, she discovers she can be both," she said in a recent interview over a meal at a restaurant in the centre of Munich.

Published last September to favourable reviews in the German, Austrian and Swiss media, *My White Nights,* suffused with wry humour and laced with a touch of melancholy, established Gorelik as one of the brightest new voices in Germany's burgeoning Russian Jewish community.

Next to Wladimir Kaminer, the 38-year-old Berlin-based short story writer, radio talk show host and pop culture celebrity whom newspaper editor Boris Feldman effusively describes as "the most famous Russian in Germany," she is probably the best-known Russian face in this country.

Born in St. Petersburg about a year after the collapse of Soviet communism, she wrote the semi-autobiographical *My White Nights* in a frenzy of creativity over a frenetic four-month period.

Drawing on experiences from her own life as a model immigrant, she found that the story came easily to her. She was asked to write it after ably translating a Russian novel into German.

Gorelik, who has always aspired to be a writer, was studying journalism in Munich when she composed it. While finishing her degree as the school's first student from the former Soviet Union, she freelanced for newspapers in Munich and Berlin.

These days, between readings of *My White Nights* at book stores throughout Germany, she is working on an MA in East European studies at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, where she has lived for the past four years.

"I don't want to be an academic," she explained. "I want to use this knowledge as a journalist."

Come next year, she will file stories from Moscow for a German news agency that hired her for a three month stint. "It will be an adventure," Gorelik said. "I'm looking forward to it."

In the meantime, her publisher has informed Gorelik that a second edition of *My White Nights* is in the works and that talks about publishing it in English, French and possibly Russian are proceeding.

Gorelik, whose conversation is layered with sardonic humour, has begun writing her next novel. "It will be about Judaism in Germany," she said.

For someone who knew virtually nothing about the subject in St. Petersburg, a novel turning on that theme must surely be rated as something of an accomplishment. "Until I was eight or nine years old," she recalled, "I didn't know what a Jew was. It was not a topic in our home."

So blissfully unaware of her background was she that she once tossed off an anti-Semitic curse. "Hey, you're a Jew," she told a school classmate.

Hearing this, her mother, an engineer like her husband, brought her up to speed about their Jewish origins.

The Goreliks decided to leave Russia for a variety of reasons, the anemic state of the economy and anti-Semitism being the most important ones.

Food shortages were common, unpaid salaries were the bane of workers and hostility toward Jews was never too far from the surface.

And, of course, her parents thought she and her older brother, Max, would have a better future in the West.

These were compelling enough motives for emigration. But the matter was only finally settled by an anti-Semitic incident in which her father was the victim.

In a train compartment, a fellow passenger deliberately rubbed his shoes on her father's trousers. Then another man did the same, saying that Jews should leave Russia. "That made the difference," said Gorelik, whose great-grandfather was a yeshiva rabbi.

Now the question was where to go. Her brother, having learned Hebrew, hoped to settle in Israel. But her parents vetoed that idea, thinking Israel would be too different, "like another world."

Lena Gorelik

Their preference was actually the United States or Canada, but due to various restrictions, these destinations were off-limits to them.

They chose Germany because it seemed like a decent compromise, its Nazi past notwithstanding. Germany was closer than Israel, it was European, its climate was familiar and its safety net of social support services, unemployment insurance and German language courses was attractive.

Learning German was the toughest obstacle the Goreliks had to overcome. Clueless initially, she spoke fluent German within three months. Brother Max, a computer consultant, has mastered German as well.

Gorelik's mother, a bookkeeper in a bank, speaks an excellent German. Her father, a retiree who was employed as a technician, gets by. Residents of Ludwigsburg, they are pleased that she and Max have adjusted to Germany so well.

"I feel complete acceptance here," she said. "My everyday life is not different from that of my German friends."

She seems to have no overriding qualms about Germany's Nazi legacy. "I know it happened, but it's not the fault of the younger generation. It's over. It's history, though we have to make sure that something like this never again happens in Germany, or in any other country."

Her parents miss their old friends in Russia, Israel and Canada. "They didn't become Germans, though they have German friends, read German newspapers and go to the theatre."

Despite her apparently seamless integration into German society, she is still culturally Russian. But for every Russian book she reads, she goes through 10 books in German.

Gorelik, who was in Canada last winter to attend a conference on Jews in Germany held at the University of Toronto, would not mind living in Canada or the United States for a year or two at some juncture in the future.

But for now, she is comfortable in Munich. As she put it, "Germany is my home."

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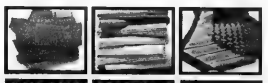

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Jewish Life

The "joy" instead of the "oy"

By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN

This week we observe the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, marking the beginning of a three-week mourning period memorializing the destruction of the First and Second temples.

It is a sad time of summer, one that interrupts camp and cottage life and forces us to re-examine – in the midst of our fun – our relationship to the tragedies of our history. The destruction of the ancient central symbol of Jewish worship and life was a cataclysm of huge proportions. And, like every pogrom and every calamity of Jewish history, it was one more example of being hated, reviled and oppressed.

However – and this is a big however – I would like to think of our victimhood as an aberration of what it means to be Jewish, not a definition.

In her book *God and the Victim*, Elisa Lampman speaks of how religious value becomes attached to being a victim. Sacred memory and stories of valiant suffering all help to make sense of tragedy and help to assign meaning to being a victim. But the danger of romancing victimhood is great. We have to be diligent not to make a religion out of memorial.

Shelby Steele, a black writer, has written powerfully about the romanticization of victimhood. He warns against a "victim mentality" in which he says a person needs to see one's self as a victim in order to have a self-identity. In effect, he writes, "Being a victim gives you a perverse sort of 'status.'"

If we Jews are not to enjoy that kind of "perverse status," then Judaism must be an affirmation rather than a negation. It is a Jewish obligation to replace the centrality of our suffering with something more than both *Fiddler on the Roof* and Anne Frank combined. We are not victims. We are survivors. Victims live in the past. Survivors live in the present, with faith in the future.

In my outreach work with those Jews who feel disenfranchised or disengaged, one theme keeps ringing out – why do they only hear tales of woe; as Salo Baron put it, "the lachrymose view of Jewish history"? Why do they hear so much all the time about the ongoing fear of anti-Semitism lurking in every corner and the communal anxiety over intermarriage, along with dire warnings and hand-wringing? Why do they not hear more about the richness of Judaism, the beauty of Jewish culture, the fun and passion and zest of Jewish life? Without in any way negating or dismissing our past and all its horrors, why can't we focus on the "joy" of Judaism as much as the "oy?"

This for me is a valuable lesson of the destruction of the Temple: that we see ourselves not as members of some sad, underdog race but of a modern people, strong and proud, who do not see themselves – and do not wish anyone else to see them – as living in the shadows. I was most powerfully struck by this tension the last time I was in Israel on Tisha b'Av.

Here we were, weeping at the Western Wall for its history, and yet overjoyed that we could pray there in the present moment. Thus we saw ourselves neither as victims or victors, but perhaps best as witnesses to a living, joyful, vital faith that has survived the destruction and become a modern, contemporary and relevant way of life.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein is the rabbinic director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto.

'Warm, close family' part of Chabad's appeal, says author

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

If there's a key to the success of Chabad Lubavitch, it's the combination of its emissaries' strict adherence to Jewish law and their non-judgmental embrace of other Jews, says Sue Fishkoff, author of *The Rebbe's Army: Inside the World of Chabad-Lubavitch*.

Speaking recently at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, the California-based JTA correspondent noted that in less than 40 years Chabad has become a billion-dollar outreach empire with more than 4,000 shlichim in more than 70 countries.

Her talk, titled "What is it about Lubavitch that attracts secular Jews?" commemorated the 11th yahrzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Despite predictions that the organization would "if not collapse, at least lose its forward momentum" after the Rebbe's death, the half-dozen years that followed were its years of greatest growth, and it is continuing to grow, she said.

"What is most intriguing, particularly in North America but also in the former Soviet Union [both places where Chabad's growth is greatest], is that overwhelmingly the people who come to Chabad classes and services, who send their kids to Chabad summer camps, are the Reform, Conservative and unaffiliated Jews whose values, beliefs and lifestyles would seem very far removed from those of the Chabad infrastructure they're supporting."

Fishkoff said that, for her, Chabad shlichim, who typically start as young couples in their early 20s, exemplify the Jewish values she learned as a child but doesn't necessarily take the time to put into practice herself – visiting sick people, inviting strangers for Shabbat, calling people who are alone in the community, making a point of not embarrassing people.

Over and over, she said, she heard from people like the woman who never heard from her congregation when her husband was sick with cancer, but the Chabad rabbi from the next town visited every day throughout his illness.

When she was researching her book, Fishkoff spent many days with Chabad families. Sometimes, she said, it was 2 a.m. before they had time to sit down for an interview.

"What can other Jewish streams learn from what Chabad is doing?" asked Fishkoff, who belongs to a small Conservative congregation. "How can we incorporate that into our lives, our synagogues, and our hearts?"

She said it was "an incredible lesson" for her to see teenage boys in Portland, Ore. teaching Torah to people old enough to be their grandparents with "such sensitivity, such intelligence, and such confidence without arrogance."

Although Fishkoff's book focused on the American Chabad experience, she said she couldn't resist travelling to Thailand to attend a Chabad seder for 800. In Bangkok, she said, three shaliach couples serve the needs of about 250 local Jews and thousands of Israeli backpackers who travel there after their army service.

"These are young Israelis who at home would never set foot in a synagogue, let alone a Chabad House," said Fishkoff. Those attending seders in the Far East "will not put on black hats and move to Kfar Chabad, but they'll have a warm memory of a Jewish ritual and a guy in a black hat they could speak to and who had things to say. I think those seders will go further than anything else to breaking down that religious/non-religious divide [in Israel]."

In the United States, said Fishkoff, Chabad has been able to offer classes "appropriate to a college-educated, lay audience in a way that doesn't talk down to people."

Many people told her they were attracted to Chabad by "'this nostalgic vision they had of the warm, close Chabad family.'"

In fact, she said, many parents from wealthy communities told her they wanted the Chabad shlichim as role models for their non-materialistic values. "I found that fascinating – what it said about us as well as Chabad."

Also, she noted, Chabad's celebration of Judaism "speaks to the Jewish soul. Judaism doesn't just come from the head."

But Chabad also forces you to ask questions of yourself," Fishkoff said. "That has happened to me. I can't say I've become any more observant, but I know that every day I'm much more Jewishly aware and more aware of myself as a Jewish person in relation to the world in a way I wasn't before.

"If Chabad can convince people never to be complacent, but to keep challenging themselves, it will help us become better Jews and better human beings."

Jewish Life

Our greatest loss

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Over the next few weeks the summer continues to unfold and the Jewish calendar moves closer to Tisha b'Av. The three weeks leading up to Tisha b'Av are understood to be weeks of increasing intensity and meaning as we contemplate our history.

The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and our subsequent exile is a constantly present event in a Jewish life. We mourn the downturn of Jewish history and the thousands of years of being at the mercy of world politics and anti-Semitism. The Talmud records ancient debates on why such an event could occur and indeed Jews have been discussing this question for millennia.

Tradition tells us that both the First and the Second temples were destroyed on Tisha b'Av. However, the reasons given for the two destructions are very different. The Talmud states that the First Temple was destroyed because of the immoral behaviour of ancient Israelites. The three sins for which a Jew should allow death to prevail rather than transgress them were violated during the First Temple era. These sins are: idolatry, sexual crimes and murder. According to the sages, we lost the First Temple due to our total betrayal of Jewish values.

There are differing opinions as to the reason for the destruction of the Second Temple. The most often cited reason states that baseless hatred was the cause. During the time of the Second Temple, there were many different factions of Jews each believing they had the true understanding of Torah. They were so judgmental and antagonistic toward each other that at times they informed on fellow Jews to the Romans. Although what was at stake was what each considered the "true" understanding of Torah, the sages termed this behaviour "baseless hatred" and we lost the Temple.

Another interesting midrash also appears in the Talmud and discusses several incidents with a man named Bar Kamtza. He deliberately sets out to incite anger between Caesar and the Jews and invalidates a sacred offering sent by Caesar to Jerusalem. Although his action endangers all the Jews and brings war to their doorstep, Rabbi Zechariah insisted that Bar Kamtza not be executed since his crime was technically only invalidating an offering. Rabbi Yochanan will later remark that the scrupulousness of Rabbi Zechariah destroyed the Temple and caused our exile.

When we collect the reasons given for the destructions of the temples, they include betrayal of Jewish values and scrupulous adherence to Jewish law. These are offered to us as two extremes on a sad continuum of Jewish history. Both Jewish values and Jewish law are mechanisms that allow us to express ourselves as Jews. They are not weapons, and Jewish history has shown us that when they become weapons, they quickly turn against us. Underlying the events is baseless hatred, the animosity that makes Jewish groups judge and condemn one another.

Over the next few weeks events in Israel will reach a climax as modern politics express themselves in an ancient Jewish land. There are voices calling for military disobedience, strict religious scrupulousness and, in some cases, a betrayal of Jewish values. It is most timely to take a moment and remember Jewish history while recounting ancient texts.

The sages in our Talmud were not recording history; they were warning of repeating it.

Readers' favourites, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Here is the second part of one of my irregular roundups of sites that readers feel people should know about. The sites may be labours of love created by readers – or ones that readers find themselves coming back to time and again.

A while back, I did a column about sites that can help track down lost friends, like the buddy you made on the kibbutz. I wrote, "Calling all ex-Banana Boys! Your friends are looking for you." And then I told you about a site **[www.lostamigos.net/]** where someone was trying to find old friends – also known as the Banana Boys – from Kibbutz Bet Zera. Allen Lash came across my article and wrote to tell me that he was indeed one of those boys. Lash also recommends John Carson's Kibbutz Volunteer Board, where you will find hundreds of messages from people trying to reconnect with their pasts. **[http:// tinyurl.com/6odvk]**

Earlier this year, the United Nations held a special commemoration to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. As always, Larry Grossman is vigilant about tracking down important Jewish-related audio and video to make its way onto the web. You can watch the three-hour UN General Assembly webcast online. **[http://tinyurl.com/chj5n]**

Rav Roy Tanenbaum of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation is clearly proud of his shul's Torah4Kids website. "As far as we know, Torah4Kids, or 'Canaan Hora – Dancing with the Torah,' is the only parshah page of its kind, written for modern kids leading modern lives. We think the content is beautifully written, week after week, in sophisticated language, yet language kids can understand. Fresh, exciting and thoughtful, it has open-ended questions, a section for table discussion, a weekly quote in English and Hebrew, and always there is a link to something from the sages." I checked the site when Parshat Chukat was featured: "Thirty-eight years have passed, and things are starting to happen. Join us this week for sad farewells, big mistakes, bad kings and scary snakes." Is that how you remember Torah from day school? **[www.torah4kids.net]**

The folks at 1media.org wrote to tell me about their project: the digital recording of historical Jewish graveyards and cemeteries in Germany. Earlier this year, they finished their largest project so far. They photographed and documented all the graves at the Rat-Beil Strasse cemetery in Frankfurt am Main – 100 years of Jewish culture in 17,000 high-resolution photographs. Most of the databases can be purchased on CD-ROM, but some are free and can be searched online and downloaded at no charge. **[www.1media.org/English/home.htm]**

I bet Rabbi Benjamin Hecht never dreamed he'd be promoting a radio station back when he was studying in yeshiva. But Mesorahradio.com isn't your typical radio station. Rabbi Hecht writes that this Internet radio station "features Torah study presentations in different formats and offers shows by leading institutions in the world Jewish community. For example, Yeshiva University offers two shows, one of which features the leading talmudic scholars of their school. The Israel Aliyah Center also offers a show at this site." **[www.mesorahradio.com]**

The 17th Maccabiah Games are now wrapping up in Israel, and Efrat Yaari would like you to know that you can watch highlights of the games, including videos of games and interviews with athletes, at Ynetnews.com. Look for their feature on the right side of the page. **[www.ynetnews.com]** Not to be outdone, also check out the special sections at the Jerusalem Post **[http://tinyurl.com/a88lt]** and Ha'aretz **[http://tinyurl.com/84vr6]**.

Finally, here's a site that I've been meaning to tell you about. You've probably heard that Steven Spielberg is planning to direct a film about the murder of the Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics and Israel's secret hunt for the perpetrators. **[http://tinyurl.com/ab8sj]** That Israel's spy agency has never publicly admitted to the hunt is not surprising. But the Mossad did surprise some observers when it set up its own website in both Hebrew and English. **[http://tinyurl.com/2ls88]** First, read about the intelligence agency's history and vision. Its motto is, "Where no counsel is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14) Then would-be James Bonds can take a careful look at the application form.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Greater Toronto Area

Premier's response on school funding disappoints Toronto cantor

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Eric Moses, the cantor of Beth Sholom Synagogue, is not in the habit of sending letters.

But when he read in *The CJN* last month that the United Synagogue Day School had lost more than 200 students in the past two years and that Eitz Chaim Day School had lost more than 400 since 1992, he felt compelled to write to Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty to make a case for government funding of faith-based schools.

Moses, the father of a three-year-old and 19-month-old twins, wrote that he was "deeply troubled" by the statistics.

"Canada is a mosaic society, and we take pride in our diversity," he wrote. "The only way to guarantee a future for our religion is to educate our children."

He noted that in Montreal, where he spent five years as a cantor, there was a high level of Jewish commitment and Jewish education. "The greatest reason," he wrote, "is that the Quebec government funds faith based day schools." Tuition for Jewish days schools in Montreal, at $5,000 to $6,000, is approximately half of what it is in Toronto, he noted.

Religious education is now an unreachable dream for many Ontario families, he wrote. "What do I tell my members who cannot afford it?"

In his June 29 reply, McGuinty wrote that improving public education is his government's "number one priority." He called high-quality public education "the cornerstone of a just society and the key to our long-term prosperity."

Wilma Davis, a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Education, said she was not aware of any government discussions regarding funding for private schools.

The provincial government "recognizes that there are many hard-working families who make sacrifices to send their children to faith-based schools," McGuinty wrote. "We have the utmost respect for your views and those of other Ontarians who disagree with our government's stance on funding for independent or religious schools. However, we remain deeply committed to restoring confidence in and stability to our public education system."

Moses, who earlier this year agreed to join the letter-writing committee of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools – a grassroots group of parents – told *The CJN* he was "very disappointed" with McGuinty's response. "He didn't address… the complaints in my letter. It's like we're speaking different languages."

Moses feels that the Ontario government's stance on funding is unfair to all religions. The Equity in Education Tax Credit introduced by the previous Tory government was cancelled after McGuinty became premier in 2003.

Two years ago, Moses employed a Filipino nanny when his wife was ill. "She was so proud that as a new immigrant, her children could go to a Catholic school [with the help of government funding]. I said to her, 'Regrettably, I can't do the same.'"

"It's a human rights issue," he said. "We're just asking to be treated in the same manner [as the Catholic community]."

He does not believe that supplementary schools are the answer. In his letter to McGuinty, he wrote that children are not interested in attending school on the weekend or after a long day at school.

The high cost of Jewish day school "is actually lowering the Jewish birth rate," Moses believes, based on discussions with friends and others in the community. "People can't afford it. Often, couples will have two children, and then the third child is a big decision."

A MAJOR MILESTONE

Levi Yosef Sherman is seen with his bar mitzvah teacher Byron Shore, right, and longtime family friend Noam Edel. For his bar mitzvah at Reena's Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre, Levi learned his parshah and gave a dvar Torah to the congregation. Levi is a student at Zareinu Educational Centre, a day school and treatment centre that provides special education and therapy to children with physical and developmental challenges.

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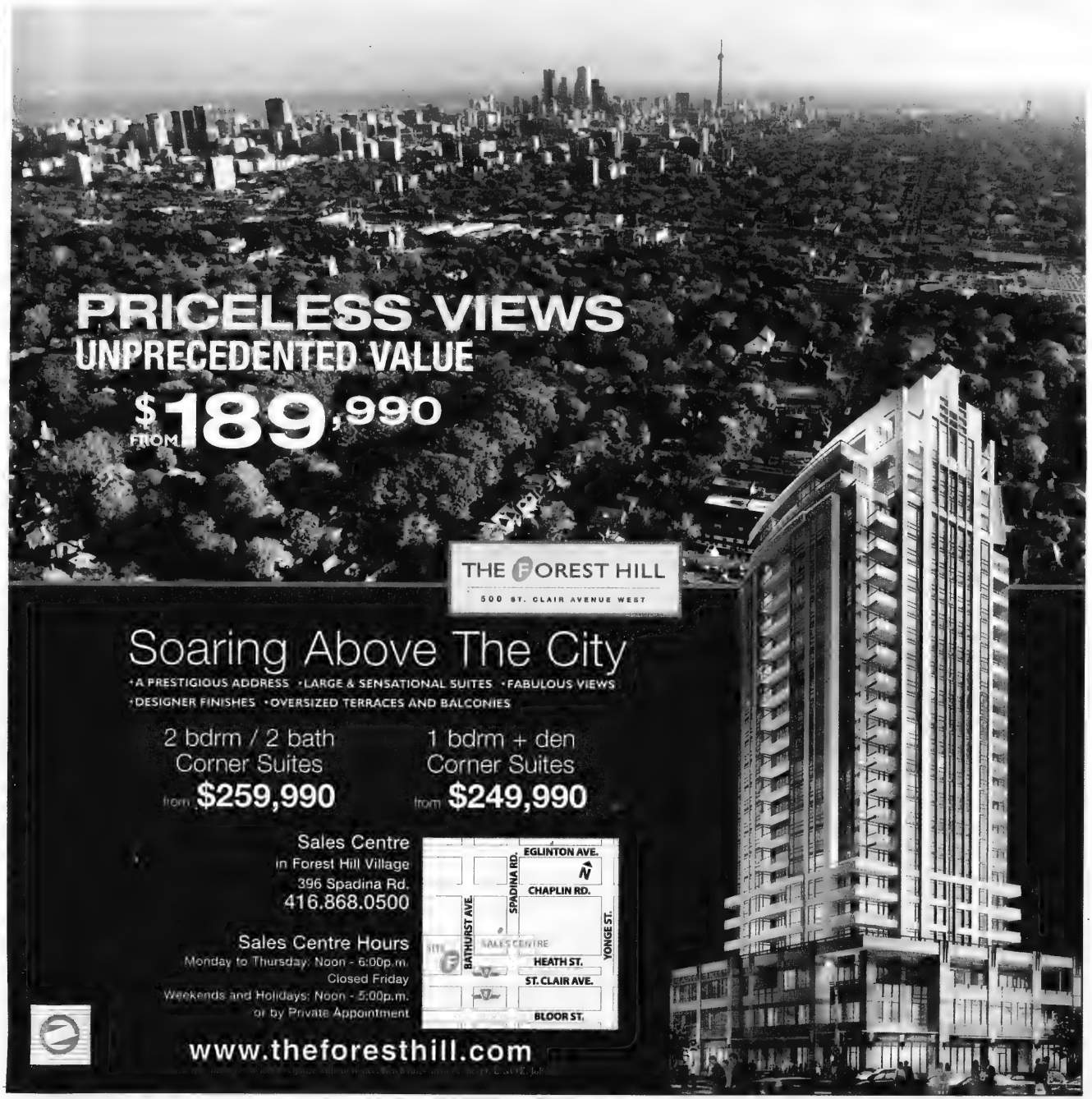

Greater Toronto Area

War vet turns 100 next month

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Retired Regimental Sgt.-Maj. Sam Cohen, who celebrates his 100th birthday on Aug. 12, defies all medical logic.

"He eats all the wrong foods, such as pastrami with fat and fried foods, and he smokes more than a package of unfiltered Sweet Caporal cigarettes a day," says his daughter Theresa Strom.

"We have to order the cigarettes for him, because very few stores carry these unfiltered cigarettes."

The centenarian was interviewed recently, accompanied by his three daughters: Strom and twins Marilyn Weinrib and Joscelyn Kasman.

Cohen lives on his own on Shaw Street in the house he purchased after he returned from the war. His wife passed away 14 years ago and although his family has encouraged him to move to a more protective environment, he adamantly refuses.

His parents came from Kiev, Russia, but met and married in Toronto. Cohen says his family name was originally Kagan, but it was changed to Cohen by an immigration officer who asked his father, David, his name, and because he didn't speak any English, he replied that he was a kohen. His father operated a butcher shop at College and Markham streets.

Sam Cohen was born in Toronto and attended Harbord Collegiate. He operated a grocery store on Lippincott Street, but in 1940, he ran into financial problems because he had extended credit to too many customers who couldn't pay him. He was forced to close the store.

He decided to enlist in the Toronto Scottish Regiment and served in the machine gun unit. His daughter Theresa was 10 years old and the twins were one year old when he left. He served in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, England and Luxemburg.

Seen at a recent family simchah with their father Sam Cohen, who will be 100 on Aug. 12, are, from left, Joscelyn Kasman, Marilyn Weinrib and Theresa Strom.

He was wounded on his forehead by shrapnel fire in France from a bombing raid. On his return from active duty, after receiving many medals, ribbons and citations, he decided to remain in the army. He retired from the army at age 60 and went to work for a security company until his retirement at 78.

Cohen has been involved with General Wingate Branch 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion, whose mandate is to help war veterans. It supports Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre and other charitable causes.

One of the highlights of his life, he said, was returning to the Netherlands in 1970 for the 25th anniversary of that country's liberation.

Kasman said her father is still sharp.

"He has a great memory. He reads the newspapers from front to back, and when we have lunch, he tells us the news and what's going on. He also does the crossword puzzle every day."

Weinrib says, "At my daughter's wedding three years ago, my father made a long speech without a note and he got a standing ovation."

In a note to *The CJN*, Gianna Kasman, one of Cohn's 12 grandchildren, wrote that her grandfather knows all the Blue Jays' and Maple Leafs' statistics, "and he leads the Passover seder every year."

Her grandfather is the "king of the 30-second telephone call," she said.

"I speak to my Zaida every night at 10 p.m., and he always asks me, 'Are the kids sleeping? Is your husband sleeping? And is the dog sleeping? Your dog is so lazy, but such a good dog. And why aren't you sleeping?'"

When asked what he attributes his long life to, Cohen replied, "I've been smoking since I was 14. I guess it's natural and good genes."

Family and friends will join Cohen to celebrate his 100th birthday at a party on Aug. 14, when they will share stories, and view photographs and other mementos.

Asked what he looks forward to, Cohen replies, "I look forward to my birthday and after that, we'll see."

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

פֿון רעדאַקציע: אינעם יאָר 2005, אין וועלכן מיר לעבן איצט, וואָלט **פֿרע מאַרקיש** אַלט געווארן 110 יאָר. אין שייכות מיט דער דאָזיקער אין אין שייכות מיט דעם קומענדיקן יאָרטאָג פון סטאַליניסטישן פּאַרבּרעכן איבער די סאָוועטישע־ייִדישע שרי־בער דעם 12טן אויגוסט, 1952, ברענגען מיר אַן אויסצוג פון אַ נרעסערער אַרבעם פון דעם פּאָעם **משה שולשטיין** פון זיין בוך „בעשטאַלטן פֿאַר מיינע אויגן". 1965.

די וועלט־וויכטיקע נייעס פֿון דעם טאָג איז געווען, אַז פֿרע מאַרקיש איז נישט געווען אין לעבן. ער איז אַרויסגעקומען פֿון דער אַלגעמיינער אָפּטיילונג פֿון דער אַרמיי, אַ ביסל פֿרי נאָכמיטאָג, נאָכן מיטאָג־שלאָף, ווי יעדן טאָג. ער איז אַרויסגעקומען פֿון דער אַלגעמיינער אָפּטיילונג, ווייל ער האָט אַ ביסל ווייטיק אין קאָפּ, ווי אַ ביסל אַ קאָפּווייטיק. ער האָט זיך אַ ביסל אויסגעשלאָפֿן, אָבער ער האָט נאָך ניט גענוג אויסגעשלאָפֿן. ער האָט זיך אַ ביסל אויסגעשלאָפֿן, אָבער ער האָט נאָך ניט גענוג אויסגעשלאָפֿן. ער האָט זיך אַ ביסל אויסגעשלאָפֿן, אָבער ער האָט נאָך ניט גענוג אויסגעשלאָפֿן.

ביי 57 יאָר האָט שוין פֿרע מאַרקיש נישט געלעבט. מען קען זאָגן, אַז ער איז שוין געווען טויט זינט זיין אַרעסט אין אָנהייב 1949, וועגן זיין שפֿרודלדיקע שאָפּונגס־קראַפֿט איז אָפּגעשטעלט געוואָרן, ווייל וואָס פֿאַר אַ באַדייטונג און וועדעט האָט שוין געקאָנט האָבן דאָס לעבן ביי אַזאַ אימפּוליסיון און שטורמיש־ברוזנדיקן דיכטער, ווי מאַרקיש, אין זיינע שפּעריש אויפֿגאָנגען און אויסלאָדנגען?

אַזוי אַרום איז שוין מאַרקיש ביי פֿיר און פֿופציק יאָר געווען טויט, אַ קרבן פון אַ בלוטיקן גולם, וועלכער האָט געדאַרפט זיין דער סימבאָל פון דער וועלט־בטעטע אידעאַלן און איז גאָר אַרומגענאָגנען מיט אַ האַק אין האָנט און בלינדערהייט געהאַקט מיט איר אויף רעכטס און אויף לינקס און פֿאַרהאַקט אונדזערע שענסטע קעס.

(...)

עס איז נישט לייכט אַרומצונעמען זיין בריייטע גאָמע פון מאָטיוון, פון סרשטען און פֿראַבלעמען, זיין נאָנצן ליכטיק אויפֿשטיין און אויפֿשטייג, זיינע אלע עטאַפּן און מדרגות, זיינע סתירות און וויידער־אַנאַנדר.

וועגן זיין סתירותדיקייט האָט מאַרקיש, זעט אויס, אַליין זיך אָפּגענעבן אַ חשבון נאָך אין זיינע יונגע יאָרן. פֿאַר זיין אָפּפֿאָרן פון פֿוילן קיין ראָטנפֿראבאַנד אין יאָר 1926 האָט ער אין אַ שמועס, פֿאַרעפֿנטלעכט אין די וואַרשעווער „ליטעראַרישע בלעטער", דערקלערט צום סוף:

„ווי יעדע בין טראָג איך מסתמא צו אי מיין
ביסל האָניק און אי מיין ביסל גיפט".

פון אָט דעם אויפֿריכטיקן מתוודה זיין זיך, פון אָט דעם כאַראַקטעריזירן זיך זעלבסט, פון אָט די צוויי קעגנזעצלעכע עלעמענטן, וואָס דער דעמאָלטדיקער יונגער מאַרקיש דערקלערט, אַז ער פֿאַרמאָגט זיי ביידע, דאַרף מען אפשר זען די גאַנצע שפּעטערדיקע מאַרקיש געשטאַלט.

מאַרקיש איז גיך געוואָרן דער סימבאָל, דער אויס־דרוק פון דער נייער מאַדערנער ייִדישער ליטעראַטור. צי מען האָט יאָ אַדער נישט געקאָנט אָנגענעמען אָט די נייקייט און מאַדערנקייט. עס איז געווען נאָך דער ערשטער וועלט־מלחמה. עטלעכע יאָר נאָך דעם וויי די קאַאַנען אויף די שלאַכטפעלדער פון אייראָפּע האָבן זיך שוין ממש געהאַט פֿאַרכלישטשעט און פֿאַרקרעקט פֿון נעם איינגעזשלאָקענטן בלוט. זייערע גאַרגלען זיינען פֿאַרפֿאָקט און פֿאַרשטאָפּט געוואָרן און שוין געווען הייזערעק־פֿאַרזשאָורעט און לסוף זיך איינגעשטילט.

(סוף אין קומענדיקן „וויינקל")

Greater Toronto Area

IsoArk used to treat patients

Continued from page 5

As well, "you can put a patient here and you can treat them through these gloves without getting suited up," he said, referring to a pair of arm-length, plastic gloves that a doctor outside the chamber would use to treat a patient inside.

"Because of the clear plastic, [people inside the chamber] don't feel claustrophobic, because you can see out, but also, the nurses can see in and talk to the patient."

There are also airtight sleeves for cables, wires and tubes that allow patients to be treated inside the chamber while most of the medical equipment remains outside the chamber to avoid contamination.

"We're really proud of this as an Israeli product," Helleman said.

Alan Kirschenbaum spoke at the conference. **[Benji Feldman photo]**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Resa's Pieces packs Leah Posluns

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

It began as a semi-joke for people who always wanted to play an instrument or hadn't had a chance to play since their youth.

Five years later, the Resa's Pieces adult amateur concert band took to the stage for their fourth annual year-end recital at the Leah Posluns Theatre at the BJCC.

Adrienne Cohen, director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts, School of Music, said that "Resa's Pieces is one of the Koffler school's treasures," and "enables adults from diverse backgrounds in the community to come together in friendship and music."

The band's conductor, Resa Kochberg, who by day teaches instrumental music to children from grades 5 to 8, said that the men and women who make up the band are "a true testament that it is never too late to do something you have always wanted to or go back to something you once loved."

At their first concert, Resa's Pieces, made up of 16 musicians, had an audience of 75, mostly family and friends. Their 2005 summer solstice concert saw a packed hall and band of 35.

The highlight of the evening for the band was their performance of *Instant Concert*, a piece made up of 30 different melodies and played within 3½ minutes.

The piece is reputed to be one of the most difficult to play and conduct, but after three years of practising, the band played without a hitch.

As an added dimension to the evening, audience participation was encouraged with a sing-along led by actress and singer Lizzie Kurtz.

Children were also given the chance to show their musical talents when during the song *Jamaica Farewell*, all were asked to join the band on stage and were given shakers and tambourines to play in time with the music. Kochberg later noted the importance of music for body, mind and soul for people of all ages.

Both Cohen and Kochberg stressed that Resa's Pieces is open to new members, including those who have never played before and people who want to get back to a hobby they once loved.

For more information about Resa's Pieces, call Adrienne Cohen at 416-636-1880, ext 228.

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On Campus

Zac Kaye: 10 years at the helm of Hillel

Zac Kaye

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

In his ten years in Toronto, Zac Kaye has seen – and been responsible for – many changes for Jewish students at local universities and colleges.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life offers testimony enough. Canada's first purpose-built Hillel building, the 12,000-square-foot showpiece opened last year as home to Hillel of Greater Toronto and home base for Jewish students at the University of Toronto.

Also, the organization's budget has tripled, as has its staff. Kaye began with half a dozen staff in all, but U of T and York University, with an estimated 4,500 Jewish students each at the time (and more now), really needed a minimum of five staff, he said.

Last year, the Toronto organization – which was originally known as Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto – received accreditation from Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, recognizing its adherence to Hillel's national standards, as well as its relationship with the universities and the local Jewish community.

But less tangible changes, albeit related, have to do with the "strong, vibrant community on campus" that University of Toronto medical student Ron Somogyi, a former president of Hillel at U of T, described at Hillel of Greater Toronto's annual awards night in May.

Kaye – a native of Manchester, England who headed Hillels in Australia and Vancouver, B.C. before moving here – "rolled up his sleeves and made it happen," said Somogyi in tribute to the Hillel veteran who received a Founding Friend of the Campus award that night.

When Kaye arrived in Toronto to create a citywide umbrella organization for university and college campuses, existing programming was weak, Judaic content needed improvement, and the existing individual campus organizations functioned differently from one another and "had different ideas," according to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Morris Zbar, who hired Kaye.

But the biggest issue – even more significant than underfunding and a lack of cohesiveness – was that the vast majority of Jewish students at Toronto universities and colleges lived at home, recalled Kaye in his sunny, third-floor office at the Wolfond Centre.

Although Kaye believes that Hillel services and opportunities should be the same for students regardless of where they live, he noted that making Hillel relevant to commuter students means competing with "many different agendas."

In an effort to reach out to students who lived at home – many of them in Thornhill – on-campus programs were supplemented by citywide events like Shabbat dinners that were held off-campus. Commuter students "weren't necessarily going to shlep out to U of T or York in the evening," said Kaye.

Kaye has also promoted partnerships with other Jewish organizations including the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements in an effort to reach more students.

One of the first changes Kaye made was to begin sending students to Hillel leadership conferences – about 30 of them the first year alone. Some of the meetings addressed concerns like the environment, which students already had an interest in. "Within a couple of years we saw a real enthusiasm, a real turnaround."

Although Hillel of Greater Toronto's annual budget has increased from $420,000 a decade ago to $1.3 million today, Kaye says the organization runs "a tight ship."

In the early days, the main focus was on Jewish identity and continuity, a community buzzword in the 1990s. "As much as Israel was important and Israel Weeks [on campus] were impressive, there was equal focus given to Jewish identity issues."

But the atmosphere on campuses in North America changed with the onset of the second intifadah in September 2000.

"Our agenda moved very quickly from the Jewish continuity agenda to a very strong Israel agenda."

In Toronto, said Kaye, the watershed moment was the January 2003 talk by American academic Daniel Pipes at York University. The event, which was temporarily cancelled because of security concerns, took place under heavy security, and was preceded and followed by protest rallies.

Although the federation had increased funding to Hillel several years earlier – evidence of an increasing awareness of the importance of the campus years – political events on campus "certainly brought to the attention of the broader community that campus is a critical place where the leaders of tomorrow are fashioned and created," said Kaye.

But at the same time that Hillel's focus was increasingly Israel-related, it was also branching into other areas in an attempt to reach out to Jewish students who might not otherwise be interested in the organization.

An annual Arts and Culture festival – which received the Elie Wiesel Award, given by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life for originality and innovation in campus arts and culture programming is one example of the type of "niche" programming that broadened Hillel's appeal.

"Hillel was no longer the 'one size fits all' model," Kaye said. "That's something I passionately believed in. It was very important to bring that model to Toronto."

"He [has] consistently encouraged students to run with their ideas," said Somogyi. "In seven years I never heard Zac say no to a student without seeing obvious sadness on his face."

"Personally," said Kaye, "it's been very rewarding to take students to conferences and to Israel [as part of Birthright and also leadership conferences] and see them sort of blossom as campus leaders or as students who really care about what being Jewish is all about."

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Marnina Sherman
Eliana Shiel
Ashlene Suchall
Sapira Sutton
Rebecca Turk
Tzipporah Witty

Noam Abutbul
Eitan Aziza
Michael Bernstein
Tyler Davis
Elad Farzalla
Eitan Gilboord
Chaim Grafstein
Michael Green
Eyal Greenberg
Elan Hahn
Noam Halberstadt
Eliezer Herskovits
Gregory Kay
Dani Lefkowitz
David Max
Yaniv More
Yonatan Pellow
Rafi Rosenberg
Jeremy Segal
Shmuel Shulman
Azari Shumacher
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Coast to Coast

Siblings honoured by Britain for their wartime service

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

Abby, left, and Bert Smollen

OTTAWA — Sixty years after the end of World War II, Bert and Abby Smollen have been honoured by Britain for their wartime service.

Neither the British government nor their own families were aware until now of the Smollen family story, but a soon-to-be-published book by James R. Stevens brought the story to light.

As a result, the two brothers were recently awarded World War II service and campaign medals by British High Commissioner David Reddaway at a reception for the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League.

The brothers were part of a British family of six siblings – five sons and a daughter – who all enlisted when the war broke out.

When they joined, they were unaware of the situation in Germany or the danger for Jews, said Bert, now 86, who was in the Royal Air Force.

Abby served with the Northumberland Fusiliers from Newcastle and landed in France three days after D-Day.

By the end of the war, their three other brothers were dead.

Dennis died in February 1943 at age 21 in a bus accident. The following January, Joshua "Jossy," 29 and newly married, was reported missing when his plane disappeared somewhere over the Mediterranean Sea. Harold, a paratrooper, was 19 when he died on a booby-trapped bridge in Germany.

When the war ended, their mother emigrated to Canada with her remaining two sons and daughter Rita, who has since died.

Bert, who had been stationed in Canada during his service, decided to move to Vancouver. The rest of the family settled in Montreal.

No one spoke of what had happened.

"We never wanted to publicize anything of our unfortunate events that took place," Bert said.

His son Sheldon accompanied him to the award ceremony.

"It is consistent with Holocaust survivors who don't want to tell anything to their children… he is a survivor as well – not a Holocaust survivor, but a survivor of World War II," Sheldon said of his father.

"I wish my mother could have been alive to see this. I just found out that my own cousins never knew that she had been in British intelligence," Rita's daughter Janice Greene said. "She did talk to me about it, but I think I was the only one."

During a formal ceremony on the grounds of Earnscliffe, the residence of the British High Commissioner, Bert and Abby Smollen were presented with their own medals, as well as medals for their three deceased brothers.

"It is marvellous, after so many years, to recognize the heroism and sacrifice of this family," Reddaway said.

Plotnick is UIAFC's fifth president since 1988

Continued from page 3

Plotnick has a long history in Jewish education and youth projects. A decade ago, he founded ProMontreal, a federation project to encourage young Jews to stay in Quebec. He is a past president of the Jewish Education Council of Montreal, now known as the Bronfman Jewish Education Council, and he is a past Montreal and national chair of the March of the Living.

Encouraging young people to have the "same passion and dedication as their parents and grandparents" about Israel and Jewish life is his wish.

It was under Plotnick's watch that the Montreal federation underwent an expansion and renovation costing tens of millions in the late 1990s, a time when the community's mood was sombre.

Plotnick's natural optimism came through in his acceptance of the UIAFC mantle: "While the needs are great, and the challenges might even appear overwhelming, we have a great opportunity to make a difference," he told the annual general meeting.

Plotnick is the fifth president since the UIAFC was established in 1998 as a result of the reorganization of United Israel Appeal of Canada and the Council of Jewish Federations of Canada. It brings together 10 federations and 40 non-federated regional communities (27 in Ontario alone).

One of its major functions is funnelling the funds raised in annual UJA/CJA campaigns that are not spent locally. Last year, it sent $27.3 million to Israel and elsewhere overseas, and it allocated $25.6 million to national programs and services in Canada.

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Family Moments
see page 21

THE KASHRUTH COUNCIL OF CANADA
COR
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Shemen Zait Gourmet Restaurant
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Tues./Thurs. – 12:30-2:30 p.m. – 103 Vanier College
Instructor: Gloria Brumer
Classes begin Thursday, September 8th.
Yiddish at York is made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.
For further information about the course call 416-736-5823.
To register as a visiting student call 461-736-5000.

HOW THE GAMES BEGAN

Amid fireworks, rock 'n' roll, unabashed nationalism and parachuting athletes, the 17th Maccabiah Games opened last week at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan with a festive march by some 7,000 participants from 54 countries. Clockwise from top right are Israeli 2004 Olympic gold medalist, Gal Fridman carrying the Maccabiah torch into the stadium; athletes from Mexico; the national president of Maccabi Canada, Lawrence Hart, leading the Canadian delegation; athletes from the United States; athletes from the United Kingdom; athletes from India; two photos of athletes from Canada; and inset, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Moshe Katsav among the audience. ***Please see page 38 for Maccabiah results. Updates will appear on* The CJN *website.*** **[Israpet and Israel Sun photos]**

Greater Toronto Area

JEWISH WAR VETS MEMORIAL LAUNCHED: Gerald Schwartz, above, CEO of Onex Corp. and honorary chair of the Jewish War Veterans Memorial, recently launched a $7-million fundraising campaign for Flames of Memory, a memorial to Jewish combatants everywhere. To be located in Earl Bales Park, the memorial will be designed by world-famous architect Daniel Libeskind and situated on two acres of land donated by the City of Toronto. The structure is a dramatic, sweeping chanukiyah soaring 16 metres into the sky, with an amphitheatre in the centre and two walls at the rear to be inscribed with names – all encircled by the flags of 32 Allied nations. A groundbreaking is planned for Aug. 14. To donate, call 416-736-6744. [Ron Csillag photo]

The Canadian Jewish news

CONGRATULATIONS

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

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Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Look who's 90 years young! It's Esther Parnes. Many more happy years to come. With love from your family and friends.

Mazel tov to Evan Wargon on your BFA in film studies. From Safta & Saba, Mom & Dad, Sholom & Erminia, Avivah & Elliott, Sam & Sasha.

Arnold & Jean Vertlieb, Allen & Helen Kastner announce the forthcoming marriage Alana & Steven. Grandparents, Maurice & Esther Epstein, Sol & Slava Nudelman.

Mazel tov Paula & Ted on your 25th wedding anniversary. With love from Melissa, Robert, Bella, Steve and Frimet.

Happy seventh birthday to a special niece whom we love with all our hearts. Leslie, best wishes always. Love, Uncle David & Auntie Marla.

Mazel tov to Ilecia & Marc Fournier on the birth of their third child Noah Samuel on June 26. Love Uncle David & Auntie Marla Nudelman.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
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What's New deadlines: There is no issue July 28. This issue covers events from July 21 through Aug. 3. Monday, July 25, is the deadline for the Aug. 4 issue and Thursday, July 28, is the deadline for the Aug. 11 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, July 21

MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Beth Tikvah Synagogue sponsors "A Musical Celebration of Jewish Women" with **Lea Fuchs, Audrey Kaufman, Linda Segal** and **Andrea Shapiro**, accompanied by **Nathan Rosen**. 8 p.m. $5 at the door. 3080 Bayview Ave. 416-221-3434.

Sunday, July 24

WALKING GROUP

Join "Walk, Talk Etc.," a walking group for Jewish singles 50-70, for a historic hike, "Philospher's Walk and the University of Toronto Campus." Meet on Bloor Street. west of Avenue Road, between the Royal Ontario Museum and the Royal Conservatory of Music, at 9:30 a.m. For information, e-mail walkandtalketc@ hotmail.com.

YIDDISH DANCE WORKSHOP

The Koffler Centre of the Arts and the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre present a Yiddish Dance Workshop with instructors **Steve Weintraub** and **Helen Winkler**. Morning session 10 a.m.-noon, $10; afternoon session, 1:30-4:30 p.m., $15, or both sessions for $20. Evening party, 7-10 p.m. $6, studio theatre. No partner or previous experience required. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and soft, comfortable footwear such as runners. Bring a water bottle. Registration form and details available at www.yiddishdance.com or call **Teme Kernerman**. 416-636-1880, ext. 364.

Monday, July 25

INFO EVENING AND CLASS

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School holds an information evening and sample class at the First Narayever Synagogue, 187 Brunswick Ave. 7 p.m. For information, call **Loretta Tanenbaum** at 416-667-1717.

Tuesday, July 26

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto, sponsors a women's support group at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., today and every second Tuesday 10-11 a.m. Network, share, address concerns and have fun in an informal and friendly environment. Free parking available. For information and registration, call **Rachel** at 416-633-5100.

CHORALAIRS CONCERT

The Choralairs perform a free concert at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre at Earl Bales Park. 7:30 p.m. Concerts continue every Tuesday night. For information call 416-395-7873.

Wednesday, July 27

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meet tonight and the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Antibes Community Centre at 7 p.m. Call **Irv Helpert** for information at 416-743-1771.

Thursday, July 28

HUMAN ANATOMY

The Jewish Health Alliance presents a lecture with **Rabbi Abraham Sutton** on "Jewish Insights into the Human Anatomy." $10. For information and registration, call 416-208-0610 or visit www.jewishhealthalliance.com.

Friday, July 29

SEPHARADI SHABBATON

The Anshei Minsk Congregation hosts "Sepharadi in the City Shabbaton" with Torah scholar and author **Rabbi Avraham Sutton**, of Jerusalem, and services by Sephardi chazzan **Armand Moyal**. From Oneg Shabbat to *zmirot*, shiurim and genuine Sephardi cuisine. Reserve by July 26, adults $60, students $40. Single meal rates

Continued on page 23

Health & Lifestyles

Spouses of stroke survivors find their lives change

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

People who return home after having a stroke must accept that there will be differences in what they can do as well as how they perform certain tasks, and they must learn to accommodate their new limitations.

But the adaptations and changes are not only on the part of the patient – life will also be different for the family, especially the spouse.

Noomi Katz and Adina Hartman-Maeir, of the school of occupational therapy, faculty of medicine, Hadassah and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, reported on a study of stroke survivors one year after discharge from hospital. They recently spoke at the Wagman Centre of the Baycrest Centre, at an evening sponsored by the Baycrest Centre Foundation and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University.

Among the possible results of a stroke are paralysis, disruptions in vision, memory loss, depression and a lack of awareness of cognitive deficits, Katz said. These problems spill over into all areas of life, from the ability to care for oneself, to whether one can go back to work, and even what leisure activities a person is able to participate in.

The study showed that while the majority of those who survived strokes were fairly independent in such activities as eating, hygiene and grooming, "40 per cent needed at least minimum assistance in getting around, and many needed some help in dressing, bathing, shopping and doing laundry," said Katz.

> *'Forty per cent needed at least minimum assistance in getting around, and many needed some help in dressing, bathing, shopping and doing laundry'*

Not surprisingly, the study also indicated that satisfaction with life in general was higher the more they followed their old lives and activities and the better their abilities in carrying on were.

Caregivers, she said, were at serious risk if they stopped participating in social and recreational activities. The study indicated that, for caregivers, there was a significant correlation between the level of participation in activities and both satisfaction with life in general and maintaining health.

The study also showed the need for ongoing rehabilitation and support in the community, psychological counselling and support for caregivers.

Hartman-Maeir presented a case study of a couple, Isaac and Miriam. Before his stroke, she said, Isaac was very independent and enjoyed a variety of social and leisure activities, including bridge, a travelling club, a book club and using a computer.

He suffered a right-hemisphere stroke, which, Hartman-Maeir said, left him unable to see things on the left side. For instance, he shaved only the right side of his face, ate the food on the right side of the plate and read the right-hand side of a page of writing. At the same time, he seemed unaware of these deficiencies.

Through what Hartman-Maeir called guided discovery, Isaac was allowed to "experience his abilities and disabilities in a supportive and safe environment." He learned to "do systematic searches of his environment from the left side," for instance.

A virtual reality computer simulation program developed by Katz allowed him to safely practise navigating busy streets, although not to drive.

While Isaac was unable to drive and was unable to continue in his travel club, he was able to resume reading and playing bridge. He also took up arts and crafts. "Being in a group where he wasn't compared to how he used to be made a big difference," Hartman-Maeir said.

As for his wife, Miriam, "she was happy to help him, provided he realized and accepted that he needed her help."

Hartman-Maeir agreed with Katz that help from qualified professionals is essential for those who have survived strokes. As well, she urged caregivers to "take care of yourself. Do the things you like to do."

It is perfectly normal, Katz said, in response to a question from the audience, for the partner of a stroke survivor to show anger, grief and resentment. Support groups can be very helpful in this regard, she said.

Hartman-Maeir noted that some people preferred to be in groups of stroke survivors, while others preferred to reintegrate into the general community, and said either option is fine. People can belong to several different communities, too – for instance, a physical therapy group for stroke survivors as well as a painting group at a local community centre, she said.

What's New

Continued from page 22

and subsidies available. For reservations and information, contact 416-595-5723 or e-mail reachus@theminsk.com.

Other news

AM SHALOM SERVICES

Am Shalom Congregation, 80 Bradford St. in Barrie holds services Friday, July 22, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at 5 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 26, at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 705-792-3949 or visit www.amshalom.ca.

SUMMER ULPAN

The Hebrew Culture Organization of Canada offers a unique opportunity to improve your Hebrew this summer with intensive, interactive daily study, two hours daily, July 25-28. Beginner and intermediate levels offered. Classes held at 4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508. For information and registration, call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@bellnet.ca.

TORAH STUDY FOR WOMEN

Nishmat's Yarchei Kallah with **Chana Henkin** takes place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 26-28, 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. The topic is "Challenges to a Newborn State: Readings in Ezra, Nechemia and Zecharia." This is an opportunity to enjoy text-based learning for women of all levels. Texts are supplied in English and Hebrew. Call 416-789-4883 or e-mail nishmat@rogers.com for information.

KELMAN LECTURES

This year's Ruth Kelman Memorial Lectures include **Rachel Adelman,** lecturer at MaTaN and Hebrew University, on "Midrash as Poetry in Motion," Tuesday, Aug. 2, 8 p.m. On Wednesday, Aug. 3, Adelman will run a women's beit midrash titled "Women on the Edge: The Call for Divine Intervention," 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Aug. 9, **Smadar Rosensweig,** professor of Judaic Studies and Humanities at Touro College, speaks on "Personal or Heavenly Choices: Human Decision Making in the Bible." 8 p.m. On Wednesday, Aug, 10, she will run a women's beit midrash titled "Loving the Land: The Daughters of Tzelophchad as Role Models for the Modern Woman." 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All events take place at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. Lectures $10, beit midrash $15. All four events $36. Free for TiM Pass holders. For information, call 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for fall session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 6. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

STRATFORD TRIP

Join Beth Emeth Chai Shalom for a trip to the Stratford Festival to see *Hello Dolly,* Thursday, Nov. 2, for the 2 p.m. performance. $75 per person includes transportation. To reserve, call **Tema Wasserman** at 905-770-0355.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants with JIAS and Jewish Vocational Service staff are held every Tuesday morning 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. For time and location, call **Joanna** at ext. 30

Newcomer teens are invited to join JIAS Youth-to-Youth. Meet people and get to know Toronto. Call **Jodi** at ext. 28

"Summer Fun" for newcomer families. Register now for outings in July and August. Call **Joanna** at ext. 30.

Volunteer with JIAS Toronto and help welcome new immigrants to our community. Call **Joanna** at ext. 30

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Fathering After Divorce: A four-week group to help single fathers understand the crucial role they play in their children's lives and help them maintain the important connections they have with their children. Begins Thursday, July 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.

All programs listed take place at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 10; Hebrew classes, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; bingo, Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m; bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Casino Niagara/Fallsview, Wednesday, Sept. 21. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays, 9 a.m-1 p.m.

The Association of Jewish Seniors installation brunch with entertainment by **Michael Siskind** and **Nina Shapilsky** takes place Thursday, Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Reserve by Aug. 11. Call **Debbie Bernstein** at 416-635-2860.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn takes place Tuesday, July 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Barry Flexgold** speaks about "Albert Einstein, He's Jewish But He's Not Jewish: His Life and Times." A kosher dairy lunch is provided. Members $5, non-members $7. Reserve in advance and at the Wagman service desk, ext. 2267, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, Sept. 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** for information at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. July 28, movie.

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

BATHURST JCC

"Incognito," new and recent works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter**, are on display through Oct. 2 in the Koffler Gallery.

"Current Events," for those 55+, Thursdays through Aug. 25, 1-2:30 p.m., with **Shura Verona** facilitating in Room 120. Member $1, non-members $2. For more information, contact **Janet** at ext. 259.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Courses include "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail." Each course is 16 hours, two classes per week, four weeks long. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for fall classes. Call ext. 228 for information and registration.

Registration is open for September 2005 for morning preschool and full-day day care. Call ext. 248.

About People

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO

Lenore Ivers has been installed for a two-year term as president of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO. A Hadassah-WIZO member for 30 years, Ivers has served as Hadassah Bazaar chair and WIZO services chair and vice-president. Ivers says her goal over the next two years is to increase membership and to reach out to the Jewish community at large.

CANADA-ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Canada-Israel Committee, an agency of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), which represents the organized Canadian Jewish community on matters pertaining to Canada-Israel relations, has appointed **Sara Saber-Freedman** to the newly created position of chief operating officer. Saber-Freedman has extensive experience in the areas of political advocacy and public administration, most recently as executive director of the Quebec-Israel Committee. Based in Montreal, she will be responsible for ensuring strong relationships with CIC's partner organizations through CIJA and with local federations and communities. She will also co-ordinate all aspects of the CIC's activities across Canada, which includes research and publications, government and media relations, and community-based pro-Israel programming.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

MILES NADAL JCC

Ellen Terry Cole has been appointed the new executive director of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. Cole comes to the JCC from TVOntario, where she was director of marketing and communications for eight years. She is known to the Jewish community for her volunteer work as the Ontario region chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress community relations committee and as the committee's national chair from 1998 to 2001. She has also served as a regional and a national officer of CJC.

LANIADO HOSPITAL

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, Ontario region, have appointed **Jack Muskat** as director of development.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK

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SAT & SUN 10-6
MON to FRI 9-9

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Zigelstein, Gertrude	July 4/05	60 Macklin St. N
Krawczyk, Benny	July 7/05	43 Forest Lane
Saadia, Salomon	July 7/05	330 Dixon Rd.
Shields, Esther	July 7/05	Private
Kreidstein, Solomon	July 7/05	429 Walmer Rd.
Gertner, Berek	July 8/05	43 Bryant St.
Lewis-Kirshenblat, Abraham	July 8/05	Wingham, Ontario
Lieberman, Henry	July 8/05	Private
Kezerman, Gregory	July 8/05	531 Finch Ave. W.
Schonblum, Herman	July 9/05	82 Prince Charles Dr
Leneck, Marion	July 9/05	Private
Britton, Netta	July 10/05	Private
Raber, Celina	July 10/05	Private
Kaptseneli, Abraham	July 10/05	15 Torresdale Ave
Zylberat, Nechama	July 11/05	Private
Smith, Oscar	July 11/05	Private
Karpova, Vera	July 12/05	Private
Rosenberg, Sonja	July 12/05	Private

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Ben Rum	Jul 3/05	7420 Bathurst St
Monny Mendelson	Jul 5/05	4005 Bayview Ave
Irving Gruber	Jul 6/05	535 Sheppard Av W
Sonja Sugarman	Jul 6/05	4000 Yonge St
Menachem Mendel Blum	Jul 7/05	397 Highcliffe Dr
Ben Kramer	Jul 7/05	55 Skymark Dr
Bertha Brenzel	Jul 9/05	90 Fisherville Rd
Beatrice Lipson	Jul 8/05	9 Deerpark Cr
Alice Torkin	Jul 8/05	800 Sheppard Av W
Murray Garman	Jul 8/05	80 Antibes Dr
Ignacy Cukierman	Jul 7/05	Natillo De Aguirre
Bessie Tepperman	Jul 10/05	429 Walmer Rd
Henry Sokolowski	Jul 11/05	24 Renoak Dr

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW BASIC
TRADITIONAL, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

Mickey Michaelson	Jun 20/05	7 Ridgewood Dr
Shayna Adelberg	Jun 22/05	8 Ridgevale Dr
Albert Oberndorffer	Jul 2/05	3560 Bathurst St

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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About Food

By NORENE GILLETZ

Each day, TV, radio, magazines and newspapers announce the newest study that demonstrates the value of today's latest "superfoods" – foods with health-enhancing, disease-fighting micronutrients. Dana Jacobi, an award-winning food writer, chef and author of five cookbooks, shows you how easy and delicious it can be to enjoy and prepare these superfoods in her latest cookbook, *12 Best Foods Cookbook: Over 200 Delicious Recipes Featuring the 12 Healthiest Foods* (Rodale).

Jacobi identifies the 12 foods containing the most potent micronutrients in an easily digestible way. Her list includes blueberries, black beans, sweet potatoes, oatmeal, salmon, spinach, broccoli, tomatoes, chocolate, walnuts, soy and onions. Almost all of her recipes contain at least two or more of the 12 best foods. Each recipe comes with nutritional information and there are useful tips on shopping, preparation, food safety, food facts, plus much more. The recipes are organized by chapters, from delectable dips to delicious desserts.

Jacobi exploits each food's abundant nutritional value in irresistible dishes like Lean Mean Chocolate Chili, Spinach Strudel, French Toast with Hidden Blueberries and Hot Chocolate Soufflé with Strawberry Salsa. You'll discover the pure pleasure of eating foods that are truly best for you. Most of the recipes are suitable for the kosher cook, and there is certainly much food for thought!

BROCCOLI VICHYSSOISE

The silken texture of this chilled dairy-free soup comes from the pureed potatoes. For dinner, Jacobi recommends eating a cup of soup the minute you walk in the door. Then get comfortable and get the rest of dinner ready. With the edge off your appetite and in a better mood, you'll eat smaller portions and enjoy putting a balanced meal together instead of grabbing the first thing you see.

1 bunch broccoli
2 leeks, white parts only, coarsely chopped
1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
1 shallot, chopped
2 potatoes, peeled and diced
½ to 1 tsp. salt
freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp. snipped chives, for garnish

Chop the broccoli florets, including the thinner stems just below the florets. Reserve the lower stems for another use. Place the broccoli in a large saucepan or a small Dutch oven. Add the leeks, onion, shallot, potatoes, salt and a few grinds of pepper. Pour in 4 cups water and bring the liquid to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat, cover, and simmer until the vegetables are very tender, 30 to 35 minutes. Let the soup sit for 10 minutes to cool slightly.

Purée the soup in a blender until it is smooth or use an immersion blender in the pot. Chill thoroughly, 3 hours to overnight. Adjust the seasoning. Divide the cold soup among 4 bowls and garnish each with one-quarter of the chives. Makes 4 servings.

Per serving: 103 calories, 0 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 4 g protein, 22 g carbohydrates, 4 g fibre.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.

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Israeli Arabs want some attention

By GIL SEDAN
JTA

HAIFA — You tell elections are approaching in Israel when political interest in the country's Arab population increases.

The issue has received a great deal of attention in recent weeks. In fact, primaries for the Labor party chairmanship were postponed because of suspicions that many of the recently registered Arab party members were indeed bought.

Some 30,000 of the 130,000 registered Labor members are Arabs, making them the party's largest constituency. Is it because thousands of Israeli Arabs have suddenly turned Zionist, or is it because each of the five candidates – Shimon Peres, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Ehud Barak, Matan Vilnai and Amir Peretz – is in need of the Arab vote?

Israel's one million-plus Arabs are like children hungry for attention, and suddenly the political arena is paying attention to them. The Knesset law committee heard last month from Justice Theodor Orr, chair of the state inquiry commission that investigated the October 2000 riots, that the state has not done enough to implement the commission's recommendations. Far-right legislator Avigdor Lieberman came out with a campaign calling for "disengagement from the Arabs." And various academic symposia are discussing how to upgrade the status of Israeli Arabs.

Nearly five years ago, days after the Palestinian intifadah began, Israeli Arabs took to the streets in the most violent riots since the establishment of the State of Israel.

Now they temporarily enjoy positive attention. The town of Sakhnin, where past clashes with security forces had ended in bloodshed in 1976 and 2000, is now the symbol of Arab-Jewish coexistence, mostly thanks to a successful soccer team.

Interior Minister Ophir Pines-Paz has recently appointed an Arab, Oscar Abu-Rizek, as director general of his ministry.

The Arabs yearn to be embraced, but who wants to embrace them? That's what one can conclude from a new report by Haifa University sociologist Sammy Smooha, who has been measuring Arab-Jewish attitudes in Israel since 1976.

The report summarizes Smooha's findings over the years, saying Israel's Arab citizens are much more motivated to be fully integrated into society than the Jewish population is willing to integrate them.

But it also contains a positive discovery disputing the common belief that radicalization of the Arab population is unavoidable as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues.

"Reality dictates coexistence, and the radicalization process is not mandatory," Smooha said at a recent symposium at Haifa University discussing his findings.

Smooha's survey was conducted among 700 Jews and 700 Arabs. Some of his findings are:

- Most Arabs, nearly 71 per cent, are willing to live in mixed neighbourhoods with Jews. Only 34 per cent of Jews agree.
- Most Arabs, 73 per cent, support mixed education, while 52 per cent of Jews are opposed.
- Fully 80 per cent of Arabs would like an Arab party to be included in a government coalition. Most Jews, nearly 58 per cent, do not want Arabs to participate in the political executive branch.

The bad news is that 48 per cent of Arabs said they don't trust Jews, and nearly 58 per cent of Jews said they don't trust Arabs – so much so that nearly 72 per cent of Israeli Jews said they wouldn't enter an Arab settlement in Israel.

But Smooha says such figures were even higher in the past.

Smooha has shown that both sides feel threatened by the other. Lieberman's recent campaign for "disengagement from Umm el-Fahm," an Israeli Arab city that is home to the fundamentalist Islamic Movement, has increased Arab fears of "transfer" or of a possible territorial exchange with a future Palestinian state.

On the other hand, Israeli Arabs fail to understand that Jews feel threatened.

"How can they feel threatened? They have an atomic bomb," Smooha quoted Arab respondents as saying of Israelis.

Some 53 per cent of the Arabs declared that they feel "alien and rejected" in Israeli society, but 64 per cent feel "proud in the country when it succeeds," such as after a recent soccer match with Ireland where Israel managed to tie, thanks to a goal by an Arab player.

One of the more interesting findings draws a distinction between a Jewish and a Zionist state. Whereas 70 per cent of Arabs said they "support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish democratic state," not even 14 per cent support "a Jewish Zionist democratic state" – that is, one that accepts Jews who want to make aliyah.

In other words, the Arabs are willing to accept Israel as is, but reject Zionism because it implies that Israel is not just a Jewish state but the state of all the Jews in the world.

"The Arabs refer to Zionism as racism," Smooha explained.

Faisal Azaizeh, head of the Arab-Jewish Institute at Haifa University added, "The Arabs say, 'We have no problem with a humanistic Jewish state,' but they also say, 'Don't impose the Zionist project on us.'"

What are the political implications of the survey?

"There is no doubt that the historic process is one of rapprochement. For the first time, the Arabs accept that the Palestinian 'right of return' should apply to the future Palestinian state only," Smooha said. "In the 1970s, most Jews didn't accept the notion of a Palestinian state, and now they do. Jews and Arabs alike are sobering up to realize that not only the other side is guilty."

But Smooha added that Israeli Jews needed to re-evaluate their own definitions of the state, since Arabs now number some 20 percent of the population.

"Once the Arab proportion in the population reaches 25 per cent, it will be difficult to maintain Israel as a Jewish national state," Smooha said.

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Britain stuck on Nazi-looted art

By DANIELLA PELED
JTA

LONDON — A dispute over four Nazi-looted drawings currently in the British Museum is likely to lead to a change in British law to allow art stolen in World War II to be returned to its legal heirs.

The Old Masters in question, once part of a large collection belonging to Arthur Feldmann, a Jewish lawyer and a passionate art collector, were confiscated by the Gestapo on the day the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia, March 15, 1939.

When descendants of Feldmann and his wife – who both died in the Holocaust – submitted a claim for the artworks in May 2002, the British Museum acknowledged their right of ownership of the drawings it had acquired in 1946.

Museum trustees agreed to return the items, worth around $260,000, declaring that the case represented a "unique moral claim." But they were prevented from doing so by the British Museum Act of 1963, which effectively bans the institution from dispersing any part of its collection.

The case touches on a particularly delicate subject for Britain as there are fears that a move to return such items could set a precedent affecting disputes over priceless British Museum artifacts such as the Parthenon friezes, known as the Elgin Marbles. Greece long has lobbied for their return; they were removed from the country in 1816.

Seeking a way around this legal barrier, in August 2003 the museum asked Britain's attorney general, Lord Goldsmith, whether the unique moral circumstances surrounding the Feldmann collection would override the law.

Goldsmith in turn consulted Britain's High Court, which ruled in May that the attorney general did not have the power to override the act and that the law would have to be changed to allow such an outcome.

"No moral obligation can justify a disposition by the Trustees of an object forming part of the collections of the museum," said Vice Chancellor Sir Andrew Morritt, who presided over the hearing.

The High Court decided that the issue of the Elgin Marbles is "irrelevant" to the Feldmann case, but it remains highly sensitive.

"It is now beyond doubt," said a spokesperson for the British Museum, "that when there is a claim for an object in the British Museum collection, which can be proved to have been stolen from a Jewish family by the Nazis, the object cannot be returned without the authority of an Act of Parliament."

The government has agreed to start the process to change the law so that looted art can be returned to its original owners or their heirs.

The administration "entirely accepts it is an important issue and will put things right," said a spokesperson for Britain's department of culture, media and sport.

But that will take time. The earliest a change in the law could be instituted would be November 2006, and campaigners are unhappy at the slow pace with which the issue has progressed.

A committee of the department of culture told the government to introduce legislation on restitution five years ago. That call was reiterated in April by the Spoliation Advisory Panel, a body set up in 2000 to mediate disputes concerning Nazi-looted art.

Anne Webber, of the Commission for Looted Art in Europe – a London-based nonprofit founded in 1999 by the European Council of Jewish Communities and the Conference of European Rabbis to oversee all issues relating to Nazi-looted art – which is representing the Feldmann heirs, expressed disappointment that restitution still was not available three years after the claim appeared to have been settled.

"The British Museum agreed to the claim within weeks," she said. "They are very committed and see it as an exceptional moral case."

Feldmann started his collection, which includes works by Titian, Rubens and Rembrandt, in the early 1900s. It grew to encompass 750 works.

The drawings in the British Museum are *St. Dorothy with the Christ Child* by a follower of Martin Schongauer; *Virgin and Child, Adored by St. Elizabeth and the Infant St. John* by Martin Johann Schmidt; *An Allegory on Poetic Inspiration with Mercury and Apollo* by Nicholas Blakey; and *The Holy Family* by Niccolo dell'Abbate.

Feldman was arrested and tortured to death two years after the Nazis entered Czechoslovakia and seized his collection. The following year his wife was deported to Auschwitz, where she died. The couple's two sons survived the Holocaust, and their children live in Israel.

"Given that Britain has been at the forefront of the effort to research collections and has led the field internationally," Webber said, "it's a great shame there hasn't been similar work to… enable art identified as looted to be restituted."

Israeli strategic policy needs a shake-up: expert

By PAUL SHINDMAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Prof. Yehezkel Dror, a well-known prognosticator and expert in the field of planning theory, may be ruffling more than a few political feathers with his latest paper on the future of Israeli strategic policy.

Yehezkel Dror

In it, Dror, a political science professor at Hebrew University, says Israel faces new threats in the next 30 years from terrorism and radical extremism that must be dealt with by breaking out of the box of traditional thinking and adopting what he calls a "grand strategy" to deal with the new world order.

"The security and political and environment facing Israel in the next 10, 20 or 30 years is radically different from the past," Dror told *The CJN*. "Therefore, there is a need for a radically different grand strategy."

His paper, titled a "Breakthrough Grand Strategy for Israel," was presented at an international conference on Israel's strategic agenda, held earlier this month by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar Ilan University,

Among the 10 major points in his plan is a call for a tighter integration of Israel's diplomatic and military channels and more proactive, rather than reactive, initiatives by the Jewish state.

Dror also challenges the conventional model of wars studied by the Israeli government and military, saying the traditional model must be replaced by one that takes into account future threats posed by terror and extremism.

"Thinking should not be in terms of 'wars,'" Dror said. "We have to get out of this box. Instead, speak about the mixture between conflict negotiation, threats, promises. It does not mean that there will not be violence, but the violence will not take the form of classical wars."

While he proposes a model that includes a readiness to make concessions for peace, he said this should also come with a readiness for "half-crazy behaviour" if Israel is hurt.

Reaching a balance between the two would entail Israel giving the world a very cautious hint that pushing it into concessions that threaten its existence as a Jewish state could lead to non-rational behaviour.

He leaves no doubt as to what this could be, writing that Israel should send out the quiet but clear message that "a fatal attack on Israel would leave western Asia destroyed."

In other words, the new strategic policy he envisions would be built on a position of strength.

Reforming Israel's electoral system may be a necessary prerequisite for implementing part of the grand strategy, which would include the Jewish nation, and not just Israel, building relations with Islam, Dror says.

He also asserts that Israel must avoid the "trap of dependence on the Christian West" and reach its own co-existence with Islam.

"There is a high price to be paid if Israel doesn't change its strategy," he warned.

Dror doesn't think Canadians can relate to the challenge Israel is facing.

"Countries like Canada have great difficulty understanding it, because they are in a different cosmos."

Speaking the day after the recent terror attacks on London's transportation system, Dror said "it may change now with all this terror, but [Canadians] believe that the world is becoming better and that more human rights will make more security.

"I don't think that most Canadians have a sense that the world includes a potential for significant new forms of mass killing violence."

In this respect, Canadians may be a bit naive, he suggests.

"It's a continuation of the classical belief [that] everything will be fine, just let's try to get more democracy and everything will be peaceful. This is not necessarily my view of the future, regretfully."

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OSCE urges end to Israel boycott

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has unanimously called on Arab countries to end the economic boycott of Israel.

In a resolution adopted at the organization's recent parliamentary assembly in Washington, D.C., the OSCE urged its "Mediterranean partners" – Algeria, Egypt, Israel Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia – "to work with the Arab League to rescind the trade boycott of the State of Israel."

The resolution was part of a comprehensive package of recommendations adopted by the 55-member OSCE to create a climate of tolerance and advance economic relations while helping resolve the Mideast conflict. It also puts pressure on member states and OSCE observers like the Mediterranean group to conform to OSCE policy, said Senator Jerry Grafstein, treasurer of the OSCE parliamentary assembly and head of its liberal, democratic and reform group.

The OSCE represents 55 mostly western states with a mandate to advance human rights and economic and security co-operation around the world. Its Mediterranean partners have observer status at OSCE assemblies.

Calling the resolution a "breakthrough," Grafstein said the "boycott has served as a continuing obstacle to economic and democratic co-operation and growth between member states of the OSCE, Israel and our other Mediterranean partners."

Grafstein said ending the boycott would be part of a broader range of measures that would increase economic co-operation and friendly relations in the Middle East.

Senator Jerry Grafstein in Cordoba with a statue of Maimonides

Some advances have already been made in that sphere, he said, thanks in particular to the creation of qualified industrial zones (QIZ).

One QIZ involves Jordan and Israel and allows Jordanian products to enter the United States tariff free if they contain no less than eight per cent Israeli input in their manufacture.

The QIZ has proven remarkably successful in bringing Jordanians and Israelis together, Grafstein said. "It's going like gangbusters. Fifteen thousand people are employed there."

Egypt has expressed interest in a similar QIZ on its border with Israel, he added.

Grafstein suggested similar industrial zones could involve other Mediterranean states and he urged Canada to sign free trade agreements with Jordan and Morocco to provide similar incentives to regional co-operation. (Canada and Israel already enjoy a free trade agreement, as do the United States and Israel.)

Grafstein said the OSCE's Washington resolution" sets up incentives to get off the war track and get on the economic track."

The resolution also calls on OSCE states and its Mediterranean partners to promote "the principles of non-violence, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity."

In other developments, the OSCE's ministerial wing met recently in Cordoba, Spain, to discuss steps against anti-Semitism "and other forms of intolerance." That meeting took place a few weeks prior to the Washington session.

The Cordoba Declaration urges member states to take action on the education front, adopt tough new legislation against anti-Semitism, gather data about racist incidents and enforce existing laws, Grafstein said.

He referred the Cordoba Declaration to the standing Senate committee on human rights for consideration.

However, he said, an earlier referral of the OSCE's Berlin Declaration against anti-Semitism languished in the Senate for years before it was referred to committee for brief discussion.

Ed Morgan, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, attended the Cordoba meetings as part of the Canadian delegation. He said a positive outcome of the OSCE session was the continued reference to "anti-Semitism" as an issue in its own right.

In Berlin three years ago, pressure from European states led to the appointment of three rapporteurs to examine anti-Semitism and other forms of racism, specifically those directed against Muslims and Christians. Congress was concerned anti-Semitism would be dropped into a broader reference to all forms of racism, Morgan said.

The Cordoba session, which examined how the Berlin Declaration has been implemented, showed progress has been made in eastern European states, which have introduced legislation against racism and anti-Semitism. It remains to be seen if these countries enforce their new laws, Morgan said.

Grafstein said "the country that has made the most remarkable progress in the last three years in the [European Union] has been France."

Led by President Jacques Chirac, the French government finally appears to have taken the issue of anti-Semitism seriously, he said, adding that the French leader has led marches against anti-Semitism while the government has enforced its anti-racism laws.

"France has done a U-turn on this," Grafstein said.

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Suicide bombing in Netanya

Five people were killed – a woman aged 50, a 31-year-old woman, a 21-year-old soldier and two teenage girls – in a suicide bombing in the coastal resort city of Netanya. Some 30 people were wounded in the blast, which occurred at a shopping mall. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack. The White House condemned the bombing and demanded that the Palestinian Authority take action to dismantle terror organizations. PA President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the bombing as "idiotic" and said those behind it would be punished.

Target: Islamic Jihad

Israeli forces raided Tulkarm, the West Bank city that was the launching pad for the suicide bombing by Islamic Jihad in Netanya. Troops and tanks swept through the city before dawn last Wednesday, clamping a curfew on the city. A Palestinian Authority police officer fired on the soldiers, wounding two of them, before he was shot dead. The army said it would remain in the city until the masterminds of the attack were captured. Five suspected terrorists were arrested.

Pinpoint targetting

In further efforts to prevent terrorism against Israelis, the Israel Defence Forces resumed its policy of pinpoint targeting of militants in the territories, killing four members of the Palestinian Islamic movement Hamas in the first targeted strikes on terror suspects since September 2004. Air Force helicopter gunships fired missiles at a car carrying members of Hamas, killing three of them, Palestinian sources said.

Gaza settlements sealed

Israel declared Gaza settlements off limits to outsiders ahead of their evacuation. The 21 settlements became a closed military zone under an order signed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Former chief rabbis Avraham Shapiro and Mordechai Eliyahu issued a halachic ruling Friday forbidding soldiers from complying with the order. According to the ruling, soldiers "are not to participate in the closing and blockading of Gush Katif, and are certainly not to desecrate the Sabbath for such purposes."

No more withdrawals

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hinted that the upcoming withdrawals from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank will be Israel's last. "There will not be another disengagement," the prime minister said in a speech to police officers. It was not clear if Sharon was ruling out any further withdrawals, or just withdrawals Israel carries out unilaterally, in the absence of a peace deal with the Palestinians. But he voiced hope for implementing the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which envisions a peaceful Palestinian state alongside Israel. "If there is quiet, terrorism stops outright and the terrorist groups' weapons are collected, we can move on to the next stage of the road map," Sharon said.

Museum for Ethiopian Jews

A museum focusing on Ethiopian Jewish culture and heritage will be built in the Israeli city of Rehovot. *Ha'aretz* reported that the museum, which will cost $4.5 million (US), will include a model Ethiopian village and a memorial to Ethiopian Jews who died in Sudan on their way to Israel. "We view the conservation of the past as very important and believe the museum will attract young people and adults alike," Rehovot Mayor Shuki Forer said.

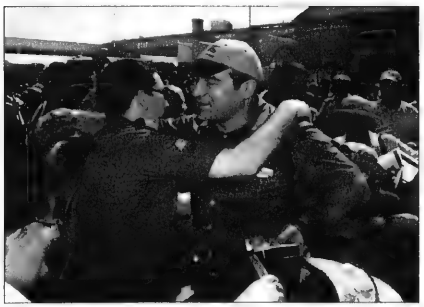
Holocaust 'tattoos' as protest

Several Gaza Strip settlers wrote their Israeli identification numbers on their arms in a bid to recall concentration camp inmates' tattoos. The Yesha settlers council urged the protesters to abandon the ploy. "The plan by some right-wing activists to put their identity numbers on their arms perverts the historical facts and damages the memory of the Shoah," said Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. "It is important that the memory of the Shoah remain a unifying factor in Israeli society, not the opposite."

JTA and Ha'aretz

Feature

'Welcome home to the promised land'



The following are the remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the olim from Canada and the United States at Ben-Gurion Airport Wednesday, July 13.

Good day to all of you. Joy and sadness often go hand in hand here. Your arrival is a great joy to us, but yesterday [in Netanya] we faced another murderous terrorist action which certainly saddens us all. I take this opportunity to send my condolences to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

Yesterday, I instructed the security forces to increase our activities and target, as much as possible, the heads of the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization. We will not stop until they cease their murderous attacks.

Welcome home to the promised land.

Aliyah is the primary goal of my government. The future of the Jewish People and the State of Israel depends on Aliyah.

Israel is the only place in the world where it is possible to lead a fully Jewish existence. Only here can you ensure that your children and grandchildren will remain Jewish.

Your being here is very important to us. Maybe this is the most important thing for the Jewish people, to live here – for all our people to be moving over here.

I promise you that we will do all we can to assist you on this journey home, although I must tell you that we had a little talk here, and we already discussed the proposal that next year, Nefesh B'Nefesh will bring 10,000 Jews from other countries, from the United States and Canada.

Life in Israel is not always easy. But you have our support, and we will help you in any way we can.

I hope that you will encourage your friends to make aliyah, to raise their families here alongside your families, and to build their homes and businesses here.

I wish to say to you and to Jews all over the world: We always needed you, but we need you now more than ever.

Come to Israel. We need you here.

Thank you.

[Israel and Israel Sun photos]

Books & Authors

Literary legend back in limelight with collection

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

In her day, Fannie Hurst was one of America's highest-paid authors, but ask any bookstore clerk today for one of her 18 novels, such as the bestselling *Imitation of Life*, and chances are you'll receive nothing but a blank stare.

Between 1914 and 1930, Fannie Hurst's phenomenal literary career blazed meteorically across the pages of popular magazines like *Cosmopolitan* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. A notice on a magazine cover boasting of a new Fannie Hurst story or an advertisement on the side of a New York city bus would ensure that the magazine would quickly sell out at the newsstands.

In an effort to restore some of Hurst's lost vogue, the New York-based Feminist Press recently published *The Stories of Fannie Hurst*, containing 18 stories from the author's prolific output of more than 300. The offerings include the wonderful *Sob Sister, Humoresque, A Boob Spelled Backwards* and *She Walks in Beauty*, all of which seem to convey Hurst's largely forgotten, yet irresistible appeal.

Whereas contemporary writers like William Dean Howells and Abraham Cahan were experimenting with a new urban realism, Hurst specialized in sentimental realism. She often championed the simple, uneducated, young working girls, secretaries, manicurists and shop-girls. Her heroines and heroes were often stereotypical samples from the "greenie" generation of Jewish immigrants and their more sophisticated children, who quickly became proficient in America's rich but mystifying street patter.

She excelled in long scenes of dramatic dialogue, depicting troubled mother-daughter relations, illuminating the unbalanced power relationship between men and women, and casting a light into the hidden and private places of everyday life. Her turf was New York City's endless array of shops, tenements and boarding houses, as well as the female boudoir.

"The richness, variety and authenticity of Fannie Hurst's early portrayals of urban Jewish life stand as one of her major achievements – and one of the reasons for us to read her work today," writes editor Susan Koppelman in an introductory essay.

Sob Sister is a sentimental, somewhat purple masterpiece in which a kept woman named Mae Munroe is dumped by her long-term lover. At story's end, all of her chances used up, she rushes despondently out into the Manhattan night.

Walking and walking, she comes eventually to a river and becomes mesmerized by the lapping waves and the strong tug of current. The piece closes with the following line: "Out at the very edge the water washed up against the piles with a thick, inarticulate lisp, as if what it had to say might only be understood from the under side."

Hurst was not always a master of brilliant economy and subtlety. Many of her stories open with some abstracted classical allusions, a technique that seems today as heavy and old-fashioned as steamer trunks. It must also be said that she sometimes wrote like a gifted high school student punch-drunk in love with her thesaurus.

For these reasons, and because she appealed to a mass market, critics often took a dim view of her. Some dismissed her as a "glorified true confession scribe" and the last of the gaslight romanticists. One reviewer said her prose flowed like the Mississippi, adding that both were "wide, deep and rather muddy."

But none of that mattered to the millions of readers, predominantly women, who avidly consumed and were thrilled by her stories. And why not? In Hurst's heyday neither the talkies nor television had been invented yet.

Born to German-Jewish parents in Hamilton, Ohio, in 1885, Hurst grew up in St. Louis, Mo., as an overweight, unhappy child. Bored by her parents' provincialism, she fled to New York around 1910. Soon she was selling stories for $10 and $25, but once her popularity caught on, she was commanding fees of $100, $300, $1,200, $1,500 and ultimately $5,000 per tale. When she was at the top of her game in the '20s, only F. Scott Fitzgerald was getting as much.

Her 18 novels were translated into 14 languages and inspired multiple Hollywood treatments. A total of 29 films were made from her fiction, including *Imitation of Life* (produced twice, in 1934 and 1959), *Humoresque* (1920 and 1946) and *Back Street* (1932, 1941 and 1961). She also wrote five plays, a full-length autobiography and several screenplays.

"[She] became a celebrity in a way that is today reserved for movie, music and sports stars," with the press following her every step in Central Park and her every jaunt across the Atlantic, Koppelman said, adding that Hurst tumbled into sad obscurity long before her death in 1968.

Koppelman argued that part of the reason she is neglected today is because she was female. "Fannie Hurst's writing career was so productive and so successful and so important that if she had done nothing else but write, we would be able to say *Dayeinu* – it was sufficient," the editor said. "But she was also an activist in the service of social justice causes."

Hurst took up her pen to promote causes related to health and feminism. She also lobbied against fascism and anti-Semitism, and helped raise funds for many charities and philanthropies. But according to Koppelman, her greatest achievement was her purposeful elevation of the ordinary "little" people, ennobling them as the proper subject of fiction. Hurst conveyed an "absolute conviction that the lives of her characters are just as important as that of any character created by Shakespeare," Koppelman wrote.

Indeed, so realistic were her portrayals that she received many letters from readers certain she had been writing about their own families or circle of friends.

Hurst's stories are especially recommended to anyone keen on understanding the conditions that prevailed a century ago when millions of Jewish and Gentile immigrants arrived as strangers in the bustling, fresh, complex and marvelous land called America.

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Tough sounding *Murderball* a sensitive documentary

By SHLOMO SCHWARTZBERG
Special to The CJN

Despite its tough sounding title, *Murderball* is at heart a sensitive and eye- opening documentary about a group of wheelchair bound quadriplegics who play "quad rugby", a rough and tumble variation on the game.

But if your idea of a quadriplegic extends only to that of the late actor Christopher Reeve, the movie will be an eye opener.

"We all have a warped perception of what [being a quadriplegic] is – we do have stereotypes, we do have biases and all these clichéd ideas of what it means to be a quadriplegic," says Dana Adam Shapiro, who co-directed the film with Henry Alex Rubin.

"A lot of that has to do with Christopher Reeve; he was sort of the face of quadriplegics, for better or for worse."

If *Murderball*, which is now playing commercially and which opened the Hot Docs documentary film festival in Toronto last April, does anything, it changes that face of quadriplegia, introducing the audience to a diverse group of men who don't conform to what we might expect.

Murderball won the Documentary Audience Award and a Special Jury Prize for Editing at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.

There's tough talking, tattooed Mark Zupan, who was injured when he was thrown from the back of his friend Christopher Igoe's truck, where he was sleeping. (Igoe, who was intoxicated at the time, has never come to terms with what he inadvertently did to his friend, a back story that plays out poignantly in the movie.)

Joe Soares was stricken with polio as a child and is considered a traitor by Zupan because he's now coaching Team Canada after being turfed by Team USA. And there's Keith Cavill, a young man who has just lost the full use of his limbs in a motorcycle accident and begins to find himself again through his attraction to the game.

Murderball brings those men and others to the fore, with healthy doses of humour, competition and exciting movie making, shot from the point of view of the disabled athletes themselves. "The film is shot from their perspective… [It] is like being in a room with them."

The men profiled in *Murderball* are seen warts and all on screen, whether it's Soares' initial discomfort, even coldness, in the face of his non-athletic son's interest in music or Zupan's genuine hatred for Soares.

"I'm very happy that we found these characters who are so polarizing," says Shapiro, a former senior editor at *Spin* magazine and current writer for the *New York Times magazine*, who in addition to also co-producing the film with Jeffrey Mandel, wrote the initial article on *Murderball* for the men's magazine *Maxim* in 2002.

Shapiro, whose first novel (*The Every Boy*) has just been published, was especially drawn to the now 30-year-old Zupan, as a subject for the two *Murderball* projects. "He doesn't look like a paraplegic; his physicality goes a long way to crushing the stereotype."

Mark Zupan, right, in *Murderball*.

Zupan also comes across more vividly in the film than in the article, which true to Maxim's macho creed emphasized the sport more than the men who played it.

"We never set out to make a sports film," says Shapiro. "It was all about what it's like to break your neck and in that story is what it's like to break your best friend's neck and what it's like to be the son of a guy [who's disabled]…

"These are universal stories more then sports stories; sport was 10 per cent of the movie, [the rest was about] friendship, fatherhood etc."

In capturing the murderball players' reality, Shapiro and Rubin, both Boston- born 31-year-olds and longtime friends, also dispensed with the traditional tropes of many documentaries, such as the talking heads approach to the subject or the emphasis on story to the exclusion of the camera work.

"I really wanted to make this look like a feature film," says Rubin.

One interesting subject in the film, never developed as well as it could be, is the intense Canadian-American rivalry on the court. Rubin and Shapiro are well aware of the fact that Team Canada's hunger to beat the Yanks is rooted as much in cultural and political antecedents as in basic win-lose scenarios but "the protective veil" around Team Canada prevented us from getting more footage with them," says Shapiro.

On the other hand, Shapiro praises Canada for funding wheelchair athletes – "Canada has a much better program in terms of funding. (The athletes) are subsidized by their government, Americans aren't."

During and after filming, having become close friends with Zupan and Keith Cavill, in particular – "We definitely became close to Joe but he's not our age," says Rubin – the filmmakers are extremely pleased with the positive reaction from the quadriplegic community. "You guys nailed it (we were told)," says Shapiro. "Usually movies about them are unintentionally condescending, they sort of cue the violins at the end – aren't they so inspiring? – and they tend to increase the space between you and them – I'm so happy to be me, translation, I'm so happy I'm not them. In this film you almost forget the wheelchairs at the end and you actually feel (for them). The place gets smaller between you and them."

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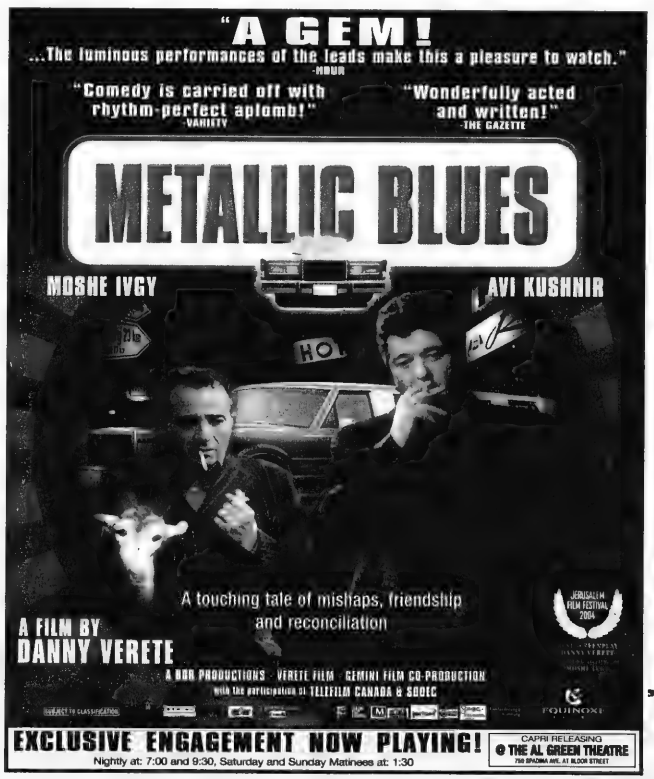
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The Last Mogul profiles Hollywood legend Lew Wasserman

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

He was a self-styled "pencil pusher." Lew Wasserman, the legendary Hollywood mover and shaker, was, of course, engaging in hyperbole when he described himself so modestly. But he could afford to be disengenuous.

Wasserman, who died three years ago after an illustrious career as chairman and chief executive officer of the Music Corporation of America (MCA) and Universal Studios, is the subject of a bright new documentary.

The Last Mogul: The Life and Times of Lew Wasserman, written and directed by Toronto filmmaker Barry Avrich, opens on July 29 at the Cumberland Cinemas. Avrich's portrait pulls no punches. Wasserman is depicted as a tough-as-nails deal maker who had mob connections and used them to full effect.

A tall, gaunt man who wore oversize black horn-rimmed eye glasses, Wasserman projected an aura of intimidation, and did not suffer fools gladly.

At a dinner in his honour, Johnny Carson, the late-night talk-show host, put it best when he quipped, "There's only one reason, ladies and gentlemen, why we're here to pay tribute to Lew Wasserman… fear."

For close to six decades, Wasserman – the son of Russian Jewish immigrants who settled in America in 1907 – was the quintessential Hollywood titan.

But his origins were modest. He was raised in the mean, crime-ridden tenements of Cleveland's redlight district. While still in school, he worked as an usher in a burlesque theatre and booked bands for high school dances.

Jules Stein, his boss and mentor for 45 years, was impressed with his savvy, and hired him as a publicist for his company, MCA. By 1938, MCA managed 90 per cent of the bands in the United States.

Promoted to agent, Wasserman was dispatched to New York City. But finding Manhattan uncongenial, he went to Los Angeles in 1939. In a classic rags-to-riches story, he became the most powerful agent in Hollywood, managing the careers of some 300 actors from Jimmy Stewart to Bette Davis.

Wasserman toiled long and hard to dispel the image of agents as unsavoury characters. He dressed like a London banker, conveyed gravitas and gave the impression of being an accountant.

Though soft-spoken and courteous, he had a volcanic temper. If crossed or dissatisfied with an employee's performance, he could foam at the mouth and rant and rave. Taking pains to keep his name out of newspapers, he strongly believed that publicity was exclusively for his stable of clients.

A visionary, Wasserman recognized early on that television would be extremely lucrative. As a producer, he supplied the TV networks with a succession of popular prime-time shows, from *Dragnet* and *Roots* to *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *Rich Man, Poor Man*.

"He saw clearly into the future," observes Jack Valenti, the longtime president of the powerful Hollywood lobby organization, the Motion Picture Association, and one of the interviewees who offers insights into Wasserman's personality.

Never resting on his laurels, he purchased Paramount's treasure trove of pre-1950 films and leased them to the networks for a tidy profit.

In another brilliant stroke, he and his associates bought Universal's lot, complete with sound stages, and then manoeuvred to acquire the entire studio. Universal churned out its share of clunkers, but also came up with hits such as *Airport* (supposedly the first "disaster" movie), *The Sting*, *American Graffiti* and *Jaws*.

Yet Wasserman was hardly faultless. He turned down opportunities to make *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and passed on pay-TV.

A slippery operator whom fellow moguls apparently considered shady and crude, Wasserman dodged a series of anti-trust suits filed by the U.S. government. In one instance, however, he had to submit to the dictates of Washington and close down MCA's talent agency.

Nevertheless, Wasserman ruled the roost. "He had the town by the scrotum," comments Peter Bart, the editor of *Variety*. Meanwhile, Wasserman's shrewd wife, Edie, became a renowned figure in Hollywood society.

Wasserman bought labour peace with the unions by cultivating a relationship with Ronald Reagan, the president of the Screen Actors Guild and the future president of the United States, and by consorting with Sidney Korshak, the reclusive lawyer who allegedly had ties with the underworld.

To fend off more anti-trust suits, he forged links with influential politicians in the Democratic party, notably Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Avrich suggests that Wasserman's biggest blunder was selling MCA to Sony. The transaction marginalized him. He was further weakened by Edgar Bronfman's takeover of MCA.

By the late 1990s, as a new generation of wheeler-dealers bypassed him, Wasserman had had his day in the sun. But even they knew that Lew Wasserman was a true-blue legend, a point *The Last Mogul* constantly underlines.

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Play set in wartime Poland opens at Brampton festival

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Sara's Cave, an award-winning play exploring humanity and lack of humanity in World War II Poland, is part of the City of Brampton's second annual NewWorks Playwright Festival.

The play, recommended for those 14 years old and over, opens on July 21 and runs until August 3 at the Heritage Theatre.

"What I love about *Sara's Cave* is that it brings together disparate elements in World War II Poland, literally under one roof, as all the characters struggle with the war from their own perspective," says Cayle Chernin, who plays two roles in the play.

The director and cast of *Sara's Cave*. Standing, from left are Jack Messinger (director), Louise Gauthier, Jon Vladimir Cubrt and Alan Lee. Seated, from left are Robert Nasmith, Cayle Chernin, Shira Leuchter and Sam Moses.

Sara's Cave has won several playwriting competitions, including the Jewish Canadian Playwriting Competition in 2001 and the Canadian National Playwriting Competition in 1993. As well, it made it to the final rounds in the New York Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation playwriting competition in 2002.

Written by Donald Molnar and directed by Jack Messinger, *Sara's Cave* is set during Passover 1942.

"I think Donald Molnar has delivered an important treatment of this crucial subject that, as we know, the world has yet to come to terms with," Chernin says. "And we are fortunate to have Jack Messinger back in Canada after many successful years directing in Israel."

In *Sara's Cave*, a young Polish woman hides a Jewish family in her root cellar, while, at the same time, she has been ordered to provide lodging for two German officers, who live upstairs in the house.

While one officer struggles with his conscience over his role in the war, the other tries to push him over the edge.

Chernin is one of several Jewish actors in *Sara's Cave*, along with Shira Leuchter, who recently played Margot in *Anne Frank*.

Chernin says, "I'm excited about this project and particularly about the specific challenge it affords me as an actor because I play two very different roles.

"I hope this play will travel and be seen beyond the upcoming production."

Tickets for Sara's Cave *are $20. The theatre is wheelchair accessible For more information, call 905-874-2800.*

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Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

WALKING TOURS, EXHIBITION RECALL LIFE OF RASHI IN TROYES, FRANCE

This summer marks the 900th anniversary of the death of Rashi (1040-1105), the revered biblical and talmudic commentator whose name is an acronym for Rabbi Shlomo son of Yitzhak. He lived in Troyes, ancient capital of the Champagne region of France, known today for its high, narrow streets of restored medieval houses, elegant churches and a Gothic cathedral.

Several half-timbered houses in the Jewish quarter survived the fire of 1524 and they, along with the rebuilt synagogue and the Rashi Institute on rue Brunnevel, are featured in several Rashi walking tours this summer. An exhibition on Troyes' famed medieval Jewish sage and the town's Jews in the Middle Ages is on view until early September.

A winemaker by trade, Rashi was educated in the famous Jewish academies of Worms and Mayence, made several trips abroad and returned to Troyes at 25. His learned writings contributed to a cultural rebirth that spread from the Champagne region across Europe in the 11th century. His biblical and talmudic commentaries "became so popular that there are now more than 200 commentaries on his commentary," according to the Jewish Virtual Library web site.

* * *

Far East Fantasy: Toronto-based New Wave Travel is offering a Voyage Through Jewish Eyes aboard the Oceania cruise ship Nautica, stopping at Hong Kong, Canton, Hanoi, Saigon, Bangkok, Cambodia and Singapore. The cruise leaves Hong Kong on Jan. 6, 2006, and concludes at Singapore on Jan. 21. Options include a pre-cruise tour of Hong Kong and post-cruise extension in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai. Tour co-ordinator is Harriet Morton. 416-928-3113, ext. 273, toll-free 800-463-1512, or hmorton@newwavetravel.net

* * *

Walks in Cottage Country: The newly published *Muskoka Nature Walks* offers a compilation of articles and photographs by Marlene Walker, wildlife columnist for the *Muskoka Sun*. Walker has cottaged in Muskoka for nearly two decades and is a naturalist with a masters degree in zoology. *Muskoka Nature Walks* is her first book and a sequel is in progress. www. marlenewalker.com

* * *

Catskills Gathering: "Jewish Women, Comedy and the Catskills" is the theme of the 11th annual History of the Catskills Conference. Sponsored by the Jewish Women's Archive and the Catskills Institute, the three-day event is features comedy performances, speakers and live music. Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello, N.Y. Aug. 26 to 28. Phil Brown, 508-349-1987 or catskills@brown.edu

* * *

Rosh Hashanah in Harbin: Participants are being sought for Rosh Hashanah observances in Harbin, China. Howard Elias, who last year led a group that brought in the Jewish New Year in Yangon, Myanmar (formerly Rangoon, Burma), says he will request permission for the group to use the recently renovated Harbin New Synagogue, built in 1921 and the largest in the Far East. "So far, we have about six men and six women, but we need 10 men to make a minyan," he advises.

Some 25,000 Jews lived in Harbin in the 1920s, making it the largest Jewish community then in the Far East. Few remain today, but the city is full of reminders of the once-thriving community. Elias, who runs the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, reckons there probably hasn't been a Rosh Hashanah celebrated in Harbin since the 1950s.

"As in the past, Chabad will provide us with a rabbi and we'll bring kosher food with us from either [Hong Kong] or Beijing," he writes, adding that he's been researching flights from Hong Kong and hotels for the group. Phone 852-9-102-5410, e-mail info@hkjewishfilmfest.org

* * *

Cruise Offers Jewish Land Excursions: A two-day Jewish-themed land excursion to Krakow and Auschwitz has been added as an option to various Baltic and Mediterranean itineraries offered by Crystal Cruises through October. Guests may also visit sites of Jewish historical significance at St. Petersburg, Gdansk, Berlin, Venice, Dublin and other ports of call. The specialized shore excursions are hosted by experts on Jewish heritage and European history. 866-446-6625, www.crystalcruises.com

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

NEW SPIELBERG PROJECT AROUSES JEWISH WORRIES

On the day *War of the Worlds* opened in theatres across North America, director **Steven Spielberg** was not sitting around watching box office numbers. Instead he was starting a new project about another war – fully terrestrial this time, but seemingly no less fierce.

Vengeance, currently being shot in Malta, tells the story of the Mossad's alleged counter-terrorism campaign against the PLO terrorists who slaughtered 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics of 1972. The script is reportedly based on the best-selling 1984 book by Toronto author (and now *National Post* columnist) **George Jonas**, which reads like a taut political thriller but has proven controversial because much of its plot is indistinguishable from fiction. *Maclean's* purchased rights to an excerpt at the time but ultimately refused to run it because its supposed facts could not be verified.

As Jonas himself explained: "Though I was inventing nothing, I could not hope to come up to the rigorous standards of the historian." His primary source was a disgruntled former Mossad agent dubbed "Avner," but the head of the Mossad told the *New York Times* that Avner was a fake who had never belonged to the Israeli intelligence service. None of that hurt book sales, though. It was regarded as a top Canadian publishing sensation of 1984.

While several retired Mossad agents have publicly wondered why they were not consulted on the project, Spielberg spokesperson **Marvin Levy** told Reuters last week that the film was being built "from many, many sources" and would present a balanced view. However, the news that anti-Zionist playwright **Tony Kushner** (*Angels in America*) is a principal scriptwriter has prompted fears that the result, likely to be seen by millions, will be antagonistic to Israel.

Internet commentator **Gerald Honigman** posted a long screed on June 23 expressing huge doubts about the venture, and incredulity that the director of *Schindler's List* "will turn out to be just another Jewish Michael Moore." Taking the opposite view, legendary Israeli actress **Gila Almagor**, who plays the mother of a Mossad hit man in the film, last week denied the film will harm the Jewish state.

Spielberg is being opaque about his intentions, as when he told *USA Today* that he was drawn to the venture because it gives him a chance to explore his Jewish faith and his fear of terrorism. For better or for worse, the film is due to open in theatres in December.

* * *

Names in the News: The *London Jewish Chronicle* recently interviewed **Abraham Sutzkever**, the celebrated Yiddish poet, as part of a story on Vilna's heroic wartime "paper brigade." Consisting of a group of Jewish writers, scholars and partisans, including Sutzkever, the brigade saved a huge trove of Jewish books and documents from Nazi expropriation and destruction. The cultural trove later became part of the famed YIVO collection in New York.

The 92-year-old resident of a Tel Aviv nursing home was described as "the last survivor of Vilna's golden age of Yiddish poetry." He was centrally involved in the rescue of the books, which included Theodor Herzl's diary and other important works. He recounted that *Kol Nidrei*, his long poem on the tragedy of Vilna's Jews, was smuggled to Moscow and published, prompting some Russians to rescue him by private plane.

"What we did in Vilna was for the love of the Jewish people," he said. "Even though I was in the ghetto and the Germans killed my friends and my mother, I was never jealous of the goyim outside. I was always proud of being a Jew."

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Circus acrobats, street performers, mimes, face painters, unicyclists, fire-eaters, musicians and an **Elvis** impersonator are featured in the 3rd annual Toronto International Circus Festival. Admission free; main stage performances $25 in advance, $35 at the door. Distillery District, 55 Mill St. July 22, 23 and 24. 416-364-1177. www.thedistillerydistrict.com

• The 4th annual IRIE Music Festival celebrates roots and reggae music with a variety of activities at Nathan Phillips Square and main stage performers, family events, exhibitions and a food fair at Ontario Place. Weekend pass $60, two-day $38, day $20. July 29 to Aug. 1. www. IRIEmusicfestival.com

• Proceeds of a preview performance of the **Irving Berlin** musical *Annie Get Your Gun* go to the therapeutic clown program of Sick Kids Hospital. Massey Hall, Monday, Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. $40-$30. www.masseyhall.com or 416-872-1111.

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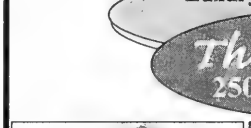

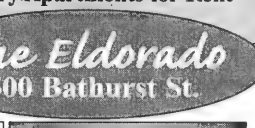

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Zimbabwe-born artist puts ostrich eggs on display

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Ethel Stern shows off her ostrich eggs. **[Benji Feldman photo]**

Zimbabwe born Ethel Stern is proud and protective of the ostrich eggs she paints, and considers each and every one her child.

Stern, who immigrated to Canada from South Africa in 1996, began painting eggs in 1989 as a break from her first love and primary medium, sculpture.

"I just have to create something every day, and my art ensures that I do that," she said.

Today, Stern has a collection of eggs, all painted in Toronto, and she sells to the public. She also enjoys doing commissioned work, in which she will paint an egg with a design that picks up the theme of the home or room that it will be displayed in.

She loves masks and decorates many of her eggs with them; however, she also loves ethnic themes and has used African and Japanese ideas and experimented with different colours and designs, going from extremes like *Explosion*, an egg painted with bright and vibrant colours, to her *William Morris* in black and white.

She has also done some eggs with Judaic themes.

Stern names all her eggs and paints the names at the bottom with her signature E. Hatchuel, which is her maiden and professional name.

So far, people have bought the eggs as bat mitzvah presents, wedding presents (a "nest egg," as somebody commented) and ornaments for their own homes, but Stern says these eggs can be given on virtually any occasion.

She encourages all buyers to try to find an interesting stand for their eggs, but most importantly, to put them in a safe place where there is minimal chance of breakage.

One egg usually takes her about three or four days, because the paint takes time to dry before a protective varnish can be applied. Some eggs, though, have taken four weeks of two to three hours a painting session.

As for the painting methods and paint types she uses, Stern says, "That's my secret."

Stern buys all her eggs from Oudsthoorn in South Africa. When she lived there, she would buy them herself, but now she relies on her son, Andrew, who is still living there, to buy eggs for her, and either bring them to Toronto himself or send them with other people.

Every egg is emptied and cleaned before leaving South Africa, so that clearing them at customs has not been a problem.

Having studied in London, after graduation, Stern went to a technical college where she had two years of intensive art training and was accepted into the Royal College of Art.

With the war approaching, however, she was unable to take up that opportunity and came to South Africa instead, at the age of 19 or 20.

By working with a well-known South African sculptor, Herman Wald, in his studio Stern managed to learn a lot about sculpting.

After his death she even went back to his home and completed one of his works.

Stern says the direction of her art has always been surrealistic and abstract, but she also does portrait painting, as a discipline.

While in Johannesburg she illustrated three children's books, two history books on South Africa and some Yiddish poetry.

"But," she says, "I also brought up my children and they were and are my best creations."

For more information about Stern's eggs, contact her at 416-229-4980.

U.S. group to certify mohelim

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A volunteer organization consisting of rabbis and medical practitioners has been established in the United States to certify mohelim who perform ritual circumcisions.

The American Board of Ritual Circumcisions was founded recently in New York, and in its first two to three weeks of operation, it has certified 28 mohelim, said Rabbi Romi Cohn, chair of the board's executive committee. None of the mohelim work in Canada, though Rabbi Cohn suggested Canadian mohelim may one day wish to take advantage of the certification credential.

The board was established to address concerns that unqualified mohelim were treating the ritual strictly "as a business" and did not bring sufficient levels of halachic and medical expertise to the practice, Rabbi Cohn said.

Some mohelim even employed "cruel instruments," such as clamps, which caused unnecessary pain to the infant. The goal of the board is to certify mohelim who use pain-free techniques, including a local anesthetizing ointment, during the procedure, he said.

Cohn, a Holocaust survivor who has circumcised thousands of boys and young men, said the board will ensure the ritual is conducted in compliance with Halachah and with the best medical practices. However, the board will not disqualify mohelim who employ *metzitzah b'peh*, a practice that has been linked to the transmission of disease, including herpes, to infants from an infected mohel.

This practice, which involves the oral suction of the penis after the foreskin is removed, is part of a brit milah [ritual circumcision] and cannot be abandoned. "The ritual does require *metzitzah b'peh*," Rabbi Cohn said. The mohel must be tested for diseases such as hepatitis B, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and herpes, and he must be "absolutely certain" he has no illness that might be transmitted during the procedure, he added.

The decision to establish the board was not connected in any way to a report published last summer in the journal *Pediatrics* by a group of Canadian and Israeli medical researchers who recommended a sterile glass tube be used instead of *metzitzah b'peh*, nor to an incident last fall in which a New York mohel was linked to the herpes death of one of two twins he had circumcised.

The researchers found eight babies who were infected with the herpes virus likely contracted their illnesses through oral *metzitzah*. One of the infants was born in Toronto.

Rabbi Cohn said creation of the board has been in the planning stages for almost two years – predating the report – and was meant to address admitted shortcomings in the circumcision procedure, though not ones caused by oral suction.

Rabbi Cohn said the board's medical advisory council includes prominent physicians and a roster of highly regarded rabbinic sages.

The rationale for the board's decision to certify mohelim who perform oral *metzitzah* appears similar to a statement issued by Toronto's Vaad Harabonim in 1994, after an infant was infected with herpes. The Vaad Harabonim stated, "There is no clinical basis in ceasing to perform *metzitzah b'peh*." However, the rabbinical council also said if the mohel exhibits cold sores, lesions or flu, oral *metzitzah* should be avoided, Rabbi Cohn added.

However, the *Pediatrics* report concluded, "Our findings provide evidence that ritual Jewish circumcision with oral *metzitzah* may cause oral-genital transmission of HSV (herpes) infection, resulting in clinical disease… Furthermore, oral suction may not only endanger the child but also may expose the mohel to human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B from infected infants. The same conclusion that led the talmudic sages once to establish the custom of *metzitzah* for the sake of the infant could now be applied to persuade the mohel to use instrumental suction."

Dr. Rochelle Schwartz, who has performed ritual circumcisions for nine years, said there are safer ways of performing *metzitzah* than by using the mouth. "It's really very unhygienic."

The mouth, she continued, is loaded with bacteria and most mohelim would be unaware if they are developing a cold sore.

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Canada wins gold at Maccabiah

CJN News Services

TEL AVIV — Canada added three gold medals – two in 10-pin bowling and one in karate – by the end of last week, increasing its total medal count to 23 at the 17th Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Newmarket bowler Lisa Abush, who had never won a gold medal in four previous trips to the Maccabiah Games, stunned a crowd with a solid performance to win the open women's singles title with 1,163 pins.

Abush upset Michelle Feldman, one of the top pro bowlers in the United States, finishing 36 pins ahead of the favoured American from Syracuse.

"It's quite the thing when they put a gold medal around your neck," said Abush, clutching the award after finishing ahead of 21 others in the six rounds of competition. "I just kept trying and trying, hoping that one day my big dream would come true. I will cherish this forever."

About one hour later, Montreal's Hirsh Schnayer teamed with Howard Skulnik of Mississauga to win a gold medal in the open men's doubles 10-pin bowling competition.

Thornhill's Anastasia Shchipillo was golden in the karate 53-kilos-and-under kumite, bringing the karate team's medal total to 10 in two days. In the open women's kata class, Canada won a team bronze medal. In kata, individual, Jamie Yamanaka of Markham won a gold medal, while teammate Shchipillo won the bronze.

In the junior girls' kumite class, Nataliya Muntyanova of Thornhill won a gold medal.

***

High hopes for Canada on the hardwood faded quickly as the open men's basketball team lost a 77-74 heartbreaker in overtime to France. The loss, Canada's second after an opening round defeat to the United States, dropped them out of the medal round. Alex Bougaieff, a six-foot-10 forward from Trois Rivieres who has played pro in Italy, scored a game-high 28 points.

In a boys' youth game, undefeated Canada went on a 25-7 scoring spree in the final eight minutes to beat Australia 66-49 for its third consecutive win. Vancouver's Blake Poritz scored 20 points for Canada, while Jared Mintz of Toronto added 17.

In junior girls' basketball, Canada advanced to the final four against Israel despite a 60-52 loss to the United States. Vicky Hadid of Montreal scored 14 for Canada, now 2-1 in tournament play, while Leeor Handman of Edmonton tossed in 10.

***

After losing to the United States in the tournament opener, Canada's softball team has crushed opposing teams in five consecutive games, including a 10-1 win over Mexico late last week. Steven Goldsmith of Toronto hit a grand slam and batted in six runs for the winners, while pitcher Jason Dinetz, from Thornhill, improved to 3-0. In the women's competition, the United States thumped Canada 14-1.

***

Canada finally figured out how to beat the United States in men's baseball. Montreal pitcher Richard Leibovitch gave up seven hits in a 9-3 win – Canada's first in three games against the United States in round-robin games. Toronto's Alex Day hit a two-run home run for the winners.

***

Ari Lantos from Toronto and Marshall Young of Calgary each scored twice as Canada thumped South Africa 10-2 in water polo. It was Canada's first game of the tournament.

***

Medal hopes for Canada's open men's soccer team ended following a 3-1 loss to the Netherlands. Thornhill's Shmuel Hazan, who had scored the only goal of the game in an upset of defending champion Argentina, scored Canada's only goal in the loss.

***

South Africa was the latest to defeat Canada, suffering from a rash of injuries, in an open men's rugby match. South Africa won 37-7 while Canada has yet to win a game in four starts.

***

In other Maccabiah competition last week, Canada's track and field athletes reached the medal podium seven times.

Judith Elfassy-Navier (Toronto) won a silver medal in the open girls' 1,500 metres, finishing in 4.38.00. Deborah Lightman (Toronto) won a bronze in the open girls' 400 metres in a time of 1.01.27. Emma Pink (Halifax) won a bronze in the junior girls' 100 metres timed in a personal best 12.85, while Roy Argand (Halifax) also took home a bronze in the junior boys' 400 metres timed in 52.87.

Canada's girls' 4 x 100-metre relay team finished in a time of 51.21 – good enough for a bronze medal.

In open men's competition, Geoff Rosenbaum of Winnipeg earned a bronze medal in the 110-metre hurdles with a time of 15.30, while Montrealer Josh Wolfe finished with bronze in the 800-metres with a time of 1.52.80.

* * *

Despite fielding one of the smallest gymnastics teams at the Maccabiah Games – only three athletes and all from Montreal – it was the gymnasts who won Canada's first individual and team medals. Danielle Goldman won a bronze for her overall performance while the team claimed a silver medal.

***

Other results:

Judo:

Open Men: Under 73kg – Aaron Pfeffer, Winnipeg, bronze medal

Squash:

Israel beat Canada 3-0 in squash, but the Canadians still won a bronze medal.

Swimming:

200m freestyle – Adam Eilath, Thornhill, 2:02.10, bronze medal

* * *

Entrepreneur Sidney Greenberg was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame last week. Greenberg, a longtime supporter of Maccabi Canada, joins boxing promoter Irv Ungerma and football legends Lew Hayman and Syd Halter in the hall. In a special ceremony, Greenberg was recognized for having "made significant contributions to society through sport."

In other developments, Toronto businessman Walter Arbib created quite a bit of excitement – including recognition from Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert – after his company donated $250,000 in medical supplies to the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Ramat Gan.

Toronto's first dodgeball league holds finals

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

In a league that has gained popularity because of a Ben Stiller comedy called *Dodgeball*, two teams competed for the first Toronto Dodgeball Association (TDA) championship last Sunday.

Team Discovery Channel edged out Family Ties 3-2 in the finals after taking a 2-0 lead in a best of five series.

Since May, Dodgeball's captain Jonathan Roth and his team, along with five other adult teams and six youth teams, have been playing every Sunday at the York Mills Arena in Toronto.

His team, which was ranked second at the end of the regular season, failed to make the finals.

"It was very disappointing. We expected to make it, but we didn't. We had very high hopes but we didn't play as well as we had hoped," the 17-year-old captain said.

While this isn't a Jewish league, there are two all-Jewish teams. In fact, the teams have even developed a playful rivalry as Roth's team, the Dodgeballs, is made up of Ashkenazi Jews, and the other, Family Ties, is Sephardi.

Team Discovery Channel

With the short season over, and a new season set to begin on July 8 and 9, men, women and children of all ages are encouraged to join. Players are placed in divisions based on age.

According to the Association's website, the TDA, created by Lorne Kurtz, is "Toronto's first and only organized Dodgeball League."

"I started the league out of the inspiration and experience I got from running the University of Western's charity dodgeball tournament for the Tsunami disaster," Kurtz said.

He added that based on the positive feedback, he decided to team up with his brother Michael, who had been involved in starting an inline hockey league in 1996.

Roth is confident that the young league will continue to gain popularity because of the hit comedy *Dodgeball* that hit movie theatres last summer.

"We'd all seen the movie and thought it'd be interesting [to play in a dodgeball league]. People who've seen the movie are more likely to join than those who haven't," Roth said.

"The movie, *Dodgeball* created a lot of interest so we definitely worked off of that and it turned out to be a great success," Kurtz said.

A part of the movie that the TDA incorporated into their league is that each team is encouraged to dress up in costume, just like the teams in the movie did.

"At the end of the season, the team with the best costume wins a prize," Roth said.

It costs $70 per person to join the league. For more information, call 416-787-2120.

The age of innocence

The first thing I heard on the news when I woke one day two weeks ago was that there had been a terrorist attack in London, England. Four bombs rudely exploded right in the city – three in the underground tube and one on a red double-decker bus.

On a recent trip to London, I happily rode a double-decker bus. The last thing on my mind were thoughts of terrorism; I was much more concerned with shopping and hanging out with my friends.

something
By MIRIAM PORTER

I take public transit in Toronto almost daily, and I don't think twice about the possible dangers there either. I just assume I will arrive at my destination alive. Unfortunately, the reality of the London events made me question my own safety on the subway the next day.

As well, when I was travelling on city buses in Israel last year I was aware of every single person around me. I almost ran out the back door when a passenger entered carrying a large box – which I later learned was filled only with food. Living in a city where terrorism exists daily is a very different way of life.

The horrific facts on the cruel London attacks unravelled throughout the next few days and it just kept getting worse, with headlines such as "Over 50 dead and over 700 injured" and "Canada may be next." I had flashbacks to the horrors of 911. As a Jew, of course, I also thought about Israel.

Later that day, I met a girlfriend at a nearby park. All around us children played joyously. Some of them ran in and out of the water fountain screaming with delight, others were laughing as they flew down a dazzling yellow slide into a pile of warm sand. Two little boys made sand castles with bright plastic toys.

The toddlers had one thing in common – innocence. How lucky they are not to know what terrorism means. I envied their lack of knowledge.

My girlfriend and I have known each other more than half our lives. That day we tried to think back to a time before we knew what evil really was.

Ironically, we both remembered that our parents had taught us at young ages never to get in a car with strangers. Both sets of parents had also scared us into promising we would never accept candy from anyone we didn't recognize – but at the time we had no idea why.

It wasn't until I started to get older that I understood the severity and harsh repercussions of what could happen if I got into a car with a stranger.

I wonder when a child's perception of the world begins to change. Do they just wake up one morning and know that evil exists? At what age does this occur? Five? Ten? The teens?

The children living in Israel grow up with different realities than the children we saw in the park. The truth is that Israeli children see soldiers carrying guns all the time, and most Canadian children have only seen toy guns that hold water.

But when do children worldwide become aware that others their age don't have enough food to eat? That some kids live on the streets? That child abuse exists? That innocent babies in African villages are contracting HIV/AIDS? That the rainforests are disappearing? That the meat on their plate did not grow on a tree? When do they realize the real reasons behind not getting into a stranger's car?

My friend and I continued to watch the children playing on the swings and hoped it would be many, many years before they understand that their safe and happy world could be destroyed in a matter of seconds by selfish and barbaric terrorists.

My prayers are with the victims in London and their families. And my heart goes out to the children there who learned way too soon in their young lives what terrorism means.

miriam@jtvproductions.net

BOURBON-MOLASSES CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS

1/4 c parve margarine	2 tsp. mustard
1 c minced onion	3/4 tsp. ground black pepper, divided in half
1 c ketchup	1/4 tsp chili powder
1/4 c molasses	1/4 c bourbon
2 tblsp. (packed) brown sugar	1 1/2 tsp coarse kosher salt
1 1/2 tblsp. Worcestershire sauce	12 chicken drumsticks

Melt margarine in saucepan. Add onion; sauté until soft. Add next 5 ingredients. Add 1/2 pepper and chili powder. Reduce heat; simmer 15 mins. Stir in bourbon and molasses; cook, about 3 mins. Season with salt. Loosen skin on drumsticks. Mix remaining salt and pepper in bowl and rub under skin without tearing skin. Cover; let stand at room temperature 30 mins.

Prepare bbq (med. heat). Grill drumsticks until skin is crisp and juices run clear, turning to cook all sides. Transfer 1/2 c. bbq sauce to small bowl; reserve. Brush drumsticks with remaining sauce and cook 3 mins. longer. Transfer drumsticks to platter and serve with reserved sauce. Yield: 4 servings.

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"Jews in history"

By JOE KING

Voted the funniest girl in her high school class, Beatrice Arthur made her reputation largely in two TV situation comedies, *Maude* and *The Golden Girls*.

Born Bernice Frankel in 1923, Bea Arthur grew up in Cambridge, Md. She graduated from the Franklin Institute of Sciences and Art in Philadelphia, and after serving in the U.S. Marines during World War II, she moved to New York to study acting.

Arthur, a statuesque 5 foot 10, had an up and down acting career for years and was not especially well known, even after winning a Tony Award for her performance in *Mame* in 1966.

In fact, with an ailing husband, Arthur became the breadwinner of the family by playing Yente the Matchmaker in *Fiddler on the Roof*, a role she performed for several years.

She became a star when Norman Lear developed the character of Maude after he discussed Arthur with her husband, Gene Saks.

Seen, from left, are the Golden Girls: Estelle Getty, Bea Arthur, Betty White and Rue McLanahan.

"Gene told him what he loved about me and what he hated about me, and that's how Maude was born," Arthur has said.

Her next success was the series *The Golden Girls*, in which Arthur was the dominant figure of four older women – including Betty White, Rue McLanahan and Estelle Getty.

Responding to stories alleging feuds among the quartet during production, Arthur stated: "We really do get along. We don't socialize of course… but we are professionals who respect one another."

Arthur dropped out of the show in 1992 when her character married. She felt this was a graceful way of retiring from the series.

"It's better than having me killed off in a car wreck."

Excerpted from The Jewish Contribution to the Modern World

Joe King is a veteran Montreal writer and publicist.

Community loneliness: readers respond

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

A few weeks ago, I wrote a second column in a continuing series about the potential loneliness involved in becoming a member of the Toronto Jewish community. My argument was that it can be arduous to settle into our town and that it would behoove us to institutionalize programs to create a higher quality and more widespread approach to hospitality and chesed (kindness).

URBAN WRITER

I was greatly intrigued by the e-mails I received in response, and I wanted to share some of them with you to further the discussion on this issue, and to reiterate that clearly there are pockets, neighbourhoods, synagogues and individuals who flourish in the area of outreach.

One individual wrote that she agrees "this problem exists. However, if anyone is looking for a 'a home-away-from-home experience' then send them to my shul – the Village Shul – everyone is welcome. As for seniors, perhaps it is time for shuls to start extending invitations to them, not only to families! Let everyone begin by adopting a new family or senior."

Another person, born in Toronto but now living abroad, wrote that, in his estimation, there are three reasons why it's hard to make it as a new member of the Toronto Jewish community.

One: "Toronto is the only reasonably good place for an identified Jew to live in Canada, so Toronto Jews don't leave the way American Jews will… therefore, Toronto Jews have all their friends, family, in-laws and business associates in their hometown, and just don't have time for even the people they want to be with. They also don't relate to what it's like to be a newcomer. It's a foreign concept."

Two: "Toronto culture in general is not warm. Montreal Jews are warmer because Montreal is warmer… René Lévesque [the late separatist premier of Quebec] is the best thing that ever happened to the Toronto Jewish community, because he warmed it up with Montrealers."

Three: "Money is important in Toronto; it's a financial centre. Wherever people are preoccupied with money, they are self-concerned. Chicago and Los Angeles are much warmer than New York City for the same reason."

I also received e-mail from a downtown Jew who wrote that his absorption into the Toronto Jewish community was dramatically different than what I described, and he attributed his positive experiences to the love and friendship extended to him by the members – and especially the rabbi, Shmuel Spero – of Congregation Anshei Minsk.

Finally, a dear friend who moved here from overseas told me that "as a newcomer… I have come to accept that this [difficulty of making friends] is the Toronto reality. I attribute it to many causes, such as strong families that don't need anything outside their home, to busy-ness and so on, but feel it must go deeper… I have come to attribute this coldness to a kind of spiritual emptiness, or, further, to a spiritual/cultural materialism."

She then continued, with the utmost of respect, to say that in her estimation, I am a part of the problem I described, and that she began at some point to feel guilty about inviting me over, as I "always seemed too busy, and it seemed such a chore for you to fit us in." (The experience of writing – particularly the lessons I must learn from my own sermonizing– can be painful, yet constructive.)

I believe that we Toronto Jews have the ability to strengthen our resolve to make sure we are the definitive community when it comes to warmth and love for our newest neighbours, seniors and anyone else looking for a friend and a place to hang their hat.

"Who finds a faithful friend finds a treasure." – Ben Sira 6:14

Avrum@vaahavta.org, Sudan?

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This Week

Maccabiah Games

Canada racks up 59 medals. **Page 3**

National

Threat to Israel's existence is shrinking, former IDF chief of staff says. **Page 6**

Hitler's items fetch over $30,000 at Montreal auction. **Page 14**

Arts & Travel

Metallic Blues is the first Israeli movie to get Telefilm Canada funding. **Page 29**

Books & Authors

Re-issued book examines Jewish life in Babylon. **Page 32**

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Sharon repeats call for French aliyah

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has once again urged members of the French Jewish community to immigrate to Israel.

"Just as I call on Jews the world over to move to Israel, I call on you as well," he said to hundreds of representatives of France's Jewish community last Thursday.

Please see related story on page 23

A year ago, a similar statement by Sharon provoked a diplomatic storm and a harsh protest from the Élysée Palace. This time, Sharon praised French President Jacques Chirac's resolute action to fight anti-Semitism.

However, he said the "central means to ensure the future of the Jewish people is aliyah to the land of Israel," adding, "I hope you all rush to start packing your bags.

"The future of the Jewish people also depends on Israel's character as a Jewish and democratic state, and we initiated the disengagement plan in this spirit.

"This may have been the most difficult decision I made in my life, but it is vital for Israel's future," he said.

Sharon said the Mideast's main problem is the refusal of the Arab world to recognize the right of the Jewish people to a state in the "cradle of its birth," adding that this was not a reason to stop the diplomatic process, but rather to act with caution and "not to trust anyone."

Regarding Israel's Arab minority, Sharon said, "Israel has 5.5 million Jews and just over a million Palestinian Arabs who are Israeli citizens.

Continued on page 24

French President Jacques Chirac, right, welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the Élysée Palace courtyard in Paris last week. *[Reuters/RNS photo].*

Temple Scroll part of Israeli exhibit in Berlin

Lost Youth **by Nir Hod is one of more than 700 works in the exhibit "The New Hebrews: A Century of Art in Israel," currently on view in Berlin.**

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

BERLIN — For the first time, the Temple Scroll, one of seven Dead Sea scrolls found in Qumran in 1947, is being displayed publicly.

The 3.6-metre section of the scroll, which concerns matters relating to the Temple as revealed to Moses, has never been shown before, not even at the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

It's part of the exhibition "The New Hebrews: A Century of Art in Israel," running until Sept. 5 at the Martin-Groupius Bau museum in Berlin to mark the 40th anniversary of German and Israeli diplomatic relations. It's being co-presented by the Israel Museum and the Berliner Festpiele.

The scroll, something of an anomaly in an exhibit dealing with 100 years of Jewish art, may have been made the main feature to draw people in.

"The Qumran scrolls were very important to the process of Israeli identity, since most Israelis are secular and they live in Israel, not because God promised them the land, but because their ancestors were living there," says the exhibition's curator, Doreet LeVitte Harten. "The discovery of this scroll gave a kind of legitimation for the continuity they were looking for. With the discovery of

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Judaism's uneasy relationship with the cross — please see page 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Praise for Sharon

TORONTO — Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) praised Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for having police block anti-disengagement protesters from reaching a large rally near Gaza last month after they said they wouldn't rule out using violence to reach settlements. CFPN Toronto president Av Sohn said, "Extremists must not be allowed to challenge the rule of law and thwart the democratic will of the Israeli majority." The group also said this month's pullout from Gaza is threatened by the Palestinian Authority's reluctance to stop terror.

Israel Poster Contest

TORONTO — The Canada-Israel Committee is seeking entries from Canadians 14 and up for an Israel poster competition. Entries "should present a fresh image of Israel, be thought-provoking and visually engaging" and "highlight the common values of Canadians and Israelis or showcase Israel's innovations," the CIC said. First prize is $1,000 (US) in State of Israel Bonds. Deadline is Aug. 31. Details at www.cicweb.ca/postercompetition.

Suspect May Go Free

VANCOUVER — A terror suspect who allegedly planned to use a gasoline truck to bomb haredi Jews in Montreal's Outremont area will likely be set free because another member of the terror cell he is alleged to be part of won't testify against him, U.S. authorities say. Samir Ait Mohamed has been in jail in Vancouver since his arrest in 2001. He is alleged to be an associate of Ahmed Ressam, who was sentenced last week to 22 years in jail for a plot to bomb Los Angeles International Airport before the millennium. U.S. prosecutors say the extradition effort and case against Mohamed will collapse without Ressam's help. He stopped co-operating with authorities in 2003, Canadian Press reported.

Sheik Probe Widens

VANCOUVER — The investigation into whether a Vancouver Muslim cleric's slurs against Jews violated hate laws has been turned over to the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, which combines resources from the RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and local police, the RCMP said last month. South African-born Sheik Younus Kathrada, who is linked to the Dar al-Madinah Islamic Society, has called Jews "brothers of monkeys and swine" in lectures and online, and urged Muslims to wage a holy war against non-believers.

Pipes Gets Formal Apology for Hitler Slur

TORONTO — The Canadian Islamic Congress apologized to scholar Daniel Pipes for saying he wanted to put North American Muslims into concentration camps.

Stan Fisher, an attorney with the law firm Heenan Blaikie, confirmed he sent a libel notice on Pipes' behalf to the Canadian Islamic Congress after its website ran an article by Wahida Valiante accusing the Philadelphia-based scholar of wanting to employ "Hitlerian" tactics against Muslims.

"The Canadian Islamic Congress and Ms. Valiante apologize without reservation and retract remarks in the column that suggest that Dr. Daniel Pipes is a follower of Hitler or that he uses the tactics of Hitler or that he wants to ethnically cleanse America of its Muslim presence," read the apology, which appeared briefly on the group's website in June.

The group also paid Pipes' legal costs and made a charitable donation in his name. In a July 19 *National Post* column, Pipes, who heads the Middle East Forum think tank, said his victory was "unprecedented" and "offers a small but important step in blocking the advance of Islamic extremism."

KPMG to Sue Manor

TORONTO — KPMG said it will sue Boaz Manor, the Israeli co-founder of the $700-million hedge fund Portus Alternative Asset Management, in Israel after he ignored a court order to return $3.1 million, Bloomberg News reported. Manor fled to Israel after the Ontario Securities Commission forced Portus into receivership in March and started probing transactions at the three-year-old firm. Manor transferred the $3.1 million from the Turks and Caicos islands to Italy after the OSC froze Portus' accounts. Manor has said he is too sick to talk to KPMG, Portus' receiver, despite pledging to do so. The RCMP said it has opened a criminal probe into Portus.

WORLD

Zundel Charged

BERLIN — German prosecutors last month charged Holocaust denier and former Toronto resident Ernst Zundel, with inciting racial hatred, four months after Canada deported him. Zundel, a German national, is accused of decades of anti-Semitic activities, including repeated Holocaust denial – a crime in Germany – in print and online. It's unclear when he might face trial. Zundel, arrested in March on arriving in Germany, remains in jail.

More world briefs on page 25.

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Canadian athletes win 59 medals in Israel

JERUSALEM — Canada's entry at the 17th Maccabiah Games wrapped up this country's successful performance at the Games but the focus wasn't entirely on awards.

While many saw success in the team's 59 total medals, others pointed proudly to the dozens of Canadian personal-best performances against some of the top Jewish athletes in the world.

Canada's medal total included nine gold, 17 silver and 33 bronze in four categories – open, masters, junior and youth.

Of the 55 countries competing, only Israel, the United States and Russia earned more medals than Canada at the Games, held in Israel from July 10 to 21.

Canadian flag-bearer Sharon Fichman of Toronto may have summed it up best for the Canadian team of 400 athletes, coaches and support staff.

Fichman, a 14-year old tennis player ranked as one of the best in the world for her age, listed her gold medal performance in the open women's singles final among her list of accomplishments at the Games.

Surprisingly, though, it wasn't at the top.

"I represented my religion and my country," she said outside the Jerusalem Tennis Center, minutes after beating highly touted 23-year-old Nicole Ptak of the United States 6-2, 6-2 for the gold medal.

In the dugout with Canada's silver medal team.

"These Games are not just all about sports, but meeting people, learning about culture and building friendship. Being the No. 1 Jewish female tennis player in the world is also not too shabby."

Fichman confirmed she would be turning pro when she returned to Canada. She is entered in this month's Rogers Cup in Toronto, a tier one event on the World Tennis Association professional tour.

Battling a viral infection and a mild fever in the days leading up to the final, Fichman didn't let up. She finished the singles competition undefeated.

Fichman, who also won a bronze medal in women's doubles, wrapped up the tennis event with a silver in a thrilling finish to the mixed doubles final. She teamed with Oran Belillti of Richmond Hill, Ont., but they lost to a team from South Africa 6-4, 6-7, 7-6.

In other events, Canadian track and field athletes took top spot with 19 medals, including five in the triathlon.

Canadian karate competitors earned a dozen medals, followed by tennis competitors with 11.

Promising junior-age athletes Nataliya Muntyanova, a karate star from Richmond Hill, and track athlete Emma Pink of Halifax each won five medals.

Thornhill, Ont.'s Adam Eilath and Daniel Einhorn of Vancouver, the only Canadians competing in swimming and wrestling respectively, each won a pair of medals. Einhorn won gold in open freestyle wrestling in the 84-kilogram weight class.

"We had a team of quality athletes and it showed," said Allen Gerskup, head of Canada's delegation. "You're up against many elite athletes from around the world and to do so well is a credit to these fine young people, their coaches and families."

Other results:

Track and field

Open: Judith Elfassy, half marathon, gold medal, 1,500 metres, silver medal;

Deborah Calman Lightman, 400-metres, bronze medal, 800 metres, bronze medal;

Roy Argand, 400 metres, bronze medal;

Joshua Wolfe, 800 metres, bronze medal;

Arjay Brecher, half marathon, mixed, bronze medal.

Juniors: Darrian Molly Tissenbaum,100 metres, bronze medal.

Emma Pink, 200 metres, silver medal.

Karate

Juniors: Natalia Muntyanova, kumite over 53 kg, gold medal, kata, gold medal, open weight, bronze medal;

Maria Laura Flamengo, kumite up to 53 kg, silver medal;

Alexander Wasserman, kumite over 50 kg, gold medal;

Alon Zohar, kata, bronze medal.

Open: Jaime Lyn Yamanaka, kata individual, gold medal;

Anastasia Shchipillo, kumite up to 53 kg, gold medal, kata individual, bronze medal.

Women, kumite team, silver medal;

Joseph Schlesinger, open weight, bronze medal.

Ten-pin bowling

Open: Lisa Abush, gold medal;

Howard Sculnick, gold medal;

Hirsh Schnayer, Howard Dinetz, Howard Sculnick, trios, silver medal.

Triathlon

Open: Joshua Riff, ages 30-34, silver medal;

Michael Bregman, ages 50-54, gold medal.

Shawna Novak, ages 25-29, bronze medal;

Elise Yanover, ages 35-39, silver medal.

Baseball

Juniors: male, team silver medal.

Canada lost 9-2 to the United States in the softball final.

Basketball

Juniors: girls team, silver medal;

boys team, 17- and 18-year-olds, bronze medal;

boys team, 15- and 16-year-olds, bronze medal.

Masters: male team over 40, bronze medal.

Water polo

Open: male team, bronze medal.

Judo

Open: Aaron Pfeffer, 66 kg and up, bronze medal.

Juniors: Michael Leger, 81 kg and up, bronze medal.

Wrestling

Open: Daniel Einhorn, freestyle 84 kg, gold medal.

Tennis

Masters: Andrea Kraus, singles over 45, bronze medal;

Juniors: Valeriya Dandik and Mia Gordon, doubles, bronze medal.

Softball

Open: men's team, silver medal.

Please see related stories on page 38

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Greater Toronto Area

London bombs, worldwide worry

From the editor's desk

Just past the midpoint of our seven-hour flight to London two weeks ago, the pilot made an announcement advising the passengers on the mostly empty plane that another "event" had taken place there that day.

By "event," of course, he meant bombings. In fact, the pilot calmly elaborated that there had been four bombs, but added, thankfully, that they had resulted in no injury. We did not know at the time however, that unlike the "event" two weeks prior, the terrorists had actually failed in their attempts at mass murder.

Heathrow Airport was dark, gloomy and mostly devoid of human traffic when we arrived in the late evening.

The next morning, Friday, the lead story in *The Times* began: "Terror returned to the streets of London yesterday as bombers once again sought to murder, maim and cause mayhem on the capital's transport system."

"Whereas the bombs on July 7 targeted London's commuters at the height of morning rush hour, killing 56 people, yesterday's attacks seemed intended for very different victims: the tourists, shoppers and schoolchildren using the transport system," wrote Ben Macintyre in *The Times*. That some of the unexploded bombs had been packed with nails and bolts meant that the terrorists had intended to harm as many innocents as possible.

The city was palpably on edge and became progressively edgier throughout the day as details of the failed attacks were disclosed and the chilling realization set in that the four bombers were still at large. The headline in the Saturday newspaper confirmed that the police were in a race to find the bombers before they struck again.

The Times editorialist described the atmosphere. "The hunt for the second wave of bombers has spread across the capital. Main roads have been closed, residents evacuated and a few stations remain shut. The streets echoed to the wail of police sirens. There is a superficial calm. Most people made it manfully into work. But Londoners know that something fundamental has changed."

Though gritty composure was in evidence on all the streets, an unmistakable air of urgency animated officials' actions and statements. It was in this tense, anxious atmosphere of desperate search and feelings of heightened vulnerability, alas, that the police mistakenly shot and killed someone – an electrician from Brazil, as it turned out – at one of the tube stations.

My wife and I were in London to celebrate the wedding of the child of a close friend. Ironically, though not surprisingly, the unceasing focus throughout the weekend on news of the unapprehended terrorists added a certain poignancy to the wedding and an intensity to the joy of our celebration.

Pundits and various experts quarrel over the reasons and the causes for the terrorists' atrocities. But one thing is beyond uncertainty: their aim is to kill people, plain and simple. They don't differentiate between "believers" and "unbelievers" because their real and true targets in places like London, Madrid, New York, Bali, Istanbul, Sharm el Sheikh and Tel Aviv are the symbols, institutions and life-infusing instruments of western society that so offends them.

British Jews are worried, as they should be. As the JTA observed, "The British Jewish community has been disturbed not only by the latest round of bombings but also by the response of the U.K.'s Muslim leadership to the growing threat of fanaticism in its midst.

"The extent of the radicalization was highlighted by the news that nearly a quarter of U.K. Muslims have some sympathy with the feelings and motives of those who carried out the July 7 bombings, according to a poll sponsored by Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper."

Lord Greville Janner, one of U.K. Jewry's internationally renowned spokesman and president of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, spoke to *The CJN* last week about the previous week's events. "On the whole, the Jewish community felt as everyone did, concerned about children and family. But it's not just here," he quickly added. "The threat is spreading across the world. It's getting worse and it's going to get worse still. It can happen anywhere."

Janner's voice rose markedly in obvious exasperation as he commented on the efforts in the media and in other quarters to explain if not justify the terrorists' actions. "It [the terrorism] has no logic," he said abruptly. The mayor of London, Ken Livingstone's, statements about western complicity in the London attacks and his comparisons between Hamas and Likud, he said, were simply "a load of total rubbish."

Janner feels a deep attachment to Canadian Jewry. Janner's bar mitzvah was at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue in Montreal during World War II. To Canadian Jews, he says: "Be on guard. Don't take your security for granted. Anyone, anywhere can be at risk. It's a very tough, difficult, dangerous world." The Jewish community needs no convincing of Janner's words. It is the government that must come to see the truth in his warning.

* * *

The most recent issue of *Azure* contains an essay by Shalem Center Senior Fellow, Robert Wistrich, titled *Cruel Britannia*. The author describes how London became a hotbed of militant Islamic activity. It is eerily timely in light of recent events and I commend it to all readers. It contains many important lessons, if we would but only learn them.

— *MBD*

SeeJN

COTLER COMPETES: Federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, left, plays three-time Israeli masters champion Menachem Stein in the opening round of masters table tennis at the 17th Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv last month. Stein won the match three games to one. *Please see story on page 38.* **[David Grossman photo]**

UJA aims to raise extra $10 million by 2008

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's has launched a drive to raise $10 million by 2008, above and beyond its annual fundraising efforts, for Jewish youth in Canada and Israel, the federation's annual leadership retreat heard last month.

Honey Sherman and Warren Kimel, chairs of UJA Federation's Campaign 2006, told about 100 people who attended a presentation at Kimel's cottage in Jackson's Point, a resort area on Lake Simcoe an hour north of Toronto, that it's the community's responsibility to help the disadvantaged by volunteering and donating money.

If the goal of raising the additional $10 million is reached, $3 million will go toward social services in the Toronto area, such as helping the thousands of Jewish families that are living below the poverty line. Another $4 million will be used to assist poverty-stricken families and the growing Ethiopian community in Israel. The last $3 million will be spent on efforts to reconnect Jewish youth with their Jewish identities.

"We are rebuilding a stronger Israel to give many opportunities to help relieve the impact of the last four years of terror and help [young Israelis] optimize their potential. We are helping Jewish youth to live a life led Jewishly, which will strengthen their attachment to the Jewish community at large," Sherman said.

"And finally, we are committed to social justice, caring for the poor and vulnerable here within our own community."

As part of the presentation outlining the campaign, called the Case For Giving, the Jewish Family & Child Service demonstrated how hard it is for a single Jewish mother to make ends meet without the organization's assistance.

Leah Biteolin, an Ethiopian Jew, told an inspiring story of her mother's successful efforts to flee Ethiopia and raise her children in Israel, enduring the threat of being thrown in jail for trying to leave and surviving the deplorable conditions of a refugee camp for six months.

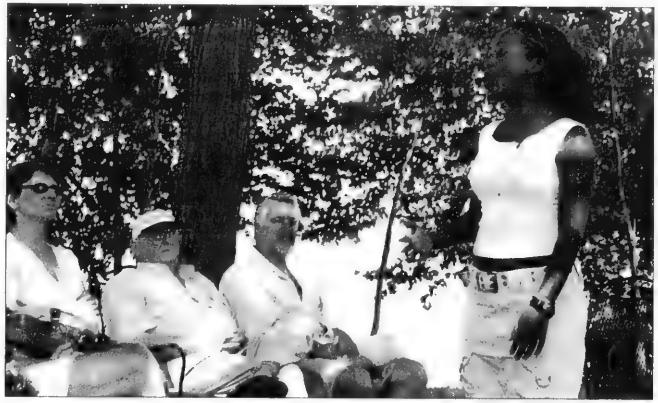
Testimony from alumni of birthright israel and March of the Living was also heard in support of programs that help young Jews renew their connections to their faith.

In a briefing on the political strife in Israel, former Israel Defence Forces chief of staff and former Israeli cabinet minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak spoke about Israel's upcoming disengagement from Gaza.

He said while most Israelis support the plan, many others have taken issue with the way the pullout is being implemented.

The presentations were meant to drive home the message that volunteers and money would strengthen the Jewish community, both here and abroad.

"It is because of your efforts, your determination and your drive that we as a community are able to change Jewish lives for the better, and together we can and do make a difference," Sherman said.



Event co-chairs David Goldman and Karin Krieger, above left, are pictured at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's leadership retreat. At right, Leah Biteolin, an Ethiopian Jew who now lives in Israel, speaks to retreat participants. [Benji Feldman photos]

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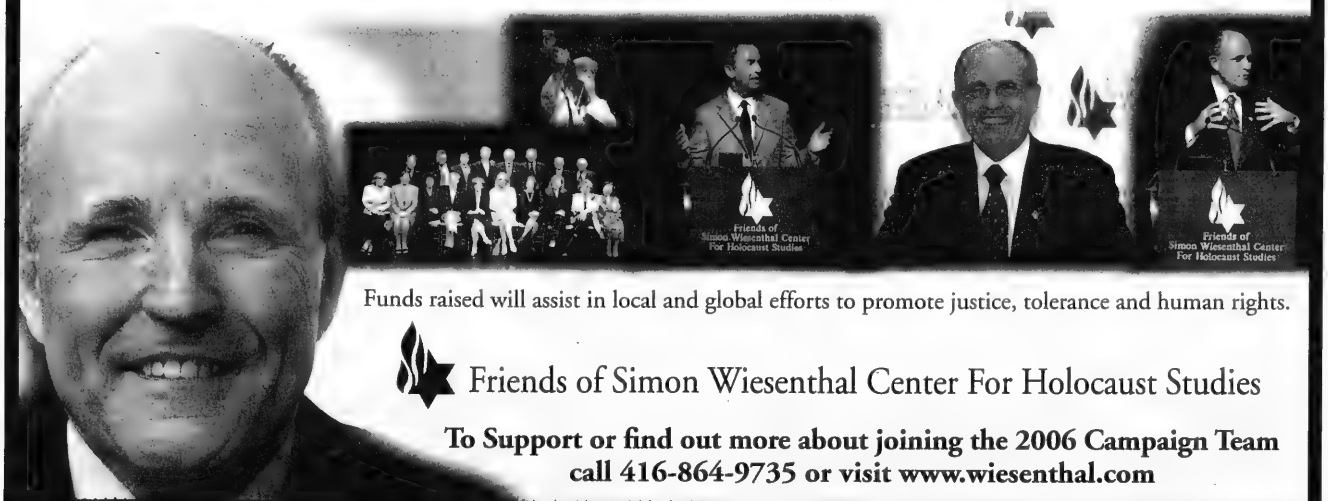

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Former IDF chief of staff defends disengagement

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Amnon Lipkin-Shahak [Benji Feldman photo]

Israel is a strong country today and any threat to its existence is shrinking, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, former chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said while on a visit to Canada recently.

As the featured guest speaker at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's recent leadership retreat in Jackson's Point, Lipkin-Shahak spoke about Israel's pending disengagement from Gaza, including internal Israeli political disputes surrounding the pullout and its possible positive outcomes for Israeli-Palestinian relations.

In an interview with *The CJN*, he said it's important to remember that the disengagement is not part of the peace process or Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, but rather a decision made by the Israeli government and Knesset.

"The disengagement, which is opposed by not a small number yet supported by many, might open a new window of opportunity if the Israelis and Palestinians use this opportunity to open a new dialogue," he said.

According to Lipkin-Shahak, whether disengagement from Gaza will satisfy the Palestinians is not the right question to be asking, because they will obviously be happy to see the Israelis leave.

The bigger question is whether the present Palestinian leadership, which is speaking out against terrorism and in favour of a return to dialogue, will be strong enough to "impose these ideas" on their people, he said.

Lipkin-Shahak, a born and bred Israeli who was twice awarded the IDF Medal of Valour, lives in Reut and spent most of his life protecting his homeland.

"It was the salary," he joked when asked about his motivation for staying in the army as long as he did.

When he first enlisted in 1962, he didn't think he'd stay for very long, but when he was given the challenging position of young company commander to a group of paratroopers at age 21, he decided to stay another year.

Then came the Six Day War, and after that, Lipkin-Shahak believed it was more important to stay in the army than to go to university.

From then on, one year rolled into another and he moved up the ranks until he succeeded Ehud Barak to become the 15th chief of staff.

It was only after serving in that position, 36 years after entering the IDF, when there was no other position to move up to, did Lipkin-Shahak decide to leave the army. He retired in 1998.

As deputy chief of staff from 1991 to 1995, he headed the Israeli military team that participated in negotiations with the Palestinians on the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

As chief of staff, he met with his Syrian counterpart to start a discussion on security arrangements as part of peace negotiations between the two countries.

After leaving the army, Lipkin-Shahak was elected to the Knesset in 1999 as a member of the Center party in the election that brought Barak, by then leader of the Labour party, to power.

Lipkin-Shahak was named minister of tourism in August 1999 and minister of transport in June 2000. He held both positions until 2001, when he resigned from the Knesset.

He was in Toronto on a fundraising mission as a volunteer for the Friends of Israel Firefighters.

"All the volunteers are trying to help the Israeli firefighters to be better equipped," Lipkin-Shahak said.

About two years ago, the Friends launched an emergency campaign to buy 100 new fire trucks. One of the first gifts was $220,000 from the Toronto Jewish community through Partnership 2000 Toronto-Eilat. The money enabled Israel to buy a fire truck that would later be used in the rescue operation after last year's terror attack on the Taba Hilton in Sinai.

For more information on the Friends of Israel Firefighters, visit www.foif.org.

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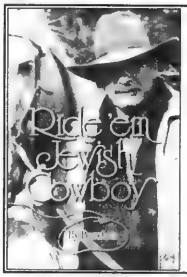

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Rae of hope

Jane Fonda, the Hollywood actress and social activist, has decided to pick up the pages of an old script. She told a newspaper last week that she was about "to come out." By that, the famous anti-Vietnam advocate meant she would soon be actively lobbying for the U.S. government to pull its troops out of Iraq. She intends to travel the length and breadth of the U.S. by bus, perhaps to emphasize the proletarian and egalitarian poignancy of her message, that the U.S. soldiers must come home.

Her decision undoubtedly stems from the deeply held conviction that the U.S. presence in Iraq is unjust. But Iraq 2005 is not Vietnam 1965. The comparison does not hold, nor should it be made. The enemies of the American (and British and other coalition) fighting forces in Iraq happen also to be the enemies of the vast majority of the Iraqi people themselves. The insurgents, as they are euphemistically called, even slaughter young children playing in the streets, their hands reaching for a windfall of candy from nearby soldiers.

By contrast, the social activist, former Ontario premier Bob Rae has decided to try to help the people of Iraq rebuild their country. He was in Baghdad last month, invited there by Iraqi legislators struggling to write a founding constitution. Despite the very real risk to his own life, Rae believed the cause of Iraq 2005 warranted the risk.

He described to the *Globe and Mail* how deeply moved and impressed he was by the determination of the Iraqis to bring democracy to their country. "You come away from it all with tremendous admiration for the courage of the people who are sticking at it and moving forward, going forward and dealing with some very difficult issues," he said.

The non-uniformed insurgents are waging brutal war primarily against the fledgling Iraqi parliament, the struggling Iraqi security forces and the non-fighting civilian citizenry. They are a well-directed gang of modern Mideast cutthroats, bringing together, in one nihilistic coalition, the despotic yearnings of former Saddam Hussein loyalists and the fervently anti-western zealotry of Islamic extremists. They are absolutely opposed to the rooting of democracy in Iraq and, as we have seen, will go to any bloody lengths to scorch the earth lest democratic roots take hold.

Individuals like Bob Rae are to be commended for their courage. They bring hope to the beleaguered Iraqi people that perhaps they will not be abandoned in their campaign for freedom. But equally inspiring is that he decided to take a stand on behalf of the electrifying yet humbling notion that Iraq's people also deserve the chance to live free from the fear of harm at the hands of the violent fanatic's hatred.

Israel's people, of course, are deserving of that chance, too.

25 years ago in The CJN

• Canada voted against two anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations. One demanded that Israel withdraw unilaterally from the "occupied territories." The other was a document arising from the World Program of Action on the Status of Women, at the UN Decade of Women Conference in Copenhagen, that equated Zionism with racism and recommended establishing working relations with the PLO.

• UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was blasted by the Israeli mission to the United Nations for calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state in a speech to the Arab League.

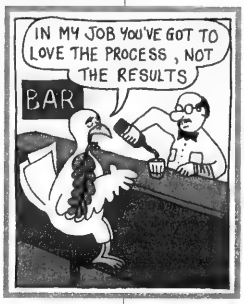
Martin should address terrorism

While British, American, Indian, Israeli, Spanish, Italian and other leaders around the world confront the murderous ideology of Islamic terrorists, the Canadian government and Prime Minister Paul Martin have been largely silent.

Martin's silence and inaction in the face of growing threats from more than 50 terrorist organizations that CSIS has identified as operating in Canada places all Canadians in danger.

While some have suggested that the government is doing all that it can, we at the Canadian Coalition for Democracies believe more can and must be done.

The time has come for Canada's prime minister to show strong leadership in confronting the radical Islamist terrorists and their genocidal ideology before it is too late. He must not allow political correctness or the appeasement of domestic voting blocs to take precedence over the lives of Canadians.



Should the prime minister continue to avoid taking strong action against the terrorist organizations known to be in Canada, he will risk being held responsible if they launch an attack on Canadians or from our soil.

Rochelle Wilner
Senior Vice-President
Canadian Coalition for Democracies, Toronto

* * *

The right to protest injustice

In your June 30 editorial ("Disengagement and the Diaspora"), you argue that it is wrong to "undermine the legitimate authority of the duly elected government of Israel." Yet you "do not question the right and even the moral obligation of every Jew to question the course of the actions of the government of Israel." Which one is it? Do we have the right, or don't we?

The right of a just-minded individual to protest injustice is a fundamental precept of both democracy and Judaism. Would you also propose to silence the American civil rights activists in the 1960s who protested against the unjust policies of a democratic government? Would you prohibit the so-called peace activists from criticizing Israel's policy of targeted assassinations and house demolitions, which they view as unjust? One cannot apply a double standard by claiming a right to protest for one's own cause while denying the rights of others to do the same.

You suggest that disengagement is the only way to address the issue of demographics and avoid having to absorb the Palestinians of Gaza into Israel. Surely an investment of more time and energy would bear the fruit of a more logical course of action – one that does not contradict the opinion of every military, security and intelligence expert in Israel.

The disengagement plan places millions of Jewish lives at risk, rewards and encourages unrepentant murderers, punishes those who stand strong for Israel's security, and sows disunity among the Jewish people. It also provides terrorists with a bigger launching pad from which to perpetrate their attacks on innocent Israelis.

Izzy Greenberg
Editor, Exodus Magazine, Toronto

* * *

Response to Chivo

The alphabet of insinuating remarks brought against Pope John Paul II by Jack Chivo and published in the *The CJN*, April 28 ("John Paul II's legacy: 'One step forwards, two steps backwards'") can never serve to tarnish the highly praised and well-deserved reputation this man has taken with him to his grave.

Blessed relief from such minority criticism as Chivo's is easily found in any number of notable Jewish sources, one of which is the International Council of Christians and Jews. Speaking on behalf of the council, its president, following the death of Pope John Paul II, said: "Pope John Paul II took the document of Vatican II *Nostra Aetate* and its chapter four on the Church's relationship with the Jewish people and made it a centrepiece of his papal ministry. He said more positively than any pope in history regarding the centrality of Judaism to Christian self-understanding. He termed anti-Semitism a sin on a number of occasions and dramatized his commitment to its demise in Christian consciousness by placing his words of apology for anti-Semitism in the church in the Western Wall in Jerusalem. He took the necessary steps to recognize the State of Israel."

It is only because of the valiant contribution of Pope Paul II that Pope Benedict XVI could say, just recently, to members of the World Jewish Congress and the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations that "at the very beginning of my pontificate, I wish to assure you that the Church remains firmly committed, in her catechesis and in every aspect of her life, to implementing the decisive teaching of *Nostra Aetate*."

In Chivo's litany of negative comments about Pope John Paul II, there is, it seems to me, something more than meets the eye – possibly a reverse form of anti-Semitism against Catholic leadership.

Rev. Damian MacPherson
Director for Ecumenical & Interfaith Affairs
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

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Jews and the cross: an unhappy history

By SALLY F. ZERKER

When I was a child – one brought up in the Jewish Orthodox tradition – it was a staple of my childish, unreflective mind that the cross was a bad thing, and in some ways even a frightening thing. Should a cross be exhibited in my presence, I would automatically turn my eyes away from this baleful item.

As I matured, growing up in a Christian country, I was naturally exposed in both churches and museums to numerous sculptures and paintings depicting Jesus on the cross, so that in time, the cross took on a benign quality for me, as simply the expression of Christian veneration. But I can't say that I had a true understanding of the meaning of the cross for Christianity or for Jews, nor had I ever given it much thought.

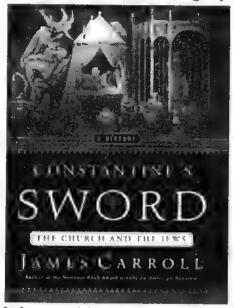
But that all changed when I read James Carroll's book *Constantine's Sword*, whose subtitle is *The Church and the Jews*. This is not a new book, but it was new for me when I read it during my vacation in Florida this past winter, and it was through this work that I came to appreciate and understand my youthful reactions to the cross.

Carroll begins his historical narrative of the Church's deplorable record toward the Jews with his sighting of the huge cross that Carmelite nuns had placed in the field near the wall of the Auschwitz concentration camp. For Carroll, an ex-priest and still a devoted Catholic, the cross at Auschwitz was a revelation. He was "seeing the cross in its full and awful truth for the first time." And it was this apocalypse that initiated his deep and thorough delving into the history of the relationship between the Church and the Jews since its inception, following the emergence of the followers of Jesus.

The question Carroll now had to face squarely was disturbing, to say the least. It was the issue of the link between the ancient Christian hatred of Jews and its connection to the 20th century murderous hatred that produced the death camps. Because Carroll is a Catholic, he focused on his own Church, but his narrative did not exclude the role of the Reformation in general and of German Protestantism in particular. Like every narrative, the story unfolds with a beginning, a middle and an end. The end in this case is the cross at Auschwitz. Writes Carroll, "Once the end reveals itself, the beginning and the middle can be understood anew."

It came as a revelation to me that initially the cross was not a reflective symbol of early Christianity. Prior to the fourth century, symbols such as palm branches, fish, the bird of paradise, or the monogram of Jesus were favoured, but the cross is not to be found, for example, on the catacombs of Rome. The place of the cross in the Christian imagination came not with Paul but with the Roman Emperor Constantine at the beginning of the fourth century. For Constantine, the cross was transformed into a sword in a vision he supposedly had of a cross of light in the heavens accompanied by the message "Conquer by this." Carroll writes that "Constantine put the Roman execution device [the cross], now rendered with a spear, at the center not only of the story of his conversion to Christianity, but of the Christian story itself".

It is common knowledge that prior to Constantine's conversion and conquests in the name of Christianity, Judaism and Christianity were pretty much on a par in the Roman Empire. At the beginning of the fourth century, there were at least three million Jews throughout the Empire, comparable to the number of Christians. In fact, Jews enjoyed a higher level of tolerance from the imperial authorities than Christians did. Maybe that was because Christianity had within it the proselytizing drive, and Judaism did not, making Christianity more offensive to pagan cults and culture.



Constantine and his mother Helena, together, transformed that world. Under the auspices of Ambrose (339-397), the bishop of Milan, Helena was elevated as the source of the discovery and rescue of the actual cross – allegedly – upon which Jesus was crucified. Here emerged the concept of the True Cross. The negative image of the Jew was also bound up with the discovery of the True Cross, because the legend associated with this breakthrough involved a Jew who knew the secret of the long-buried treasure and would only reveal its location after extensive torture. Carroll holds that the purported finding of the True Cross was the definitive victory over the Jews, "the end of a two-hundred-year-old sibling rivalry," after which a relative equality between Christians and Jews would never exist again.

The significance of the True Cross was that it placed new accent on the role of the cross, both literally and theologically, which in turn emphasized the death of Jesus, not his life and resurrection. Since, as we know, Jews were incriminated in the crucifixion of Jesus, whether rightly or wrongly, the legend of the True Cross reinforced the unfolding hatred of Jews. It acted as a signal that the punishment of the Jews was long overdue and was now justified, particularly since the astonishing and miraculous "discovery" was attributed to the saintly Helena, popularized as a benefactress of churches, priests and nuns, and devoted mother of the emperor. (Never mind that her emperor son was the murderer of his own son as well as other contenders to his throne, and that she was part of a family filled with violence and immorality.) Thus with Helena as its foundation, the idea of the centrality of the cross spread quickly, and with it the focus on Jesus' crucifixion, suffering, death and burial.

We now have a beginning and an end to the story of the Church and the Jews. It begins with the True Cross and ends at Auschwitz. We know the middle as well. It is a horrific tale of repeated pogroms, expulsions, inquisitions, murderous mobs, and other forms of violence against Jews that persisted through the centuries and culminated in the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust. Throughout, the Church was an instrument of ideological preaching that encouraged ferocity against the Jews, and the cross was its most effective propaganda tool.

It was as if the enduring hostility mounted against the Jews was an unremitting war of the cross. There is a clear indication of the place of the cross in murderous Christian passions from the earliest of pogroms – that is, the crusaders' onslaught against Jews in 1096 on their way to Jerusalem. Although the crusaders' main objective was to drive the Muslims from the Holy City, they got sidetracked en route, massacring and terrorizing thousands of Jewish men, women and children in the Rhineland.

Solomon bar Simson, in telling the story of the crusaders' rampage against Jews of the Rhineland, wrote about the symbolic importance of the cross to the Christian mobs as follows: "They decorated themselves prominently with their signs, placing a profane symbol – a horizontal line over a vertical one – on the vestments of every man and woman… their ranks swelled until the number of men, women and children exceeded a locust horde covering the earth."

Carroll writes that the Crusaders' ferocity was fuelled by a cross-inspired righteousness. That inspiration can be seen again and again in the abhorrent historical record, whether it was the initiation of the blood libel in England in 1144 that lives on today among anti-Semites, or the expulsion of Jews from France in the 14th century, or the Spanish Inquisition of 1492. And it remains the inspiration for the papal cross at Auschwitz, which ultimately must be seen as an express desire to Christianize the Holocaust.

***The Entry of the Crusaders into Constantinople*, Eugene Delacroix, 1840**

It turns out that my childhood inclination to find the cross offensive was unwittingly deserved. I wish I could now say otherwise. And as the current fashion of wearing crosses as ornaments has proliferated, I'm now confronted by this icon's presence in unexpected times and places. I am not surprised when a church authority is so adorned, but when Oprah Winfrey sports a diamond-encrusted cross on one of her trendy shows, I do find it remarkable.

I don't doubt that today's wearers of the cross are merely making a positive statement about their commitment to Christianity. Nor do I have reason to believe that such adornment has any intended malice. Nevertheless, it would be well for all, Jew and Christian alike, to appreciate that the cross is an expression of the accentuation of the death of Jesus rather than his life, and that this has had – and continues to have – grave consequences for Jews, not the least of which is the current intensification of anti-Semitism that is still buttressed by the accusation of the role of the Jew in Jesus' crucifixion.

Sally F. Zerker is an economist and a retired York University professor.

Opinions

Reflections on the Jewish Games

The Games of the 17th Maccabiah began with an emotional opening ceremony at Ramat Gan Stadium, on the outskirts of Tel Aviv. In 1997, this was the site of the tragic footbridge collapse where four Australian athletes lost their lives and many others were seriously injured.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

But inasmuch as the trauma of those 1997 Games represented one of the lowest points in the history of the Maccabi movement, the Maccabiah that just ended brought with it a sense of healing and closure. Leading the procession of more than 7,000 competitors were the families of three of the four Australians who died eight years ago.

The poignancy of that entrance, in punctuating an otherwise spirited evening of song and dance, seemed aptly to reflect the vicissitudes that have been not only part of the Maccabiah experience but that are also so integral to Israeli life in general.

On the one hand there is celebration, but never far away is the spectre of tragedy, whether past or present. And so, while our quintessential festival of sport grabbed the daily headlines, more deaths were counted after yet another suicide bombing in Netanya just a few days after the Games got underway.

To claim that the 2005 Maccabiah ran with flawless precision would be stretching reality into the realm of fantasy. There were the inevitable logistical headaches. Some of the accommodation centres were considered below par, transportation and communications were often problematic, and there were variable complaints about the location and quality of several of the sports venues. There could also have been more interaction between Israelis and their guests from the Diaspora, and there should have been more opportunities for athletes to tour the country and absorb the sights and sounds that define the land and its people.

But all in all, and despite the glitches, most of our team would likely agree that they had a great time in Israel. However, what they now do with their experience is what really counts. If their visit translates into a heightened awareness of their Jewish identity and a closer and more passionate connection to Eretz Israel, then the Maccabi flame will indeed have cast an alluring light. If not, the broader concept of what the Maccabiah ought to be about needs to be re-examined.

The closing ceremonies were staged at Sultan's Pool just outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Games came to a formal end with a moving rendition of *Hatikvah* and an impressive fireworks display. A magnificent full moon embraced the City of David, beckoning us to return, and soon.

The author is national president of Maccabi Canada. He was head of the Canadian delegation at the recent Maccabiah Games.

A moment of musical respite

A much-yellowed reproduction of a *New York Times* tribute to a certain Daniel Friedlander, dated October 15, 1936, hangs in the dining room of Beit Daniel in Zichron Ya'acov. It brims with unbridled praise for the natural gifts of the young Jewish pianist from Palestine whose untimely death, at age 18, robbed the world of a budding musical genius. Two charming oil portraits of the long-forgotten young artist grace the walls nearby it. With a cherubic smile, Daniel gazes out at us through the thick haze of seven decades.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Music Center is a noble enterprise. Among its many activities, it organizes workshops and master classes that aim to foster young Israeli musical talent. Once a year, the youth division invites 30 to 40 of the more gifted musicians in the country, aged 14 to 18 – string players, for the most part – to the beautiful grounds of Beit Daniel, a quiet mountain retreat established in Friedlander's memory. This inspired and inspiring setting high atop Mount Carmel, in the middle of a pine wood, has served as an incubator for generations of developing performing artists.

Wandering about, the soughing of boughs in the tall trees intermingling with strains of music wafted upon mountain breezes came to me like a soothing balm. Every now and then, I cast an absent-minded look into the distance. The serene detachment of this artistic refuge stood in stark contrast to that other Israel, unremittingly intense and stressful, visible far below on the hot and muggy coastal lowland, beyond which the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea stretched out to the horizon.

I am always deeply touched by the generosity and wisdom of people who, like Friedlander's memorializers, transform their personal bereavement into affirmations of life for the benefit of others. For it is all too easy when visited by tragedy to lapse into a permanent state of brooding despair and bitterness.

At one point, as I stood idly gazing upon Daniel's portrait, the rapturous sounds of a young ensemble in rehearsal behind me, I reflected upon the irrepressible vitality of a culture that knows how to alchemize its ill fortune and grief into joy and promise. How different we are from so many of our Palestinian adversaries who tend to translate their personal misfortune into cults of hate, vengefulness and destruction.

Herein, perhaps, lies the great secret of our success and survival as a people. It is manifest in the hundreds of initiatives like Beit Daniel scattered about this land much-visited by tragedy. And its ultimate expression, no doubt, is to be found in the birth of the State of Israel, rising phoenix-like out of the flames and ashes of the Holocaust.

At the final recital, I melted with pride. It touched me deeply knowing that my own son, Yoel, had turned his talents to the creation of something so beautiful, gentle and innocent. Growing up in central Jerusalem, he has known first-hand, and at very close range, his fair share of raw fear, violence and brutality. That he has been somewhat "damaged" by it, as we all have, goes without saying. And yet the proof that the forces of light had triumphed over those of darkness was now clearly evident before me.

I was infused throughout with an inner calm that I had not experienced so genuinely and profoundly in a very long time. And indeed, had the sinister, muffled droning of a helicopter, one of those ominous bearers of bad tidings, not intruded so rudely upon the fragile equilibrium, the day would have been perfectly heavenly from first to last.

But afterward, as we made our way down the road from the heights of Mount Carmel to the coastal plain below, we turned our radio back on. News of the latest suicide attack in Netanya quickly and abruptly dispelled the lingering mood of magic. The swarm of helicopters had thickened. At one point, I took a quick look back over my shoulder, up toward that mountain summit where the thin ether of music can make you almost giddy with pleasure.

I noted the curious dark cloud that, despite it being summer, had drifted in from the sea, and how Beit Daniel had slipped out of view somewhere behind it.

Culiner@netvision.net.il

Disengaging rabbinic and political authority

The battle over Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank is not only about borders, terrorism and demography. It also reflects the ongoing struggle between rabbinic and political authority.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

On the one hand, the government and political leaders, starting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and backed by a Knesset majority, have decided on disengagement. And they have ordered the army and police to implement this decision. In contrast, the leadership of the opposition includes many prominent rabbis who have instructed their followers to disobey orders related to this process. While other rabbis disagree with such political involvement, their voices are muted, and the confrontation between political and rabbinical authorities is likely to grow.

For many religious Israelis, this conflict is extremely disturbing, and it highlights the unresolved conflict of Orthodoxy in modern Israeli society. The members of this group were taught to respect and listen to the rabbis, without making any distinction between religious rulings and political judgments. But as citizens in a democracy, they are also bound by its rules.

Until recently, rabbinic and political leaders have managed to find compromises on the most difficult issues. After a long debate over defining the Jewish content of the Israeli state, both sides agreed to live without a written constitution. Instead, rabbinical and secular leaders clash over specific issues as they arise.

For example, when the debate over conversion to Judaism reached an impasse, both sides agreed to remove the religious designation from government identify cards. In this way, political leaders could maintain one set of criteria for who is a Jew, and religious groups could set their own definitions.

Another major point of contention has been the Israeli army. After a long and difficult period of negotiation, the Israel Defence Forces agreed to allow religious soldiers – men and women – to serve in special units. The rabbis continue to maintain religious authority in this framework, while military issues are left in the hands of the officers. The army rabbinate helps mediate clashes with respect to Shabbat regulations and other issues involving observant soldiers.

Recently, the number of haredi recruits has increased dramatically, and their role in defending Israel against terrorism has been important. As well, according to published information, more than 40 per cent of Israeli army personnel are religious. So, at least up till now, the system has worked.

But on the critical issues of territories and settlements, there is no room for compromise.

The IDF, under the control of the democratically elected government, has ordered soldiers to proceed with disengagement from Gaza, including the removal of all Israeli citizens.

Yet, the opposing rabbis have told religious soldiers to refuse these "unacceptable orders" from the secular state. Claiming to speak for a higher authority, a number of rabbis have argued that the government is acting undemocratically and has no authority to force Jews to leave any part of the Land of Israel.

As a result, a few soldiers have refused to carry out their orders during the first stages of the disengagement process, including the closing off of Gaza's Jewish communities to prevent pro-settler reinforcements from entering. Many others are extremely confused and conflicted about being forced to choose between their loyalty to the state and the IDF on the one hand and the rabbis on the other.

It's too early to know how this conflict will end, and how many religious soldiers – including a major part of the officer corps – will feel estranged from the IDF, or how many will abandon the religious framework as a result of the tension and join the secular, and even anti-religious segments, of society.

But for many other religious Zionists, the intensity of this clash might lead them to reject the scope of rabbinical authority in the political sphere. This could also decrease the secular political leadership's ability to forcibly narrow the definition of the Jewish elements in Israeli public life.

Ironically, this clash could lead to a richer and less politicized expression of the Jewish renaissance in Israel.

The passing parade...

They died recently, leaving footprints in time...

Norman Levine, the Canadian novelist and short-story writer (*Thin Ice* and *Canada Made Me*), was a master stylist. **Batya Gur**, the Israeli mystery writer (*A Saturday Morning Murder*), created the detective hero Michael Ohayon. **Ephraim Kishon**, probably Israel's best-known humourist, wrote books (*Look Back, Mrs. Lott!* and *So Sorry We Won!*, among others) and film scripts (*Sallah Shabtai* and *The Policeman*).

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Susan Sontag was an essayist (*Notes on Camp*, *On Photography* and *Illness as Metaphor*), novelist (*In America*), human rights activist, intellectual and celebrity. **Gerald Clark** (Jacob Klughaupt) was editor of the *Montreal Star*, a five-time winner of the National Newspaper Award for feature writing, the author of *Impatient Giant: Red China Today*, and the first Jewish editor of McGill University's student newspaper, the *McGill Daily*. **Jack Newfeld** was a muckraking journalist whose work appeared in the *Village Voice* and an author whose books ran the gamut from *The Permanent Government: Who Really Rules New York?* to *City for Sale: Ed Koch and the Betrayal of New York*. **Shana Alexander** was the editor of *McCall's* magazine, a *Newsweek* and *Life* columnist, a television personality on *60 Minutes* and the author of novels and a memoir. **Henry Grunwald**, a Jewish refugee from Nazi-occupied Vienna, rose to become editor of *Time* magazine, and after his retirement in 1987, he was appointed U.S. ambassador to Austria.

Gershon Jacobson was the editor and publisher of *Der Algemeiner Journal*, the New York-based Yiddish newspaper he founded in 1972. **James Weinstein** founded and edited the progressive magazine *In These Times*. **Pearl Sheffy Gefen** was a Toronto arts journalist who divided her time between Canada and Israel. **George Herman,** the CBS TV reporter, was the first American foreign correspondent to file sound-and-film reports from abroad (1949) and the moderator of *Face the Nation* (1969-1983). **Leroy Aarons**, a correspondent for the *Washington Post*, founded the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association and was its first president.

Arthur Miller, the American playwright, wrote two enduring works, *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*, and was briefly married to screen icon Marilyn Monroe. **Ernest Lehman**, the Hollywood scriptwriter, wrote or co-wrote several classics: *The Sound of Music*, *North by Northwest*, *West Side Story* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* **David Daiches**, a Scottish historian and literary biographer, wrote the standard work, *Scotch Whisky: Its Past and Present*, and books on Robert Burns.

Al Wasserman was a filmmaker whose documentaries included *The Age of Kennedy* and *The Making of a President*. **Otto Plaschkes** produced *Georgy Girl*, the dark comedy starring Lynn Redgrave. **Sy Wexler** directed educational films, from *Teeth are for Life* to *High Blood Pressure*. **Charlotte Kempner Beyers** made documentaries about AIDS, notably *AIDS in Your School* and *AIDS and Women*. **Morris Engel**, an independent moviemaker (*The Little Fugitive*), influenced such directors as John Cassavetes and Francois Truffaut.

William Sackheim produced the TV shows *Gidget* and *The Flying Nun*, while **Richard Lewine** was a television producer who supervised Barbra Streisand's first special, *My Name is Barbra*.

Lillian Lux (Lukashefsky) was an actress and singer of the Yiddish stage who had her own Yiddish radio show. Her husband was the actor Pesach Burstein. **Leon Askin (Aschkenasy),** a refugee from Austria, played Gen. Albert Burkhalter in the the 1960s TV comedy *Hogan's Heroes*. **Jerry Orbach**, a Broadway actor/singer, portrayed a shrewd detective in the television series *Law and Order*.

Alexander Brott founded the McGill Chamber Orchestra and composed more than 100 symphonies. **Gary Bertini** was music director of the Israel Chamber Ensemble and the Jerusalem Symphony. **Sergiu Comissiona** conducted the Haifa Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and the Houston Symphony, and directed the New York City Opera.

Lazar Berman, the pianist, interpreted the works of Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and Beethoven. **Robert Koff** was a founding member of the Juilliard String Quartet, and **Isidore Cohen,** a violinist, was one of its members. **Artie Shaw** was a clarinet virtuoso and a big-band leader. **Karl Haas** hosted *Adventures in Good Music*, once the world's most popular music radio show.

William Lieberman held top curatorial positions at the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan and influenced two generations of collectors. **Arthur Rosenblatt**, an architect, played a role in reshaping the Metropolitan Museum of Art and giving form to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. **Leona Rostenberg**, a rare book scholar/dealer and past president of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, discovered a series of novels written by Louisa May Alcott before she became famous. **Andrea Dworkin**, the feminist, wrote *Woman Hating*, *Heartbreak: The Political Memoir of a Feminist Militant* and *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*. **Arnold Denker**, the U.S. chess champion in 1944, led the United States to four consecutive world titles.

Will Eisner was a comic book illustrator and the author of the graphic novel *The Plot: The Secret Story of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. **Hy Peskin**, the first staff photographer of *Sports Illustrated*, captured some of the most momentous moments in golf, boxing and baseball. **Henry Wolf**, a photographer and graphic artist, was art director of *Esquire* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Martin Blumenson, a military historian, produced biographies of three U.S. generals, Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton and Mark Clark. **Robert Heilbroner,** an economist, wrote *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*. **Seymour Melman**, a Columbia University economist who studied the social costs of military spending, helped galvanize the nascent peace movement in the United States in the 1950s.

Sol Linowitz was a principal developer of the Xerox Corporation, a U.S. special envoy to the Middle East in the late 1970s, the negotiator of the Panama Canal treaties and an advisor to three presidents. **Lloyd Cutler** was a counsellor to two American presidents and worked on issues ranging from the Iran hostage crisis to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. **Milton Wolf** headed the American Joint Distribution Committee and served as U.S. ambassador to Austria. **Arthur Naftalin** was mayor of Minneapolis for eight years in the 1960s.

Israel Epstein, a journalist, author and propagandist in China, edited *China Today*, translated the writings of top Chinese leaders and served on government Communist party committees. **Peter Benenson**, the son of a Russian Jewish banker, founded Amnesty International, the human rights organization. **Sol Stein** was president of the Textile Workers Union of America. **Lynn King (Waisberg)** was an Ontario court judge and a member of Toronto's first all-female law firm.

Edward Bronfman was a Canadian entrepreneur who controlled 40 publicly traded companies by the late 1980s. **Jef Raskin** headed the team that created the Macintosh computer. **Joseph Schreter** was a Romanian-born businessman whose department store was a Montreal landmark. **Janet Reger,** a British fashion designer and manufacturer, was known for her line of lingerie. **Jay Schulberg**, an advertising executive, coined the phrase, "Don't leave home without it," for American Express travellers checks. **Naomi Leff** was an interior designer whose clients included Ralph Lauren, Gucci, Giorgi Armani, Tom Cruise and Steven Spielberg. **William Lester**, a mechanical engineer, revolutionized the plastic industry with his design for an automatic moulding machine. **Alex Leibowitz** invented the Piermatic, the first automatic diamond polishing machine.

Julius Axelrod, who was instrumental in the development of the pain reliever Tylenol, was a co-winner of the 1970 Nobel Prize in medicine. **Morris Simon**, a Harvard radiologist, developed the widely used flexible filter to catch and dissolve blood clots. **William Silverman**, a physician, helped alter the treatment of premature infants. **Paul Ehrlich**, an epidemiologist, was acting U.S. surgeon general in the 1970s. **Judd Marmor**, a psychiatrist, was influential in removing homosexuality from the American Psychiatric Association's official list of clinical disorders.

Albert Schatz, a microbiologist, helped develop the antibiotic streptomycin, the first effective treatment for tuberculosis. **Hans Bethe**, a physicist, was one of the builders of the atomic bomb. **George Dantzig,** a mathematician, devised an algorithm essential in linear programming, a vital component in the computer industry. **Miriam Rothschild** was a British naturalist and heiress to a fortune. **Victor Wouk**, an electrical engineer, built one of the first hybrid cars. **Morris Cohen**, a metallurgist, helped develop the modern discipline of materials science.

Peter Malchin was the Mossad agent who abducted war criminal Adolf Eichmann. **Robert Maguire** was the chief pilot of Operation Magic Carpet, which evacuated some 40,000 Jews from Yemen from 1948 to 1950.

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ROSE FAMILY CLUB CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY: The Rose Family Club recently celebrated its 60th anniversary at the Wagman Centre at Baycrest Terrace with 135 in attendance. Highlights included a slide show by Steve Matz of Michigan recounting his climb up Mount Everest and the honouring of senior members Jean Rose, Ida Shafer, secretary, and Dave Rose, treasurer. The club was founded in 1945 by patriarch Beryl Rose "so cousins won't pass in the street and not know each other." Beryl and his wife, Mintzi, had 15 children, two of whom died in infancy, and 11 of whom moved from the Ukraine to Toronto in the 1920s. The family club holds monthly meetings, annual summer picnics and Chanukah parties, and an anniversary party every five years, bringing cousins together from across Canada, the United States, Israel and England.

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Join in mourning the untimely loss of
our dear partner and friend

HARRY MARCH ז"ל

Heartfelt condolences are extended to his beloved wife, Marlene,
his children Carly and Mark, Jared and Evan,
and his entire family.

May his entire family be spared further sorrow and be counted among mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Why do Jewish schools make McGuinty sad?

By SHELDON BASCH

School Parents SPEAK

I recently signed up for Canadian Jewish Congress's excellent daily e-mail service, which provides excerpts of statements made in the Ontario legislature that are of interest to the Jewish community. What I have seen so far has been quite disappointing.

On what seems like a daily basis, Premier Dalton McGuinty and his ministers disparage "private" education and anyone who favours supporting educational choices outside the public school system.

For example, on May 5, in answer to a question from an opposition MPP about school closings, the premier stated: "Here are some basic facts: the NDP, on their watch, closed 155 public schools. The Conservatives, on their watch, closed 503 public schools. At the same time, sadly, 266 private schools opened… I'll put our record against those records any day."

Get that? According to McGuinty, it's a sad thing when a private school opens.

In the abstract, that might be a legitimate opinion. However, as the premier well knows, under the current discriminatory education funding system in Ontario, Jewish schools are only permitted to operate as private schools. As a result, the government's policy of opposition to private education includes, as an integral element, opposition to Jewish and other non-Catholic faith-based schools.

The premier's words in the legislature offer no glimmer of recognition that non-Catholic faith-based schools should be recognized as equally valuable and as worthy of government support as publicly funded Catholic and public schools. Just the opposite, in fact. Jewish schools are private schools, and private schools make the premier sad.

This is especially disturbing given the well established importance of Jewish day school education in ensuring Jewish continuity. In the ultimately unsuccessful Adler case (which went to the Supreme Court of Canada) on school funding, the court found, based on expert evidence, that "the Jewish community's survival as an identifiable and practising religious community depends upon broad access for Jewish children to Jewish day schools."

In opposing non-discriminatory education funding, the premier and his ministers are unintentionally undermining the very real ongoing struggle of the Jewish community and other minority religious communities for cultural survival.

To throw salt in our wound, at the same time as the premier attacks non-discriminatory education funding, he speaks publicly as if his government was a champion of minority rights. For example, on May 10, in answer to an NDP question about the government's support for measures to eliminate racial discrimination against nurses who are members of racial minorities, McGuinty stated: "I know that I speak for every single member of this legislature when I say that we stand against discrimination of any kind, whether it's against our nurses or any other Ontarian."

The undisputed reality is quite different. McGuinty's government has consistently refused to comply with the UN Human Rights Committee's 1999 ruling that Ontario's Catholic-only denominational school funding is discriminatory and in violation of international law. In fact, his government took steps to fully reinstate the discrimination by retroactively removing the former government's "Equity in Education Tax Credit" that had begun to level the playing field for non-Catholic religious minorities.

Perhaps the premier feels that it's enough if he stands up against anti-Semitism, as he has done with admirable alacrity. But the reality is that his government's ongoing policy of deliberately overlooking official religious discrimination, in open violation of international law, means that no member of a minority community can feel secure.

Furthermore, if the price of the premier's active opposition to anti-Semitism is that the Jewish community is expected to silently accept ongoing discrimination in the public service that most affects our ability to ensure Jewish continuity, then the forces of anti-Semitism will have won a partial victory.

The premier and his government should rethink their continuing failure to provide fair and non-discriminatory support for the minority of faith based schools in Ontario that are not already fully funded by the government.

To help end this discrimination, contact the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools at oajds@canada.com.

Sheldon Basch is the parent of three children, who attend Associated Hebrew Schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Greater Toronto Area

Book chronicles Israelis' love of country

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Benay Katz, a Milwaukee, Wis. native who made aliyah 30 years ago, wants people to know how Israelis really feel about living in Israel.

Together with friend Liza Wiemer who still lives in Milwaukee, she wrote *Waiting for Peace, How Israelis Live with Terrorism*, a collection of interviews with Israelis from all walks of life.

The book came about, said Katz, who was here on a recent promotional tour, after Wiemer become frustrated with the inaccuracies of the news media on the coverage of Israel.

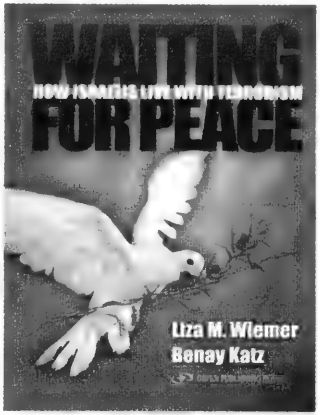
"She would call me after every attack and ask about the [mood in the country]," said Katz.

Wiemer travelled to Israel, and together she and Katz went across the country interviewing some 75 Israelis about their particular situation.

"I set up the interviews before she arrived, and I tried to pick as wide a range of people as possible. Not all the 44 people who are in the book are terrorist victims, but everyone has been affected by terrorism. Israel is a small country; everyone knows someone."

Among those interviewed were a girl who was injured in a terrorist attack, residents of a northern Shomron settlement, a driver of an armoured bus, a reserve soldier, a university student and the head of an aid centre for troubled neighbourhoods.

The common thread, Katz said, was that everyone was optimistic, and "they all expressed their love of Israel. No one voiced hate for the Arabs, Their only wish was for peace.



Benay Katz
(Carolyn Blackman photo)

"It was like one voice coming out of the country. They all said, 'Let's get over this and coexist.'"

Katz, who lives with her five children and husband Jeff in a small community on a hill overlooking the Jezriel Valley, said Israeli high school students take part in coexistence seminars, and "are always taught to strive for peace.

"A few years back, 79 per cent of Palestinian children said they wanted to be suicide bombers."

Those interviewed did express fear, she said, but the older they were, the less fear they felt.

"I have a chapter about an elderly couple who was in the Palmach. The intifadah is just another chapter for them. They do not see it as anything different. It is a continuation of past terrorism."

Katz said each of her five children carries a cellphone, and they keep constant track of each other. "Each parent is command central, although in the past few months, the cellphone bills have gone down a little."

Jeff Katz, a tour guide, said tourists are slowly coming back, but some people in the book said they were "disappointed with North American Jews for not supporting us. They felt deserted. Evangelical Christians were coming, but Jewish tourism was down by 90 per cent."

All profits from the book are being donated to charity, said Katz. "This is our mission. [Liza] started by asking me, 'What can we do to help Israel?' This is what we did."

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שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

סרור באירופה

אל קעידה "לקח אחראיות" על הפיצוצים בלונדון, וכך תוך שעות ספורות הפכה לונדון החוגגת, שזכתה באירוח אולימפיאדת 2012 למקום מוכה ומבוהל, ממש כמו תל אביב וירושלים. לא, אינני חס ושלום שמח לאיד, אבל עינתה של אירופה כלפי ישראל, החרמת מדענים ישראלים, השחצנות -אולי לאט לאט יתחילו הם להבין שהטרור האיסלאמי אינו רק נגד ישראלים באשר הם יהודים, אלא כלפי כל צורת חיים מערבית תרבותית.

כאשר יענו אותנו

הינה כמה מספרים מעדכנים ששמים את הפרופורציות הנכונות על ישראל:
עץ תמר טיפוסי במזרח התיכון מתנשא לגובה של שישה מטרים, וזה הגובה שצריך לטפס כדי להוריד ממנו 10 ק"ג של תמרים. עד שבאו מדענים ישראלים והקטינו את העץ, ועכשיו אפשר לקטוף ממנו בלי לטפס 100 ק"ג של תמרים.
כלכלת ישראל שעברה את ה-100 מיליארד דולאר, היא גדולה יותר מכלכלת כל שכנותיה ביחד.
את הטלפון הסלולארי שהפך למרכז חיינו פיתחו במעבדות מוטורולה בישראל, כמו גם את תוכנת "חלונות" שאי אפשר בלעדיה.
ובהמשך לכתבה מלפני שבועיים על עליונות מערכת הרפואה בישראל-משאל שנערך לאחרונה מגלה שהישראלים מאוד שבעי רצון ממערכת הרפואה שלהם. אבל שישאר בינינו.

סרטי קיץ

הינה שני סרטים שיעשו לכם טוב. אני חוסך לכם כמה סרטי ככה ככה שנקלענו אליהם...
Brothers הוא סרט דני על שני אחים, והיחסים שביניהם ומשפחתם. המוצלח ביניהם הוא קצין שנופל בשבי באפגניסטן. הצעיר-בעל עבר פלילי, נשאר מאחור לתמוך במשפחת אחיו. סרט חזק, עשוי בכנות רבה ובלי כחל וסרק. תשע בסולם קורן.
Saving Face הוא סיפורן של שתי נשים צעירות ממוצא סיני שמגלות משיכה הדדית, ומנהלות חיים לסביים בקהילה המאוד שמרנית של סינים בניו יורק.
לאחת מהן, רופאה מנתחת צעירה ומוכשרת, יש אמא חד הורית שמגלה יום אחד שהיא בהריון בשנות הארבעים לחייה, ומשפחתה מקבלת את החדשות בצורה מאוד קשה.
כל הסְמֶטוֹכָה הזאת מתוארת בחוש הומור רב ובדיאלוגים שנונים, עם סוף אופטימי. תענוג אמיתי. תשע בסולם קורן.

בדיחה יהודית

אין כמו בדיחות האידיש להרטיב את המכנסיים. הרבה פעמים הן מאבדות את חינן בתרגום. אבל לא הבדיחה הקצרה הבאה: בימי העוני הגדולים בעירה היהודית נהגו להגיד:
"אם יהודי אוכל תרנגולת- סימן שאחד מהם חולה"....

בנק חדש

יש בישראל, כמו פה, בנקים רבים מכל הסוגים וכל הצבעים. אבל ממש בימים אלה מחוקקת הכְּנֶסֶת חוק להקמת בנק לאומי לחלב אֵם, כדי שאימהות שאינן יכולות להניק, עדיין תוכלנה לתת לילדיהן את החלב הטוב ביותר שיש עבור תינוקות. הראש הישראלי-מה לא עושים לשיפור סיכוייו של ילד. אבל שישאר בינינו.

Hitler items fetch $32,400 at Montreal auction

BRAM EISENTHAL
JTA

MONTREAL — Which was the ultimate irony, some wondered – the fact an auction that included six items illustrated or signed by Adolf Hitler was held in a church, or that it took place in a city with one of the world's largest communities of Holocaust survivors?

Despite a glut of publicity, much of it negative, Montreal auction house Iegore-Hotel des Encans, which is housed in an old church, went ahead with its art auction on the evening of July 19, selling almost all of its 212 lots, including the six Hitler items, which sold for a total of $32,400 to a buyer who wished to remain anonymous.

The auction house came into possession of the items – two signed greeting cards on personalized Adolf Hitler Third Reich stationary, and four architectural drawings done by the amateur artist and future dictator — through a party who also wished to remain anonymous.

When the auction became public several weeks ago, auctioneer Iegor de Saint Hippolyte, 57, a Russian immigrant who came to Canada in 1983, was thrown on the defensive.

"I understand why some people might be upset," he told *The CJN*. "My own grandfather was in a concentration camp. But I'm doing it for the same reason I would sell a poster of Lenin or Trotsky…. it is part of history and also my job."

Members of the Jewish community didn't share that reasoning.

"We find it deplorable that these objects, originally belonging to one of the most reviled mass murderers in history, would financially benefit either the seller or the purchaser," said Ann Ungar, executive director of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and Museum.

"Without a doubt, these objects should be given to an institution devoted to education and research, for the benefit of the general public."

The three-hour auction included several Miros, a Picasso that was pulled because it was thought to be fake and a Warhol, among other items. But none of those mattered to those who came to see what happened to the Hitler works.

"Members of the media will have to leave the room," Saint Hippolyte announced in French five minutes before the Hitler lots came up. The winning bids, which all came from the same unidentified person, were placed by phone.

Hitler's pencil-on-paper drawing called "House Wachenfeld," or Mountain House, went for $7,000, as did "Monument," a charcoal drawing on paper.

The next two items — a greeting card signed in 1935 and another from 1938 — went for $2,100 and $2,300, respectively.

A pencil-on-paper drawing by Hitler associate Albert Speer of the Linz Opera House – which Hitler later "corrected" – went for $7,500, while a pencil-on-paper sketch called "German School" sold for $6,500.

There was one other Nazi-related item auctioned the same evening, a black-and-white photo of the Christian Nazi Socialist Party of Canada, taken at an organizational assembly on June 20, 1938. It sold for $250.

Jews for Jesus plans fall blitz on Montreal

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Officials from the counter-missionary group Jews for Judaism vow they'll confront Jews for Jesus on the streets of Montreal this fall when the Christian missionary group targets the city's Jews for the first time.

"We will definitely be there," said Julius Ciss, director of Toronto-based Jews for Judaism.

Jews for Jesus will be in Montreal from Sept. 18 to Oct. 8 as part of its "Behold Your God" campaign, a five-year, $22 million (US) international recruitment drive. Started in 2001, it aims to convert as many Jews as possible to Christianity in 65 cities worldwide with Jewish populations of 25,000 or more.

Ciss said that even though Montreal has a reputation for being a very traditional Jewish community that is almost impervious to the influence of Christian messianic groups, that shouldn't be taken for granted.

"It's true there's never been a branch of Jews for Jesus in Montreal, but there have been several messianic synagogues. Where were the Jews who went there coming from?" he asked.

"Jews for Jesus is the largest such type of group in terms of both budget and world outreach."

Toronto was targeted in 2003 and thus far has been the only other Canadian city targeted by the campaign. Ciss said that worldwide, the drive has handed out 11.5 million pamphlets, leading to 12,500 recipients "expressing an interest" in Christianity and 851 people becoming "evangelical Jews."

Montreal's Jewish population "tends to be more religiously observant than other Jewish communities in North America," Jews for Jesus notes on its Canadian website.

"Also, many Holocaust survivors reside in Montreal. The reality is that most Jews have never heard the Gospel in terms they can understand and are perishing without Messiah! Montreal is indeed a city which needs the hope of the Gospel!"

The site adds that the global campaign "might just be the largest evangelistic effort since those first-century Jews for Jesus proclaimed the good news!"

Ciss said Jews for Judaism does not object to Christian missionaries spreading their message.

"What we oppose is the specific targeting of Jews as a minority," he said. "We also object to the deception they [Jews for Judaism] use, such as using Jewish symbols and terminology, or the notion that Jews [who believe Jesus is the Messiah] can also be 'fulfilled' or 'committed' Jews."

On its website, the missionary group says it plans to use "prayer partners," "campaigners" and "stewards" – behind-the-scenes people – to facilitate its work in Montreal.

Jews for Judaism will counter the campaign through "preventive education" and other activities.

"First, we will educate the Jewish community about the whole issue of why Jews don't accept Christian belief," Ciss said.

"We will also use our literature, advertise in media, have programming for adults, go to Jewish day schools and synagogues, and even figure out where [Jews for Jesus] will be distributing their literature so we can be there to hand out our own."

"They go to visible street corners with high pedestrian traffic at peak hours," he said.

"Don't expect to see them outside Cavendish Mall," he added, referring to a popular shopping destination in the Jewish neighbourhood of Cote St. Luc.

Sometimes, the group missionizes in unanticipated locations, Ciss said, "but 75 per cent of the time, we find them."

Plans also call for an all-day counter-missionary seminar at a Montreal synagogue.

Ciss, who himself was part of Jews for Jesus for five years, said Jews for Judaism even plans to rent space on a public billboard to advertise the screening of one of its documentaries, *Survivor's Story*.

It will also be recruiting local volunteers and is seeking the cooperation of other Jewish organizations.

In late June, he and Rabbi Michael Skobac, Jews for Judaism's education director, met with officials from Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, to map out a plan of action ahead of the fall campaign.

Ciss said Jews for Judaism is working "non-stop" in the lead-up to Sept. 18.

He hoped Jews for Jesus' first Montreal drive won't be very effective, but "even one [conversion] is too many," he said.

"When I was a member, I must have seen 200 or 300 Jews come through the door. I don't want to see a single Montreal Jew get involved. This is something we can pre-empt."

Jews for Judaism can be reached at 905-761-0040.

THE KASHRUTH COUNCIL OF CANADA
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Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

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Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

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Mazel tov Millie & Harry Vogelhut on your 50th wedding anniversary. Love, your children Howard, David, Lionel and Jodi and grandchildren Alexandra, Zachary, Sabrina and Sydney.

Anita and Mendel Shore

With much love from your adoring children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov! Ken & Shelley Ross are pleased to announce their daughter Rachel has been selected for the Knight Science Journalism Fellowship at MIT Harvard University.

Elana & Eyal Ravas are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child Rebecca (Rivka) Alexandra (Avital) born on April 17.

Mazel tov to Sam Rotish, who is pictured here celebrating his 105th birthday with his great-grandchildren. He lives in Toronto with his wife Ann.

Happy first birthday Ashley Lauren, daughter of Shoshana & Sheldon Hauer. We love you very much!

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Aug. 8, is the deadline for the Aug. 18 issue, Monday, Aug. 15, is the deadline for the Aug. 25 issue, and Monday, Aug. 22, is the deadline for the Sept. 1 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Aug. 4

AFTER THE PULLOUT

Betar-Tagar Likud presents the the Canadian premiere of the documentary *Qassam: Life in the Shadow of the Pullout* by **Igal Hecht,** followed by the presentation of the Ze'ev Jabotinsky national awards for campus activism. **Cobi Brosh**, consul general of Israel, and **Amos Hermon**, of the Jewish Agency for Israel, will also speak. 7:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St.

Sunday, Aug. 7

HOT 'N' COLE

Join Adath Shalom Synagogue for a day trip to Artpark to see *Hot 'n' Cole*, a tribute to Cole Porter. $60 includes transportation. Call 416-635-0131 to reserve and prepay.

WALKING GROUP

Join "Walk, Talk Etc.," a walking group for Jewish singles 50-70, and enjoy the natural vegetation of Toogood Pond in historic Unionville. Meet in the parking lot of Crosby Community Centre parking lot, Main and Carlton St. at 9:30 a.m. For information and registration, e-mail walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

HEALING SERVICE

Judy Shier Weisberg leads a healing service at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., Room 420, 3-4 p.m. Free, wheelchair access. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

CHARITY VARIETY SHOW

Enjoy a night of entertainment and support the Home for Autistic Adults with the Mark Eisenman Trio, jazz vocalist **Rosanne Agasee**, the a cappella group Cadence, storyteller **Alf Kwinter** and pop singer **Jerry Silverman**. 7:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets $10 at the door or call 416-221-3284.

BIO & CHEMICAL TERROR

Dr. Leon Genesove, chief physician at the Ontario Ministry of Labour, discusses "Biological and Chemical Terrorism: The Current Situation," at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 8 p.m. Members free, guests $2.

SPEED DATING

Aish HaTorah invites singles for speed-dating. Invest one evening and meet several people, in individual one-on-one conversations of seven minutes each. To register, contact **Aliza Terris** at 905-764-1818, ext 316, or e-mail aterris@aish.com. Phone interview is required.

Tuesday, Aug. 9

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women hold a huge garage sale every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through the summer. Sale includes items for the whole family, including, books, kitchen items, clothing, shoes, toys and games. Admission and parking free. 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100 or www.ncjwc-ts.org.

EMUNAH BAAZAR

The Haifa Chapter of Emunah Women holds a bazaar at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

JEWISH HEALTH ALLIANCE

The Jewish Health Alliance presents a lecture with **Susan Helfenbaum** titled "Ascension and Integration Through Guided Imagery: A Jewish Healing Path to Disease Prevention and Treatment." $10. 8 p.m. at 1 Rostrevor Rd. For information and registration, call 416-208-0610 or visit www.jewishhealthalliance.com.

Continued on page 17

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- An understanding of Jewish practices and community in Toronto.

Interested applicants should e-mail their resume to HR@torontoheschel.org by no later than ***August 15, 2005.***
We thank all applicants for their interest however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Continued from page 16

Other news

MEMORIAL EVENING

The Yiddish Council of Toronto, the committee for Yiddish/UJA Federation and the Beth Tzedec Congregation present the 53rd annual memorial evening for the murdered members of the Jewish anti-fascist committee in the former USSR. The murders took place on Aug. 12, 1952. The evening includes Yiddish and English with readings by **Ruth Borchiver**, songs by **Miriam Eskin** and **David Abramowitz** speaking on "The Victims' Identities," and **Simcha Simchovitch** speaking on "The Legacy of the Martyrs." Thursday, Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

AM SHALOM SERVICES

Am Shalom Congregation, 80 Bradford St. in Barrie, holds services Friday, Aug. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at 5 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 26, at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 705-792-3949 or visit www.amshalom.ca.

TEEN BEACH VOLLEYBALL

B'nai Brith Youth, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Jewish Immigrant Aid teens are invited to Beach Volleyball night at the BJCC, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 6-9 p.m. $3. To register, call the BBYO office at 416-398-2004 or e-mail info@bbyo.on.ca.

BEIT HALOCHEM GOLF DAY

Join Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada, for their eighth annual golf day Wednesday, Aug. 17, at Angus Glen. For information, call 905-695-0611.

KOLEL CLASSES

Join summer classes at Kolel. Choose from "Learn to Read Hebrew," "Jewish Perspectives on Life and Love," "Heshbon Hanefesh," "Taste of Judaism," "Prayer and Percussion" and "Hot Topics in the Middle East." Classes start in August. For information and registration, call 416-485-7007, ext. 0.

READY SET GO NURSERY

Adath Israel Synagogue offers "Ready Set Go," a pre-nursery program beginning in September for children who are 2½ years old. For information, call **Rachel** at 416-635-5340.

BETH SHALOM NURSERY

Beth Shalom Playtime Nursery, a casually structured program for toddlers and preschoolers, is accepting registration for 2005-06. Play groups are offered for 1 to 2-year-olds and 2 to 3-year olds. For information and registration, call 416-783-6103.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for the fall session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 6. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

JWI STERLING-MANOR

The Sterling-Manor chapter of Jewish Women International, formerly B'nai Brith Women, hold their 50th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at noon. All past and present members are invited. Call **Anne** at 416-783-4103 or **Yetta** at 416-733-3254 for information.

BOOK AND FILM CLUB

Beth Tzedec Book and Film Club meets on six Mondays from September through to May. Works to be discussed include *Leaving Earth* by **Helen Humphries** (Sept. 19); *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by **Azar Nafisi** (Nov. 14); *The Plot Against America* by **Phillip Roth** (Nov. 28); *The Dark Room* by Rachel Seiffert (Feb. 27); *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz (March 27); and the film *Walk on Water* (May 1). 1:30 p.m. Cost for the six sessions is $55.00 or $14 at the door. To register, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25, or 416-781-3511.

DEMENTIA EXAMINED

Baycrest Centre presents the premiere public screening of *Memory, for Max, Claire, Ida and company*, a documentary by **Allan King**, Thursday, Sept. 22, 6:30-9 p.m. The following day Baycrest presents a Social Work Clinic Day,"Talking Person to Person: Dementia Reconsidered," 8 a.m.-4 p.m., with keynote speakers **Anne Bastings**, **Maura McIntyre** and **Ardra Cole**. For information and registration, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2358.

STRATFORD TRIP

Join Beth Emeth Chai Shalom for a trip to the Stratford Festival to see *Hello Dolly,* Thursday, Nov. 2, for the 2 p.m. performance. $75 per person includes transportation. To reserve, call **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355.

NEW NCJW GROUPS

National Council of Jewish Women is forming new groups for young mothers, singles or anyone interested in meeting new people and getting involved in interesting fundraising projects. Call 416-633-5100.

FORUM 15 STUDY CLUB

Forum 15 Study Club, a multigenerational group offering lectures on current literary novels, often including Jewish content, welcomes new members. There are six sessions that take place on Thursday evenings throughout the year meeting in homes in the North York and Thornhill area. For information, call **Randy**, 416-756-0183.

EATING DISORDERS GROUP

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education and support groups for families and friends of individuals who are affected by eating disorders in a non-judgmental and non-threatening environment. Join them in Richmond Hill, Thursday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. Contact **Robyn** at 416-576-0457 or visit www.edoyr.com.

AMPUTEE SUPPORT

Chazak V'ematz is an outreach support group to help Jewish amputees adjust to life. Call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St., #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants with JIAS and Jewish Vocational Service staff are held every Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. For time and location, call **Joanna** at ext. 30

"Summer Fun" for newcomer families. Register now for summer outings in August. Call **Joanna** at ext. 30.

JIAS is seeking host families to help welcome three recently arrived singles and young families. To volunteer, call **Joanna** at ext. 30.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Aug. 4, dinner; Aug. 11, bingo; Aug. 18, Israeli movie; Aug. 25, picnic at Earl Bales. 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 10. Casino Niagara/Fallsview, Wednesday, September 21. Conversational Hebrew classes, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month; bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m; bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays, 9 a.m-1 p.m.

The Association of Jewish Seniors installation brunch with entertainment by **Michael Siskind** and **Nina Shapilsky** takes place Thursday, Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Reserve by Aug. 11. Call **Debbie Bernstein** at 416-635-2860.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, Sept. 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** for information at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Lunch 'n' Learn" with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, Aug. 5, 12-1 p.m. Room 202. Free. Bring your lunch; tea and coffee served.

"Current Events" Thursdays through Aug. 25, 1-2:30 p.m., with **Shura Verona** facilitating. Member $1, guests $2. For information, call ext. 259.

"Incognito," new and recent works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter**, are on display through Oct. 2 in the Koffler Gallery.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. There are openings in "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail." Each course is 16 hours, two classes per week, four weeks long. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

The Family Resource Centre located in the Promenade Mall is taking registration for fall parent and tot programs and parenting workshops. New drop-in hours begin Sept. 1. For information, visit www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca or call 905-882-8509.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for the fall in babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Registration is now open for September 2005 for the morning preschool and full-day day care programs.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Ignacy Cukierman	Jul 7/05	Natillo De Aguirre
Murray Garman	Jul 8/05	80 Antibes Dr.
Bessie Tepperman	Jul 10/05	429 Walmer Road
Henry Sokolowski	Jul 11/05	24 Renoak Drive
Verna Swartz	Jul 11/05	1700 Finch Ave. East
Harry March	Jul 12/05	1 Graywood Avenue
Manya Blatt	Jul 12/05	6 Fraserwood Avenue
Harold Bregman	Jul 12/05	10 Miriam Crescent
Bernice Dworkin	Jul 13/05	2 Neptune Drive
Betty Rosenbaum	Jul 13/05	640 Sheppard Ave. East
Fajwel Barac	Jul 13/05	333 Clark Ave. West
Rose Duviner Shulman	Jul 14/05	65 Spring Garden Ave.
Diana Morgulis	Jul 14/05	452 Castlefield Avenue
Cilka Silber	Jul 15/05	10 Prue Avenue
Patti Abela (Sara Yaffa)	Jul 15/05	209 Eli Cohen
Murray Mudrick	Jul 16/05	3560 Bathurst Street
Victor Chernick	Jul 17/05	6250 Bathurst Street
Ken Gladstone	Jul 17/05	2330 Bridletowne Circle
Abraham Michaelov	Jul 18/05	104 Trafalgar Square
Erna Fischer	Jul 18/05	205 Cummer Avenue
Annette Goldstein	Jul 19/05	282 St. Clair Ave. West
Annette Handelman	Jul 20/05	650 Briar Hill Avenue
Masia Solnicki	Jul 20/05	100 Canyon Avenue
Louis Shainhouse	Jul 20/05	3900 Yonge Street
Percy Smith	Jul 23/05	650 Briar Hill Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Rotter, Betty	July 6/05	Private
Weinberg, Jerry Azriel	July 12/05	75 Hidden Trail
Jacobs, Joyce C.	July 12/05	Private
Edelchteine, Pavel	July 17/05	Private
Heisel, Harry	July 17/05	3900 Yonge St
Itzhaki, Rywka	July 17/05	Private
Kramrish, Michael	July 15/05	California, U.S.A.
Sherman, Raja	July 18/05	34 Carscadden Dr
Litovitz, Malca Janice	July 18/05	7 Yeomans Rd
Perlman, Leah	July 20/05	642 Sheppard Ave E
Diament, Chaja	July 20/05	Private
Schaeffer, Ela Minnie	July 20/05	144 Cactus Ave

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The family of the late
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wishes to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all your kind support during our time of grief. Your visits, cards and thoughtful contributions helped bring us comfort and were a tribute to his memory.
Tauba Barac, Helen Grad, Goldi Goldberg and families

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL FELDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BLUMA KLODAWSKI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, S. of Steeles
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS WIGODA ז"ל
will take place
Thursday, Aug. 11th, 12:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Hebrew Friendly Sons of David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KUBA ZAIFMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Royal York Rd., S. of Eglinton
Chmielniker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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On Campus

Hooked on Hillel: board president says endowments would add stability

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

With the growth of anti-Israel sentiment on university campuses in recent years, the importance of having a place where students can explore their Jewishness in a pluralistic environment cannot be overstated, says Agi Mandel.

Now entering her second year as president of the board of Hillel of Greater Toronto, Mandel became involved in the organization in the late 1990s. In March, she was one of three Hillel lay leaders to receive the international organization's Exemplar of Excellence award.

In addition to taking on fundraising-related leadership roles for the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life – Canada's first purpose-built Hillel building – and developing the board by recruiting new members and increasing its involvement, Mandel has been an accessible, visible president, said Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto.

She often attends Hillel events, such as the January concert by Israeli singer Idan Raichel and an Israeli fashion show that took place in March.

"I love it," Mandel said in an interview at her Toronto home. "Once you've attended one of these things, you're hooked. There's an exhilaration to seeing the students having a great time and a meaningful experience that's special and that's Jewish."

Agi Mandel

Her board of more than 30 members includes six students, among them the elected presidents of Hillel at the University of Toronto, York University, Ryerson University and Seneca College.

Mandel, who also sits on the steering committee of National Jewish Campus Life, said she is impressed not just by the students' capabilities but by their emotional maturity in "dealing with issues that are challenging for everybody."

One aspect of Hillel involves "meeting the students on their own terms" and responding to their needs, she said. She stressed the importance of Hillel staff in providing continuity from year to year, but noted that "as much as possible, [planning] is student-driven."

An alumna of U of T, Mandel admits that Hillel was not on her radar screen when she attended the downtown campus in the mid-1970s.

Her current leadership role parallels her previous involvement at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – her "first love" – where she chaired the UJA Women's Campaign in 1998.

Although she hadn't sought involvement in either organization, in both cases she took an active role after being invited to participate.

"As in so many community situations, people just need to be asked," said the mother of two grown children – one of whom was an undergraduate at U of T when she first joined Hillel's board. "I found something I really enjoyed and valued. You get back so much more when you do get involved, and I think it's important in this case that the students feel the support of the community."

Mandel's goals include increasing Hillel's profile as "a critical program for keeping students connected to the larger Jewish community and each other at a pivotal time" in their lives, and increasing the organization's resources through fundraising.

"We'd love to establish endowments for different program initiatives that would stabilize our ability to plan," she said.

The Wolfond Centre, the focus of Hillel's last major fundraising project, "shows us the difference that a beautiful facility makes," said Mandel. "It energizes the whole program and really inspires pride."

The centre, she said, has become a model that will be referred to as Hillel proceeds with plans for refurbishment of premises at York University and eventually a new location there, as well as with plans for a newly dedicated space at Ryerson University.

When Mandel first became involved with Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto, as Hillel of Greater Toronto was then known, people didn't understand why a place like the Wolfond Centre was needed, she said.

"We've come a long way since then."

Health & Lifestyles

Comedy course gives confidence to the mentally ill

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Special to The CJN

For most of us, laughter is a momentary feeling of happiness that may stay with us throughout our day – a comedian or a funny sitcom makes you laugh and you enjoy the moment. Yet it's a transient thing.

But for David Granirer, laughter isn't just about feeling good. It's about helping people who are battling long-term mental illness.

Granirer has degrees in counselling and organizational behaviour. He's also a teacher, an experienced crisis centre counsellor and a stand-up comedian.

He uses this background to transform comedy into therapy, and he's helped many people – including himself – take control of their lives.

In 2004 he started a program called "Stand Up For Mental Health," a year-long course designed to instill confidence in people with mental illness by teaching them how to do stand-up comedy.

It's a labour of love for the 44-year-old Vancouverite, who has battled depression most of his adult life and sees a psychiatrist once a month.

"My depression probably hit in my late teens," he says. "But I wasn't diagnosed until my early 30s. [My psychiatrist] ended up telling me that she thought I was depressed. Like a lot of people, I really resisted that notion for about three years before I went on medication. I just thought it was normal to go around feeling depressed."

This is one of the myths the program is trying to challenge.

"It's really powerful in terms of fighting public stigma around mental illness. We're presenting people with mental illness as strong, capable, funny, resilient… and that's not the image that most people have of them," Granirer says.

His heritage played a part in why he started the program.

"I come from a family of Holocaust survivors. That's given me a real perspective on the world. It's influenced my outlook," he says. "I relate to people with mental illness because they also are outsiders in our society. Being Jewish, I've always rooted for the underdog. Jewish people are kind of the quintessential underdogs."

He cites the success of the program as proof there's a need for a new approach to helping people with mental illnesses.

Granirer believes his course provides a creative alternative for mental health providers to use in their attempts to engage the mentally ill.

Three months into the course, Granirer takes most of his students to perform live onstage.

It's a big leap for some, but the payoff is priceless.

"Part of the strength of this program is that the people in it tell the people in the audience exactly who they are, and the audience responds by cheering and laughing with them. And that is a huge boost to their confidence and self-esteem. It's like a super-charged support group," he says.

"When you go to [Alcoholics Anonymous], you tell your story and there's respectful silence. Well, in this group, people listen and then they laugh and applaud and tell you how great you are."

Continued on page 26

Adath Israel Congregation
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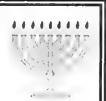

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Jewish Life

Great scientist, great Jew

By RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN

What makes for a great Jew? How do we know that we have encountered such an individual?

Dr. Mordecai Haffkine was offered the post of assistant professor of bacteriology at the Imperial University of Odessa in 1888. There was one condition attached: he would have to agree to be baptized a Christian. His response was this: "I was a Jew before I became a bacteriologist. I feel there is greater honour in remaining a Jew."

Shortly thereafter, when Haffkine left for Italy, there were two items he carried himself and did not give to a porter. One was a wooden box containing his microscope. The other was a black velvet bag with his tallit and tfillin.

The next year, 1889, Haffkine was invited to Paris to continue his research at the world-renowned Pasteur Institute. The day after his arrival, he was nailing something to the doorpost of his laboratory when Dr. Louis Pasteur stopped by to welcome him and asked him why he had begun renovating his laboratory so soon. Haffkine answered that it was a mezuzah, a quotation from the Torah that is nailed to the doorpost of a Jew's living quarters or workplace.

"But in a laboratory, Dr. Haffkine? In a place of science?" Dr. Pasteur asked.

Dr. Haffkine answered, "Particularly in a place where we search for truth and need God's guidance in the quest."

Pasteur went on to inquire what germs and bacteria Haffkine would like to study in order to find a cure. Without hesitation, Haffkine responded that would like to work on cholera. Pasteur asked him why, and Haffkine told him that people looked for a scapegoat after millions died during the Black Plague that swept Europe more than half a millennium earlier. The Jews were chosen and many were slaughtered.

"If I could find a serum for cholera, it would be a fitting memorial for those martyred," Haffkine explained.

After producing a serum that cured mice, Haffkine had to determine whether the serum was toxic to humans. Haffkine injected himself with cholera bacteria and then with serum. Forty eight hours later, Haffkine reported to Pasteur that a serum against cholera had been developed and that it was free of toxic reactions on humans.

Within several weeks, word came to Pasteur of a severe cholera outbreak in Odessa. Haffkine offered to return there with his serum. But the Russians had a problem with accepting the offer.

"The government of His Imperial Majesty prefers peasants to die with a prayer for the czar on their lips than to owe their lives to a Jew," he was told.

But Haffkine's opportunity to help came in 1893. Cholera had broken out in India and the British government requested that he bring his serum to India. He would remain there for 14 years.

"Life is holy unto the Lord." These are the words he would murmur to himself each time he went out to vaccinate a village. Accompanying him everywhere were his trusted microscope and his tallit and tfillin. He prayed every morning, seeking God's guidance as he went off to deliver his serum.

A great Jew, like Mordecai Haffkine, understands that life is holy. He also understands that the way to holiness is through a serious encounter with Jewish life, God, Torah, and the people of Israel.

Rabbi Mark Friedman is a chaplain at various hospitals and rabbi of Congregation Sha'ar Shalom in Montreal.

Disengagement on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

In a few days, the Jewish presence in the Gaza Strip will be no more. As Israel prepares to leave Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank, Israeli websites are in overdrive providing context, coverage and a forum for passionate voices. Here are some sites to watch. (Thanks to Rabbi Gedalia Zweig for this topic.)

In its "Engaging Disengagement" section, the Department for Jewish Zionist Education presents a summary of the disengagement plan, arguments for and against, and a very good list of where major Israeli groups and political parties stand. There's also a helpful explanation of how we ended up with the word "disengagement." In Hebrew, the word being used is "hitnatkut" or "hinatkut," which could be translated as "an act of self-separation." Finding an English equivalent has been tricky. "Withdrawal" has overtones of retreat under pressure. "Disengagement" was chosen because it lends itself to "the notion of a reduction in friction, without any overtly negative connotations." **[http://tinyurl.com/7lthz]**

If you want to spend time reading official position papers and pronouncements about disengagement, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs website is the place for you. There are more than 36 documents and public addresses there. **[http://tinyurl.com/43l87]** The central one, dated June 6, 2004, is the Israeli cabinet's resolution to approve the plan. It outlines how the process will work and talks about life after disengagement, "if and when there is evidence from the Palestinian side of its willingness, capability and implementation in practice of the fight against terrorism, full cessation of terrorism and violence and the institution of reform as required by the ["road map" peace plan], it will be possible to return to the track of negotiation and dialogue." **[http://tinyurl.com/5gh55]**

Israel's media are going all-out to provide in-depth coverage of the disengagement, many with special English language sections devoted to late-breaking events. Like most Israeli news sites, the *Jerusalem Post*'s Disengagement 2005 provides news, maps and analysis. One novel feature is a gallery of pro and anti bumper stickers. But it's the pointed commentary that makes the site compelling. Evelyn Gordon writes, "These protesters have no interest in public opinion, because they do not believe that democracy works." In "Rattling the Cape: the dark side of Chabad," Larry Derfner argues: "In Israel, the most significant, influential thing the movement does is spread political poison." **[http://tinyurl.com/auoxc]** Also check out *Ha'aretz* [http://tinyurl.com/cmpt4] and Ynetnews, *Yediot Achronot*'s English site. **[http://tinyurl.com/bogzn]**

Sites such as israelinsider, "Israel's Daily Newsmagazine," **[http://web.israelinsider.com/]** and Israel National News – also known as Arutz Sheva – **[www.israelnationalnews.com/]** make no secret of their opposition to the withdrawal. The Hebrew version of Arutz Sheva has an interesting interactive map with short videos about the settlements to be evacuated. **[www.inn.co.il/map/]**

Rabbi Shlomo Aviner has no sympathy for soldiers charged with evacuating settlements. His "The Expellers' Ten Commandments" includes such "commandments" as "I am not your God! Everyone has beliefs which accompany them throughout their lives. But when you expel, remember: You have no God! Otherwise you may, God forbid, remember your humanity when you see women and children crying at being expelled from their homes… Thou shalt steal! This you can carry out excellently by taking away a man's house and property, especially if he gets only minimal compensation – and then giving it all to murderers." **[http://web.israelinsider.com/ Views/6017.htm]**

Most criticism is coming from pullout opponents. But former MK Uri Avnery, founder of the Gush Shalom (the self-described "hard core of the Israeli peace movement") is not impressed either. **[http://gush-shalom.org/english/]** He writes that "in spite of all the loud talk about 'disengagement,' [Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon's heart is with the settlers. He intends to annex to Israel most of the West Bank settlements – if not all of them." **[http://tinyurl.com/chfyf]**

Current deputy mayor of Tel Aviv Yael Dayan, another former MK, sounds a more optimistic note. "It is not the final nor decisive step that will bring about peace – far from it – but without it we would be standing where we have been for 37 years, in occupation, depriving the Palestinians of their rights, propagating a lack of confidence, suffering from terror, and without dialogue with Palestinians." **[http://tinyurl.com/dtvsn]**

Next time, disengagement and the blogs.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. E-mail him at highway@rogers. com.

Jewish Life

Thoughts on diverse subjects

Books
Bernard Baskin

A number of my friends are collectors. They lust after art books, coins, pottery, old cars and period furniture. My craving, over the years, has been for written quotations.

These reflections, aphorisms, epigrams, observations and flashes of insight –call them what you will – are terse and prime examples of literary artistry. They usually involve a generalization or an observation about a recurring aspect of life that is unsettling or paradoxical.

The examples that follow include some original examples of my own.

• If speakers were compelled to talk before dinner, rather then after, we could all attend a banquet with a lighter heart, for nothing induces brevity more than an empty stomach.

• There's something wrong with the supply and demand of spirituality. There's lots of it in houses of worship when you don't much need it, and not enough when you are almost dying of disappointment and waiting lonely at a bus stop.

• When a person appears before the throne of judgment, the first question he could be asked is not, "Have you believed in God," or, "Have you prayed and observed the ritual," but, "Have you dealt honourably with your fellow man." –The Talmud

• In her last illness, my mother took my hand in hers tightly: for the first time I knew how callused a hand it was, and how soft was mine. –Charles Reznikoff

• The person who approaches me at a gathering and says rather belligerently, "I bet you don't remember me" is generally the kind of person I don't want to remember. He is brother to the nitwit who grins at me ominously with the challenge, "What's my name?"

• A question for the United Nations: how can two countries understand or empathize with each other when in one most of the adults are starving and in the other most are dieting?

• How many travellers would bother to take trips if they were bound to a vow of silence about the venture upon their return?

• One of the rarely considered advantages of growing old is the freedom to tell the truth about anything to anybody; and it is distressing that so few old persons take advantage of this liberty. That is because older people develop tact, which means to criticize privately, to avoid a dictatorial voice and to know when to avoid arguments.

• We take it as a compliment when told that we haven't changed a bit in 20 years. Is it really a compliment? I want my face and bearing to show some signs of the struggle for self-mastery over the years. A smooth porcelain face is a delight at 20, a rebuke at 40, and a mask of defeat at 80. –Sydney J. Harris

• The historian Will Durant reminded us that in the last 3,400 years of recorded history only 268 have been without war. The approaching war always seems necessary and "inevitable." It is only 20 years later that it is viewed as avoidable and futile. Is the mind condemned to live two steps behind the passion?

• There seems to be so much more evil than good in the world because evil is a short-term infection, while goodness is a long-term influence; thus it is always easier to see the dramatic effects of evil than the lengthening consequences of goodness.

• The most explosive combination in the world consists of sincerity added to ignorance; or prejudice wedded to power.

• What is the rainbow? It is God's bow turned upside down so that the arrows shoot away from the earth and bring no more destruction.

• Don't feel inferior if you're confused by current events. It's a mark of intelligence; only the extremely simple-minded aren't confused by the complexity of modern problems.

• In the history of ideas, the three most influential and widely known names of the last hundred years are probably Marx, Einstein and Freud; yet not one person in a thousand can accurately and lucidly describe what any of them said.

• We have conquered most of the contagious diseases of the body, but we have scarcely begun to combat the contagious diseases of the mind – prejudice, bigotry and hate – which have shattered more societies than all the viruses ever known to civilization.

• Everyone is a prisoner of his own pernicious experiences. They cannot be eliminated. But it is essential to recognize and acknowledge them in order to overcome them. –Sydney J. Harris

Some choice reads for summer

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

It's time for my annual summer reading survey. The choices are meant to be eclectic, if not necessarily popular.

For those who desire a closely reasoned discussion of a pressing halachic issue, Prof. Aviad Hacohen's *The Tears of the Oppressed*, which examines the Agunah problem, is worth a second look. Hacohen, who teaches in the faculty of law at Hebrew University, has marshalled an impressive array of sources to probe any possible avenues of freedom for the chained woman. Well over 100 pages of directly photocopied responsa highlight the last half of the book.

At the other end of the spectrum, both in tone and vision, is a remarkable book by Alan Lew, arrestingly titled *This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared*. Meant as a spiritual primer for the High Holy Days, Lew's ability to link the prayers of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to the existential situation of every Jew is gripping. Many people consistently bemoan the lack of uplift they feel at this central time of the Jewish calendar, so Lew's narrative fills a gaping need.

David Weiss Halivni's moving account of his childhood as a talmudic prodigy, and the irrevocable loss of that world in the wake of the Shoah, is recorded in his 1996 memoir *The Book and the Sword*. Less a graphic depiction of Holocaust horrors and more a loving tribute to his lifelong passion for Talmud, Halivni's book captures how for Jews, faith is inextricably linked to texts and the universe of learning.

Sometimes one crosses paths with a book that comes as an unforeseen surprise. Such a work is Rabbi Yom Tov Schwarz's *Eyes to See: Recovering Ethical Torah Principles Lost in The Holocaust*. The book paints a picture of the proper ethical posture that should be taken by all Jews, but especially those in a position of authority, and the tragic decline of respect for rabbinic courts, which is partly self-created. The book is a unique combination of honesty and sensitivity, and in the current religious climate of hostility between denominations, it's an all-too-rare call for a return to civility in how Jews speak to and about one another.

Matan, the well-known Israeli institute for women's Torah learning, has put out a comprehensive book that will be of interest to all girls approaching their bat mitzvahs – as well as, of course, to their parents. Titled *Traditions and Celebrations for the Bat Mitzvah*, it contains a variety of articles, both scholarly and practical, including an analysis of the origins of the bat mitzvah, halachic issues surrounding the bat mitzvah, and suggestions for how to enhance the celebration of this coming of age.

Finally, appropriate to this age of terror and terrorism, the 1991 work *Confronting Omnicide* offers Jewish reflections on weapons of mass destruction. It contains several thoughtful pieces on Jewish perspectives regarding war and peace and investigates many of the buzzwords of the 9/11 world, such as acceptable losses, "collateral damage," pre-emptive strikes, and balance of terror.

Alas, the book is unfortunately timely. One yearns for a time when such a work will be relegated to the fantasy section of the bookshelf. May that day come soon.

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Three weeks before Tisha b'Av

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

One of the challenges of the three weeks, and especially the nine days before Tisha b'Av, when many people don't eat meat, is trying to find ways to do dairy that don't require falling back on the old stand-bys of macaroni and cheese and lasagna. While quick and simple recipes are always preferred when temperatures soar, the desire for delicious food never abates.

Since parties and celebrations are curtailed, most gatherings of family and friends during this period focus on the dinner table. I always like my dairy meals to incorporate unique and simple appetizer and fun and interesting side dishes. More often than not, I turn to my favourite cheese, Brie. Kosher Brie is readily available and very affordable.

Brie, created in the seventh century in France, has a delicate and smooth taste and texture. The body of Brie is covered with a white rind. It can be savoured at room temperature and is equally delicious served with red or white wine. This soft, ripened cheese is made from cow's milk and is not for those who are counting calories.

BAKED BRIE IN PUFF PASTRY WITH HONEY WALNUT SAUCE

A reader from London, Ont., sent me this recipe that she got from *Bon Appetite* and I have to agree with her that it's smashing!

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 8-oz. wheel Brie
1 egg, beaten (for glaze)
1/4 cup butter
3 tbsp. honey
1 1/2 tsp. minced garlic
2 tbsp. chopped walnuts
1 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

Roll out puff pastry sheet on lightly floured surface. Place Brie in centre and fold pastry around it, sealing seams. Transfer to baking sheet, seam side up. Brush pastry with egg glaze. Cover and refrigerate. (Can be prepared 6 hours ahead.)

Preheat oven to 400. Bake Brie until pastry is golden, 18-25 minutes. Combine butter, honey and garlic in small saucepan over low heat. Stir until butter melts. Sprinkle sauce with walnuts and parsley. Place pastry-wrapped Brie on top of sauce on plates and serve with assorted crackers. Serves 8 to 10.

BRIE SOUFFLE

Great for brunch served with a sweet sparkling wine and fresh fruit.

8 tbsp. sweet butter, at room temperature
6 slices of white sandwich bread, crusts removed
1/2 cups milk
1 tsp. salt
dash of Tabasco
3 eggs
1 lb. Brie, rind removed

Butter a 1 1/2-quart souffle dish. Butter one side of bread slices and cut each slice into thirds. In a bowl, whisk together the milk, salt, Tabasco and eggs. Coarsely grate the Brie. Arrange half of the bread, buttered side up, on the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle evenly with half of the Brie and then repeat, using remaining bread and Brie. Carefully pour the egg mixture over the bread. Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until bubbling and golden. Serves 4 to 6.

BRIE STUFFED POTATOES

4 baked potatoes
3 oz. Brie, de-rinded
1/2 tsp. salt
1 egg yolk
2 oz. butter, softened
chives (chopped)

Preheat oven to 375. Slice off the top of each potato and scoop out the potato (place it in a bowl), leaving behind a potato skin shell ready for filling. In a bowl containing the scooped out potato, combine the Brie, salt, egg yolk and butter. Beat until combined and spoon the mixture into the potato skins. Place the filled potatoes on a baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes until the top of the filling is golden brown. Sprinkle the top of the potato with chopped chives and serve. Serves 4. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

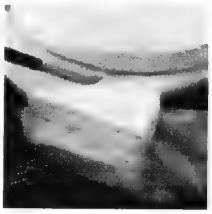
BAKED BRIE WITH DRIED FRUIT

This dish pairs beautifully with sparkling wine.

approx. 2 lb. Brie, round or wedge
1/4 cup sparkling sweet wine
1/4 cup dried apricots or peaches
1/8 cup toasted walnuts or almonds, coarsely chopped
1 sheet puff pastry, thawed
1 egg yolk
1 tbsp. water

Place Brie in the freezer for about 30 minutes to make it easier to handle. In a saucepan, bring wine and fruit to a boil and remove from heat. Cool. Cut Brie in half lengthwise, so you have a top half and a bottom half. Roughly chop fruit into 1/4-in. pieces and mix with toasted walnuts. Place mixture on bottom half of Brie, spread evenly and cover with top half.

On a floured surface, roll out thawed puff pastry to about half the original thickness or until it will cover both the top and bottom of the Brie. Whip egg yolk and water. Place filled Brie in the centre of the rolled out dough and wrap it completely, sealing overlapping dough with egg wash.



At this point, the Brie may be stored in the freezer for future use. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator before baking. For immediate use, chill for half an hour in the refrigerator.

Preheat oven to 400. Brush with egg wash. Bake on a greased baking sheet for 20-30 minutes or until golden brown. Cool for a few minutes and serve with freshly sliced baguette or toasted croutons.

BAKED BRIE WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS

1 head garlic
1/4 cup butter
olive oil
1 yellow onion, sliced
1 Granny Smith apple - peeled, cored and sliced
1 (8-oz.) wedge Brie cheese
1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 tbsp. melted butter

Preheat oven to 400. Place garlic on a baking sheet, and drizzle with olive oil. Roast for 15 to 20 minutes, or until soft. Set aside.

Meanwhile, melt 1/4 cup butter in a skillet over medium heat. Cook and stir onion and apple in butter until tender and browned. Set aside. Arrange Brie on top of thawed puff pastry. Top the cheese with the apple and onion mixture. Fold puff pastry over the cheese and pinch closed. Brush with melted butter. Bake about 20 to 25 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve warm. Garnish with whole cloves of roasted garlic. Serve with crackers or chunks of bread. Serves 4 as an appetizer.

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British Jews disturbed by terror threat, Muslim reaction

By DANIELLA PELED
JTA

LONDON — Amid tightened security following the latest wave of attempted suicide bombings in London, British Jews are troubled both by the threat of terror and the ambivalent reaction of the United Kingdom's Muslim leadership.

The capital was still burying its dead from four co-ordinated suicide attacks July 7 that killed more than 50 people – including Jewish victims Miriam Hyman, 31; Susan Levy, 53; and Anat Rosenberg, 37 – when it was hit on July 21 by further attempts to bring murder and mayhem to London.

This time, the bombs failed to detonate fully, and there was only one reported injury. With suspects still at large, however, fear and suspicion swept a city still reeling from the July 7 atrocities.

The Community Security Trust, the body that monitors threats to the U.K. Jewish community, is ensuring that staff and volunteers maintain a high level of visibility around synagogues, schools and other community buildings.

Having stepped up its state of alert after the July 7 attacks, the trust urged Anglo Jewry to remain "extremely vigilant" after the latest incidents, fearing both terrorism and a spike in anti-Semitism.

The alarm had yet to reach its highest level last week, trust spokesperson Mike Whine said, because of the lack of any specific intelligence of a direct threat to the Jewish community.

But the government is taking the possibility very seriously. Community leaders report almost daily meetings among religious figures, the Home Office, the government body responsible for domestic security policy, and the police, with briefings on the security situation issued several times a day.

Anglo Jewry to remain 'extremely vigilant'

It's too early to tell whether the bombings have already caused an upsurge of attacks against Jews, Whine said.

"We were anyway suffering high levels of anti-Semitism, so it's difficult to say whether it has increased as a consequence," he said. "We've certainly seen some very inflammatory language on extremist websites blaming the bombing on Jews or on Israel."

The British Jewish community has been disturbed not only by the latest round of bombings but also by the response of the U.K.'s Muslim leadership to the growing threat of fanaticism in its midst.

The extent of the radicalization was highlighted by the news that nearly a quarter of U.K. Muslims have some sympathy with the feelings and motives of those who carried out the July 7 bombings, according to a poll sponsored by the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

The survey also revealed that 18 per cent of British Muslims feel little loyalty towards Britain, and 32 per cent believe that "western society is decadent and immoral and that Muslims should seek to bring it to an end."

Jewish leaders are concerned that U.K. Muslim leaders are failing to face up to this phenomenon and are instead sending out a dangerous message by consistently drawing a distinction between suicide bombings in Britain, which they condemn, and terror attacks in Israel, which they excuse.

"They see no inconsistency in that, and it's troubling," Whine said.

The Muslim Council of Britain, an umbrella group, emphatically condemned the London bombings, but it has always been circumspect when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"It is very important to remember the context," council spokesperson Inayat Bunglawala said. "Three thousand British Muslims haven't been killed by occupying troops. We are not routinely invaded. Our leadership is not being assassinated. What the Palestinian people are going through leads them to desperation."

Another prominent Muslim figure, Azzam Tamimi of the Muslim Association of Britain, also argued that Palestinian suicide bombings are different from terror attacks in Europe.

"The bombings were wrong in London, were wrong in Madrid, but it is a completely different situation in Palestine," said Tamimi, speaking on the BBC. "Thousands of ordinary Palestinians are rotting in refugee camps and reacting to oppression."

Rabbi Barry Marcus of London's Central Synagogue, who witnessed the July 7 double-decker bus bombing that killed 14 people, describes a sense of "anger and dismay" among his congregation at such statements.

"You can't condemn suicide bombing in London and condone it in Israel," he said. "They are trying to divert people from the real issues. Trying to find excuses for murder is abhorrent. The pity is that the Muslim community now has an opportunity to say, 'We have a problem and we need to deal with it.'"

Sharon mends fences in France as anti-Semitic acts drop

By LAUREN ELKIN
JTA

PARIS — A year ago, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon caused a diplomatic flap when he urged French Jews to flee anti-Semitism at home and move to the Jewish state.

This year, just ahead of a fence-mending visit to Paris – called to repair rifts caused not just by Sharon's comments but by France's pronounced pro-Palestinian tilt – the French interior ministry reported that anti-Semitic attacks had fallen 48 per cent in the first half of 2005 compared to the same period in 2004.

In 2004, 561 verbal or minor physical attacks were reported, versus 290 for this year. Violent acts, such as bombings or arson, are down from 148 to 49. Anti-Semitic graffiti are down as well – from 413 incidents the previous year to 241 this year.

The statistics were confirmed by CRIF, the umbrella organization of secular French Jewish groups.

"These results are the fruit of an effort begun in 2002, both through a productive dialogue with representatives of the Jewish community as well as a determined commitment by the domestic security services in the struggle against all forms of anti-Semitism," CRIF said.

The statistics came on the eve of a visit in which Sharon and French President Jacques Chirac each expressed their warm sentiments toward each other's country.

In a working lunch last Wednesday, Juy 27, that lasted 2½ hours, Chirac characterized Syria as a "threat to the stability of the region." The two leaders also discussed Lebanon and Iran.

Sharon rejected a French request to supply the Palestinian Authority security forces with arms and ammunition, noting that a PA police officer was involved in a terror attack the previous weekend that killed an elderly Israeli couple.

Continued on page 24

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The future of Israeli democracy is at stake

By URI DROMI
JTA

Opinion

The withdrawal from Gaza, scheduled to begin in mid-August, is one of the most important events in the history of the State of Israel. It will determine whether Israel can continue to be a Jewish and democratic state.

In an Alert Paper published in June 2003 by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute, titled "Jewish Demography: Facts, Outlook, Challenges," a renowned demographer, professor Sergio DellaPergola, makes the following prediction: Sometime around 2014, there will be between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea more Arabs than Jews. My interpretation of this chilling statistic is that in less than 10 years, if Israel keeps the West Bank and Gaza and still wants to remain Jewish, then it will become an apartheid state; and if it wants to remain a democracy, then it will lose its Jewish nature. Or, in the words of a Palestinian poet-in-exile, Mahmud Darwish, "If you don't want a Palestinian state on 22 per cent of the land today, in 20 years there will be a Palestinian state on the whole land."

Pulling out of Gaza, then, is the beginning of a long journey which will hopefully bring Israel back to its senses. But is it indeed? Many Sharon mavens believe he wants to get rid of Gaza only to strengthen Israel's grip on the West Bank and thus coerce the Palestinians into accepting some kind of "autonomy." The trauma of the Gaza pullout, with the ugly scenes expected to flood TV screens, should supposedly convince the Israelis and the world community that further withdrawal is impossible. The prime minister even went to Ariel (a West Bank city of 18,000) recently and promised it would forever be ours.

If I were living in Ariel, I would start looking for a moving company, just in case. Not only because Sharon said something and maybe meant the opposite, but because the basic analysis of DellaPergola remains unchanged.

Whether Sharon meant it or not, he has just started a process bigger than he had envisioned – namely, bringing Israel to its viable borders. It remains to be seen if in due course he will be the one to break the bad news to the West Bank settlers or if someone else will lead us in the next painful phase. Either way, it has to be someone from the right, because in Israel, only the right can carry out the policy of the left.

Settlers and opponents of the evacuation claim that the way Sharon brought about this plan was undemocratic: he dismissed his campaign promises, disregarded his reluctant Likud party, fired two right-wing ministers and refused to hold a referendum on the evacuation plan. His conduct reminds one of the Jewish woman, who, in the darkness of the shtetl, mistakenly prepared the *cholent* (traditional Shabbat stew) in the night pot. The worried woman asked the rabbi if it was kosher. It is kosher, he told her, but it stinks.

It stinks, indeed, yet it's kosher. It was repeatedly approved by the Knesset, the body representing all Israelis, and by the Israeli Supreme Court. As for Sharon's sudden U-turn, wasn't Menachem Begin elected in 1977 on the slogan of Greater Israel only to give Sinai back to the Egyptians when the historic opportunity presented itself? And anyhow, the settlers, who for decades benefitted from Ariel Sharon's talents when those helped them in cunningly manoeuvring all governments in their favour, should be the last to be surprised and cry *gevalt* when he suddenly turns against them. As for a referendum, I don't recall ever being asked if I agreed to settling the West Bank and Gaza. I didn't.

At stake is not only the future of the settlements, it's the future of Israel's democracy. Sharon's plan to pull out of Gaza is actually about the ability of Israel to turn the will of the people into political action in a democratic way. The execution of the plan will determine whether the Israeli democracy is still a functional one or a democracy in name only, incapable of implementing its most important decisions because veto power has been surrendered to a few extremists.

In the coming days, many of us will watch agonizing scenes coming from Gaza. However, we shouldn't lose sight of the wider perspective. Stepping into an operating room in a hospital while a patient is being operated on might be a disheartening experience. Yet it is a vital act on the road to recovery. Pulling out of Gaza – and later, out of the West Bank – is likewise vital to the survival of Israel. With self-defined borders at last, the State of Israel, democratic and predominantly Jewish, might be smaller in size, but it will be stronger in spirit, ready to defend itself if attacked or to give a helping hand to the Palestinians once they embark on a peaceful track.

Uri Dromi is the director of international outreach at the Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem. From 1992 to 1996, he was the spokesperson for the governments of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

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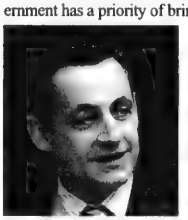
'Zero tolerance' for anti-Semitism

Continued from page 23

Last Thursday, Sharon met with French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, who asked how France could help Israel reach an accord with the Palestinians. Sharon said the French should try to persuade PA President Mahmoud Abbas to take steps against terrorism, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

Sharon later met with French Jewish leaders.

"The best means to guarantee the future of the Jewish people is aliyah," Sharon told the Jewish audience, according to the *Post*. "I tell Jews all over the world to make aliyah to Israel. My government has a priority of bringing one million Jews to Israel."



Nicolas Sarkozy

Unlike his earlier statement that so angered French officials, Sharon did not tie his aliyah call to anti-Semitism. Though the number of anti-Semitic attacks in France is down, the previous week saw more anti-Semitic incidents than usual, with attacks in the capital and its suburbs on July 19 and 20.

Then, the Saturday before Sharon's visit, three bottles of hydrochloric acid were thrown at a Jewish school in the 18th District of Paris. No one was injured, though one of the bottles landed inside the school's synagogue while worshippers were celebrating Shabbat.

A 15-year-old and two 17-year-olds were questioned in connection with the attack and have been temporarily placed in juvenile detention. Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy visited the school two days later and announced that "no act of anti-Semitism or racism is a minor act."

"The only strategy" to combat anti-Semitism, he said, is "zero tolerance."

The next day, Sarkozy met with Roger Cukierman, CRIF's president, who thanked the interior minister, the chief of police and the Paris district attorney for their "efficient" pursuit of perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts. He suggested that local governments implement a plan to educate parents of teenagers on racism and anti-Semitism, organize visits to Auschwitz or the Shoah Memorial in Paris, and hold interreligious conferences.

Police chief Pierre Mutz said newly assigned police officers may also visit the Shoah Memorial.

CRIF head Cukierman commends Sharon

Continued from page 1

Most of them want to live quietly and be an integral part of Israeli society.

"There is a small minority who are active, mostly through the Islamic movement and operated by the Iranians and Hezbollah. It is a small minority, but it is growing and it is not a simple problem.

"They have identification cards like us, the same license plates, and they can't be stopped on the roadsides. The answer to these problems is to bring more Jews to Israel," he said.

Roger Cukierman, head of CRIF, French Jewry's umbrella organization, praised Sharon for his "courageous initiative of leaving Gaza." The chief rabbi of France, Joseph Haim Sitruk, spoke of the importance of Jewish unity.

Israeli named to UN post

An Israeli was named deputy chairman of the UN Disarmament Commission. The Foreign Ministry's Meir Itzchaki will hold the post. The commission is a subcommittee of the UN General Assembly and an advisory body on nuclear and conventional arms.

Vatican snaps back at Israel

The Vatican lashed out at Israel for demanding to know why the Pope left attacks on Israelis out of a recent condemnation of terrorism. "The Holy See cannot take lessons or instructions from any other authority on the tone and content of its own statements," the Vatican said. In a July 24 address, Pope Benedict XVI deplored the "death, destruction and suffering in countries including Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Britain," referring to a number of recent Islamist terror attacks. Israel's Foreign Ministry called in the Vatican envoy and asked why a July 12 attack that killed five Israelis in Netanya was not included.

Arabs, Israelis work together for clean water

Israeli and Palestinian groups are joining forces to collect and treat wastewater from Tulkarm. The Hefer Valley Regional Council is working with local Tulkarm leaders to clean the water at a Jewish National Fund water treatment centre in Kibbutz Yad Hanna. The project will help prevent pollution of the Alexander River, which the JNF has rehabilitated.

Mission: Moderate Muslims

Israeli diplomats in Europe have been instructed to cultivate ties with moderate Muslim leaders. Red Mansour, a Druze veteran of Israel's Foreign Ministry, said he has been put in charge of the "Islam in Europe" outreach project, to run in concert with longstanding efforts to monitor Muslims who incite against Jews. "The novel element here is that we also want to find the silent voice to give it a mouth and throat so that it will come out, condemn terror, condemn anti-Semitism and connect with Jewish communities as well, for the sake of local civic action," he said.

Salvo in Sderot

Palestinians fired three rockets from the Gaza Strip at Sderot last week. There were no casualties or damages from the salvo. Israel blamed Hamas, but the terror group had no immediate comment. *Yediot Achronot* reported that Israel plans to equip the coastal city of Ashkelon with a rocket alert system currently installed in Sderot, signalling that Israel fears Hamas could extend its range after Israel withdraws from Gaza next month. The Israeli army had no immediate comment on the report.

Shalom visits Britain

Israel's foreign minister visited Britain last week. Silvan Shalom arrived Monday in London and, in talks with his British counterpart, Jack Straw, and Prime Minister Tony Blair, conveyed Israel's sympathies over the recent terror bombings and support for the country's battle against terror. He also voiced Israel's opposition to a Palestinian Authority plan to include Hamas in parliamentary elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Another church slams 'wall'

By ANNE KOPPEL CONWAY
JTA

PORTLAND, Ore. — Officials at the Simon Wiesenthal Center are criticizing a Protestant denomination for passing a resolution opposing Israel's West Bank security barrier.

The Disciples of Christ Church passed the measure last week with backing from about two-thirds of the 3,000 members who attended the church's general assembly. The church has 800,000 members across North America.

"The resolution is an ongoing effort to demonize and delegitimize the Jewish state," defining Israel "as the apartheid country in the 21st century," said Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the Los Angeles-based Wiesenthal Center, an international organization with offices around the world.

The final resolution, which was slightly toned down from an earlier version, claims that the security fence exacerbates hostility between Israelis and Palestinians. It calls on Israel to stop its construction, tear down what already has been built, and pay reparations to Palestinian property owners.

The resolution comes after other votes by Protestant churches criticizing the barrier and weighing divestment from Israel.

Considering that more active means of Israeli defence against Palestinian terrorism – such as incursions, house demolitions or targeted killings – have also been denounced around the world, Israeli officials note that the fence has dramatically reduced the number of attacks by making it much harder for terrorists to enter Israel. That, in turn, has reduced Palestinian suffering by making Israeli counterterrorist raids less necessary.

On July 23, for example, a Palestinian laden with explosives was sufficiently slowed down by the fence that he was caught and disarmed before carrying out an attack in Tel Aviv.

Cooper attended the church's general assembly last Wednesday, along with Tzippy Cohen, a survivor of a September 2003 suicide bombing at a Jerusalem cafe. They had been told that one of them would be allowed to address delegates for up to three minutes.

But when they arrived at the conference, they were told only voting members of the church could speak, Rabbi Adlerstein said.

Yet, when the time for debate ended, church delegates voted to allow an extra two minutes for Rula Shubeita, a Palestinian woman from Jerusalem and a member of Sabeel, a Palestinian Christian group that's leading the anti-Israel divestment movement, to speak.

Shubeita condemned suicide attacks and all other violence. She spoke about the hardships the fence has caused Palestinians and how she must drive 14 miles to see her brother on the other side, and she claimed it's now impossible for her to visit Bethlehem, Jesus' birthplace.

A church official told JTA that Shubeita was allowed to speak because she is part of Global Ministries, which is affiliated with the church.

World Briefs

Paper fires Islamist intern

Dilpazier Aslam, an intern at the British newspaper the *Guardian*, was fired last month after he insisted on retaining his membership in Hizb ut-Tahrir, a radical Islamic group that's legal in Britain but banned in several European and Arab countries. The newspaper said it considered Hizb ut-Tahrir to have promoted violence and anti-Semitism, and said in a statement that it considered Aslam's "continuing membership in the organization to be incompatible with his continued employment by the company." Aslam, 27, may sue.

Straw slams Livingstone

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw condemned anti-Israel remarks made by London Mayor Ken Livingstone. In the wake of the July 7 terror bombings in London, Livingstone justified Palestinian suicide bombers and compared Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party to Hamas. "There is no and there can be no moral equivalence between a democratic party and its supporters, operating in a democracy that is Israel, and a terrorist organization whose policy is the slaughter of innocent civilians," Straw said last month at a news conference with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom.

Russians found guilty

Two men found guilty of attacking two Moscow rabbis last January were given prison sentences. A court gave Dmitry Rozanov four years and Andrei Maksin to 18 months for their role in the attack. The court found them guilty of assault and hooliganism, but refused to call the attack a hate crime, saying the men were "unaware of the ethnic belonging of the victims." The rabbis were wearing haredi garb when a group of men attacked them as they walked with one of the rabbis' children in Moscow's Marina Roscha district. The other rabbi suffered severe head injuries and required hospitalization.

Oldest couple are Jews

The world's oldest married couple is Jewish. Philadelphia residents Herbert and Magda Brown, 105 and 100 respectively, have been named the "oldest living married couple, aggregate age" by the *Guinness Book of World Records*. The couple married in Hungary in 1930 and made their way to the United States during World War II. Magda attributes their longevity to communication. "We never argued, we just had discussions," she told Reuters.

Record payout

The Claims Conference distributed more than $1 billion (US) in 2004, the largest single-year payout in its history, it was announced at the annual meeting of the group's board of directors last month in New York. Of the sum, more than 70 per cent, or $778 million, went to Holocaust survivors. Another $121 million went to heirs of property, and $45 million went to account holders or their heirs through the Swiss banks settlement. More than 10 per cent of the funds went to organizations in 41 countries that care for Jewish Holocaust victims or do research and education.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Rabbi

Ohel Leah Synagogue
Hong Kong

Ohel Leah Synagogue is a Modern Orthodox Synagogue which serves a diverse Jewish community in Hong Kong.

The beautiful synagogue building which dates from 1902 is in a residential neighbourhood and is part of a complex that includes a mikveh, Jewish Community Centre (with kosher grocery and restaurants) and Jewish day school.

The Ohel Leah Rabbi should provide dynamic leadership to the congregation composed of approximately 200 families and single adults from all over the world and who have a variety of intellectual, religious and professional backgrounds. This makes Hong Kong an exciting and dynamic place for anyone who would wish to explore this opportunity.

The ideal candidate should be able to develop the community to its full potential through active participation in services, community activities and education programmes.

The successful candidate should have a centrist philosophy and pluralistic approach to Modern Orthodoxy. He should demonstrate leadership skills in rendering Halachic decisions and in motivating adults and children, and should have significant pastoral experience. A university degree is preferred but not required. Fluent English and excellent public-speaking skills are essential.

The successful candidate will receive an attractive salary, housing and other benefits.

Applicants may e-mail their CV including background, education qualifications and references to Candidates@OhelLeah.org or send by post to: Rabbi Search Committee, Ohel Leah Synagogue, One Robinson Place, 70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong.

MORE HAPPY LANDINGS:

Some 330 new immigrants from Paris and Marseille arrived last week in Israel. Director-General of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, Mike Rosenberg, said that 3,300 new immigrants from France were expected this year, the highest number from that country in 35 years.

[Israel Sun photo]

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The real root cause of terror

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In the aftermath of the London terror attacks, the Canadian and international media devoted substantial editorial space to the "root cause" debate – the search for the underlying cause (or causes) of terror attacks carried out by Islamic extremists.

Immediately following 9/11, many on the left blamed U.S. foreign policy, and Israeli policy towards the Palestinians, for causing the terrorist bombings in New York and Washington. This theory still holds sway among some liberal analysts.

On PBS's *NewsHour* (July 25), Michael Scheuer, the former head of the CIA's Osama bin Laden unit, went so far as to argue that not only is Al Qaeda solely a defensive reaction to the United States, it is bound by love, not hate. Scheuer said: "In many ways, these people are lovers in the sense that they love their religion and they love their society and they deem [U.S.] foreign policy an attack on that… And indeed, as long as Western and U.S. policies in the Middle East remain the same, the growth potential for what you could call Al Qaedism is enormous."

However, an opposite theory – that radical Islamic ideology, not U.S and Israeli policy, underlies and motivates suicide bombings – is beginning to gain popularity. This argument, though not new, is being heard more often in the wake of the July 7 London bombings, which were carried out by "homegrown" English Muslims.

Robert Fulford's column "Islamophobia isn't the problem" (*National Post*, July 16) described how Britain's "[t]houghtless genial tolerance" of the most radical anti-Western, pro-jihadist preaching by Muslim extremists contributed to an atmosphere in which the London bombings became possible.

In "The triumph of the fundamentalist" (*Globe and Mail,* July 16), Emran Qureshi reviewed two books on Islam. Qureshi wrote: "It is a terribly facile and naïve assumption to assume that the response of the jihadis is 'blowback' for past and present Western imperialism. It denies the assailant any moral agency." Moreover, "[t]he struggle for the soul of Islam is an intramural contest that is being played out irrespective of Islam-West relations."

Rex Murphy took a different approach in his July 23 *Globe and Mail* column, "Fanatical minds defy logic." Murphy said efforts to "understand" the terrorists are doomed to failure, as they are "efforts to bring the calculus and standards of responsible minds as instruments to map irresponsible minds that do not acknowledge standards." He argued that terrorism can only be forcefully confronted, not understood.

Others, however, believe that there is a logic to the terrorists' actions. In "Bombing in Egypt fits the terrorists' bill" (*Globe and Mail*, July 25), Israel-based analyst and author Barry Rubin wrote: "It is a mistake to be obsessed with the motivation of attacks as defined by Westerners, rather than look at what the terrorists say among themselves. Their talk makes it clear that this terrorism is not motivated by the Iraq war or even by the Arab-Israeli conflict but by an attempt to revolutionize the Muslim world and break the West's power."

The *Globe and Mail*'s July 22 editorial "The misguided reflex that it's the West's fault," stated this alternative argument well: "[Al Qaeda's Islamism] cannot be explained by any Western act in the past or accommodated by any Western compromise in the present… Its goal is a sweeping Islamic empire, the Caliphate, where infidels are banned and an austere bond of Islam reigns." And the means to this end is violence and terrorism.

On July 26, at a news conference in London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair challenged those who looked for rationalizations for terrorism. He declared that there is "no justification for suicide bombings whether in Palestine, Iraq, in London, in Egypt, in Turkey, anywhere. In the United States of America there is no justification for it. Period."

A more lucid understanding of the real "root cause" of terrorism may indeed draw an increasing number of journalists to Blair's position.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Overcoming mood disorders

Continued from page 19

This extraordinary program is starting to catch on outside Vancouver.

The Mood Disorders Association of Ontario (MDAO) recently started offering the course at its Toronto centre.

MDAO executive director Karen Liberman was sold on the program after Granirer performed at the MDAO's May conference.

"One of the things we're very excited about is that this is another opportunity to explore how people with mood disorders can… find power, find courage and find the self-esteem to get up and objectify this thing that's happened to them," Liberman says.

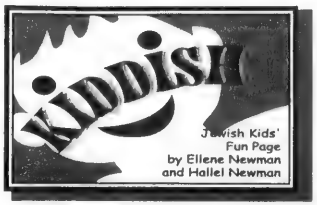
She cautions, however, that the program is not a magic cure for mental illness. But she believes it deserves a place alongside traditional therapies.

"Research shows that effective treatment for mood disorders, in the long term, is three-pronged: medications, some form of talk therapy and social support. Stand Up For Mental Health falls well within that third prong," she says.

Granirer is proud of the program and knows it's having an effect.

"Most normal people would never want to do stand-up comedy," he says. "Well, these folks are supposedly less-than-normal, yet here they are succeeding in something that most normal people would never have the courage to do."

To learn more about Stand Up For Mental Health, visit www.standupformentalhealth.com.



The Shabbat Cow

Adapted from the Midrash: Pesikta Rabbasi 14

Justinian pushed his way through the busy marketplace trying to ignore the sounds and smells assaulting him from all directions.

"Fresh onions, fresh onions, the very best!"

"Fine Turkish cloth, purest linen!"

Justinian continued on, intent on only one thing.

"Strong, healthy cow, perfect for farm work!"

Justinian froze. He had found what he was looking for. At least he thought he had. It only took him one glance, however, to discern the truth.

"You call that a healthy cow?" he demanded angrily, gesturing toward the emaciated bovine as he resumed his search.

"Excuse me, are you looking for a cow?" A Jewish peasant was standing off to the side, holding a halter which led to the cow the other seller should have been talking about. It looked sturdy, healthy... just what Justinian was looking for!

I mustn't look too excited, he warned himself, *or he'll try to overcharge me.* "Yes, I am looking to buy a cow. How much are you asking for yours?"

The bargaining took only a few minutes, and Justinian joyously left the marketplace with his new acquisition.

I don't think you'll have any trouble with her, called the seller after him, "but if you do, you can find me at my farm just south of town... ask for Isaac."

Problems? thought Justinian. *Ha! I'm not going to have any problems. This cow is perfect.*

And it was. The cow plowed Justinian's fields better and faster than he had ever seen a cow plow. For the next few days, Justinian brought the eager cow out of the barn to begin a new day of work. But one morning, the cow refused to budge.

"Get up, you lazy good for nothing!" howled Justinian, but to no avail. He tried coaxing. He tried bribing. He tried pushing. He tried shoving. He even slapped her. The cow just picked up her head, gave Justinian a chiding glance, and went back to sleep. Justinian stormed over to Isaac's farm, growing angrier and angrier as he went. He threw open the door, barged in and roared, "How dare you sell me a defective cow! Give me a full refund now!"

"Calm down," said Isaac. "Let me come and see what the problem is."

"There's not much to see," complained Justinian as they walked back to his farm, but Isaac just said, "I don't think there's going to be a problem." Finally they reached the barn. The cow smiled at her former owner but did not get up. Isaac leaned over and whispered something in her ear. To Justinian's utter shock, the cow stood up, shook herself off, and obediently trotted to the field.

"I don't believe it," muttered Justinian, shaking his head. "But I still want a refund. I can't call you over to recite your incantations every time the cow refuses to work... unless you teach me the spell."

Isaac laughed. "I didn't use any magic. I just told her that since she belongs to you now, she doesn't have to keep Shabbat anymore."

"Shabbat? What?"

"God gave the Jewish people a special gift called Shabbat. On the seventh day of the week, we rest, just as God did after creating the world in six days. We dedicate this day to God and we don't do any work. Even our animals rest. But you're not Jewish. Now that you own her, she can work on Shabbat. And now that I've told her that, you won't have any more problems."

Whoa, thought Justinian, *this cow is closer to God than I am. I have to learn more about God and this Shabbat.*

After much study, Justinian became Jewish and changed his name to Yochanan ben Toraita — Yochanan, the son of a cow — in recognition of the cow that brought him to learn about Shabbat.

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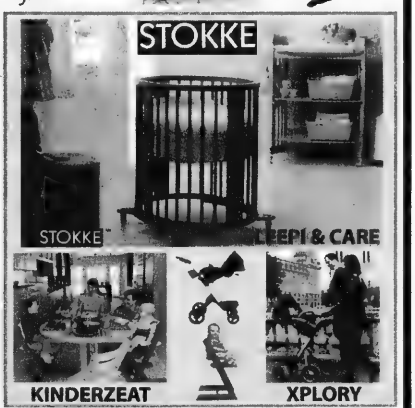

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Yiddish concert featured Beyond The Pale, Smolkin, Respitz

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Toronto's heat wave did not deter more than 1,000 people who attended the annual summer Yiddish concert held this year at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Sponsored by the committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the 24th summer concert, Gems of Yiddish Songs, reflected the traditions of the past and included original klezmer compositions, all performed with technical excellence.

"Yiddish is the heart and soul of the Ashkenazi Jewish community, with over 1,000 years of history and culture to share with our youth," said Sheldon Friedman, the recently elected chair of the committee for Yiddish, in his welcoming speech. Friedman was the principal of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for 15 years.

"It is a story worth telling – a telling of pain, disappointments and struggles, as well as accomplishments, celebrations and successes," he said.

"The committee for Yiddish works directly and indirectly to ensure that such a story is told and understood in Yiddish – our mamaloshen."

Friedman noted the many programs sponsored by the committee – including classes for children and adults and Yiddish courses at the University of Toronto and York University – the endeavours to plant love and knowledge of Yiddish. He welcomed anyone who is interested to become a volunteer.

With her inimitable brand of humour, Susan Jackson, executive director, Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage of UJA Federation, brought greetings from the federation.

"Yiddish is one of those things that transcends time and place," she said. "When we sing in Yiddish, when we dance in Yiddish, we are transported to a different place and a different time."

The concert opened with a lively instrumental by Eric Stein's klezmer ensemble Beyond The Pale. The audience clapped, sang along and danced around the sanctuary to the music. Stein, who plays the mandolin and cimbalom, is a well-known figure in Toronto's Jewish music scene.

At the concert, Stein was joined by Bogdan Djukic on violin, Bret Higgins on bass, Milos Popovic on accordion and Martin Van de Ven on clarinet.

Featured vocalists were tenor Mitch Smolkin, the artistic director of the Ashkenaz Festival, and Janie Respitz, a folklorist and Montreal teacher. She has performed in New York and is scheduled to appear in Buenos Aires and Montevideo, Urugay.

Smolkin opened his part of the program with the freilech *A Glezele l'Khayim* by Joseph Rumshinsky, followed by *Skrip Klezmer Skrip,* with an outstanding performance by Van de Ven.

Respitz then sang Mordechai Gebirtig's *Kum Leybke Tantsn.* The song tells the tale of a *shadchan* (matchmaker) who wants to fix up a young lady with a boy whose mother has the same name as the girl.

As a duo, Smolkin and Respitz delighted those present with the favourite *Tum-Balalayke,* to which the audience sang along.

It was in renditions of the love songs *Margaritkelekh* and *Loshn Koydish* that the exquisite tone of Respitz's voice was highlighted. And it was her version of *Yosl Ber* by Yitzchak Manger that brought a particularly appreciative response from those present.

The only criticism that could be heard following the concert was, "We wanted it to go on longer." It was a fine tribute to these performers.

Adler brings *Annie Get Your Gun* to Massey Hall

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

In the annals of the entertainment world, there have been many popular songs, but if one shines the brightest as the industry's unofficial anthem, it is likely the famous Irving Berlin tune *There's No Business Like Show Business.*

"In my humble opinion, it is one of the most important songs ever written for the musical stage," says renowned producer Stephen Adler.

"When it was originally [performed on Broadway]… the story goes that the audience stood and applauded for eight minutes."

Adler hopes to get just such a reaction to the time-honoured tune when it and other classics come to the stage at Toronto's Massey Hall from Aug. 2 to 20 as part of the musical *Annie Get Your Gun.*

Boasting one of the longest runs of all Broadway musicals during the 1940s, the production mixes music, humour and romance in its detailing of the life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley.

The gun-toting woman wins acclaim for her marksmanship, yet becomes tangled in a tussle with her love interest, Frank, who isn't always comfortable with her firepower.

While a fan of the storyline, Adler says it was primarily the music that prompted him to produce the play.

"I love the music," he says, humming the song *Anything You Can Do,* a classic from the musical.

"Here's a cast of 25 people, all standing along the edge of the theatre belting out songs you all know."

Adler, 54, has been living and breathing *Annie* for the past seven months and is optimistic that it will be a hit with Toronto audiences.

"There are no other [major] musicals [here] this summer, a huge number of tourists are coming and it is priced below the vast majority of [similar productions] in a town this size and with this talent," he says.

Louise Petrie as Annie and Billy Ray Cyrus as Frank Butler.
[Cylla von Tiedemann photo]

Annie is played by Tony Award nominee and Broadway star Louise Pitre, best known for her role in *Mama Mia!* Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, who gained international stardom for his huge hit *Achy Breaky Heart*, plays Frank Butler.

Donna Feore, whose professional credits include *My Fair Lady* and *Gigi* at the Stratford Festival, is *Annie*'s director and choreographer.

And the music director of *The Lion King*, Rick Fox, lends his genius to *Annie Get Your Gun.*

Adler has a co-producer, Tina VanderHeyden, who he says was a fine choice.

"I had a vision, phoned Tina and her reaction, like everybody else, was, 'Oh, OK!'" Adler recalls.

"She and her husband listened to the score and the next morning, she called and said, 'You got a deal.'"

The producers partnered with investors, scooped up top talent and got the rights for the music from the original producers, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein.

Adler says that the dollars and cents of any play is the biggest part of it. "Show business is one-quarter show, three-quarters business.

"You always have to have a vision and passion for the show, but the reality is the budgets, numbers, the constant negotiation for contracts – all of that stuff, that's the business."

He says trying to explain to people what the show's vision is is one of the most challenging jobs he has. "It's [about] getting the right people together and sharing the vision for this particular show."

But it all usually comes to fruition in the end, he adds.

"I had this little dream about seven months ago … and then all of a sudden, these people are coming to make your dream come true."

No stranger to spearheading big-name productions, the New York-born, Toronto-raised entertainment professional has been involved in Hollywood north and south on both sides of the border for more than 20 years.

Adler's initiation into the entertainment field began with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

"Somebody called me and said there was an ad in the paper for an assistant marketing person at the Toronto Symphony," he recalls.

"Supposedly, 120 people applied and I was probably the only one who knew nothing about classical music. But I thought it was a great challenge, so I applied and they hired me."

The symphony gig lasted nine years and Adler says the experience was invaluable.

"I learned more about this business from my boss [at the symphony] then what I could have learned in 25 years in school," he says.

Adler climbed the ranks and became versatile, honing expertise in public relations, marketing and producing.

He has held senior positions at Toronto's Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, Bob Banner Associates Television in California and Circle in the Square Theater in New York City.

It was at Circle In The Square that Adler launched a groundbreaking approach to subscriptions, which increased the theatre's revenues more than 120 per cent and has since been emulated by many theatres.

"I had experimented in my head with this concept of two ways of selling subscriptions," Adler says.

"There's the traditional way – where you subscribe for the same seats for each show and get a discount – or you buy a booklet with four tickets and you could redeem them any you wanted to.

"The booklet had coupons with parking and restaurant discounts and advertisements on the back. We made a lot of money and brought a lot of people… This sounds commonplace [now], but it had never been done in New York, 10-12 years ago."

Now that people are buying tickets for *Annie Get Your Gun*, Adler says all the hard work was worth it. "When people begin to buy tickets, that's the most enjoyable thing. It's the affirmation your idea wasn't nuts."

Annie Get Your Gun opens on Aug. 2 and runs until the 20th. For tickets, call 416-872-111 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca or www.masseyhall.com.

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Telefilm Canada invests in its first Israeli movie

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israeli film director Danny Verete can add one more honour to his list of cinematic achievements.

His latest picture, *Metallic Blues*, which was screened at the Al Green Theatre in Toronto last month, is the first Israeli movie in which Telefilm Canada has invested.

Based on a true story, and set in Israel and Germany, this full-length feature is about two too-clever-by-half Israeli used car dealers who buy a blue 1985 Lincoln Continental stretch limousine from a former Israeli Arab from Quebec and try to sell it in Germany for a huge profit. Amid a series of mishaps and misfortunes, their scheme founders.

In a recent interview, Verete described *Metallic Blues* – which won an Israeli Academy Award in the best-supporting-actor category and was nominated for prizes in four other categories, including best film and best screenplay – as a comedy that morphs into a tragi-comedy.

A commercial hit in Israel, where it has been playing for the past 18 weeks, it cost about $2 million (US), a relatively piddling sum by most standards.

Israeli investors, both public and private, contributed about $1 million. Germans threw in approximately $450,000, while Telefilm and a Quebec group, Sodec, invested some $400,000. Given the tight budget, Verete had only 24 days to shoot the film.

Telefilm got involved due to Montreal producer Suzanne Girard. Having been impressed with one of Verete's previous films, *Yellow Asphalt*, which turns on a cultural clash between Jews and Bedouins in the Judean desert, she recommended him to Telefilm.

Telefilm, in particular, liked the Canadian angle in Verete's script. When the Israeli car dealers, Shmuel (Avi Kushnir) and Siso (Moshe Ivgy), first set eyes on the automobile they covet, they notice its Quebec license plates.

Danny Verete

When Telefilm executives asked Verete, 53, whether he had deliberately planted the Quebec plates in his script for their sole benefit, he admitted his ploy.

"I did it to raise their interest," he said almost sheepishly.

Verete, who was born in Jerusalem, the son of a Hebrew University history professor who was a specialist in the 1917 Balfour Declaration, wrote *Metallic Blues* to explore German-Jewish relations, a subject that fascinates him.

"We're inundated by the Holocaust in Israel. It's our mantra."

In a reference to Israel's Holocaust memorial/museum in the hills of Jerusalem, he observed, "We're graduates of Yad Vashem."

In making *Metallic Blues*, a 21st-century road film, Verete adhered to self-imposed guidelines. He did not want to dwell on conventional themes about Jewish Nazi hunters zeroing in on their quarry, Holocaust survivors returning to their former homes or children of survivors searching for their roots in Europe.

"My characters, very simple people, go to Germany on a business trip, full stop." In the process, they discover the meaning of friendship and reconciliation, but they pay a heavy price for discovering these fundamental truths.

The story was inspired by Verete's best friend, a car dealer who thought he could make a killing by selling a limo in Germany.

That set his mind racing, and soon Verete – who does not hold third- and fourth-generation Germans responsible for the crimes of their fathers and grandfathers – was absorbed in writing *Metallic Blues*.

Verete, a seasoned pro, wrote the script for Daniel Waxman's 1982 feature, *Hammsin*, which some critics hailed as the finest Israeli film of the decade. It is about a conflict between Jews and Arabs over land ownership.

Verete's second feature, *Yellow Asphalt*, which was released five years ago, won a special jury prize at the Mediterranean International Film Festival in Cologne, Germany.

In 1997, he wrote and directed *I Am Your Spy*, a documentary on Mordechai Vanunu, the Israel nuclear technician who was imprisoned for 18 years for spilling Israel's atomic secrets to the *Sunday Times* of London.

A graduate of the Hebrew University who majored in history and psychology, Verete was a budding novelist when the film industry beckoned in 1980. "Suddenly, a friend asked me if I wanted to work in a film."

He started as an assistant property master and then became a property master and an art director.

In 1981, he wrote and directed *Wall Within a City*, a 35-minute short about two Jewish boys lost in the entrails of eastern Jerusalem. It was screened at the San Francisco Film Festival and on Israeli TV. Four years later, he wrote his first feature, *Koko Is 19*.

Since then, Verete, the father of two teenage girls, has produced a succession of television movies and commercials.

He is sanguine about the state of the film industry in Israel. Salaries in the industry tend to be low, but Israeli directors and scriptwriters, as well as technical crews, are getting better all the time."We're moving forward. There is light at the end of the tunnel."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN: ABRAHAM CAHAN, MAN OF THE PEOPLE

"Dis a choych?"

These three little words, which appear in **Abraham Cahan's** sparkling story *The Imported Bridegroom* (1898), may be one of the most sublimely funny and ironic utterances in all of modern Jewish literature.

The story opens with the unmarried Flora idly reading *Little Dorrit*, as her wealthy father, Asriel Swoon, prepares to visit Pravly, his childhood shtetl. Once there, he pays an astronomic sum to secure the rabbi's son Shaya as a bridegroom for his daughter. Besides being an exceptional talmudic scholar, Shaya is a charming young man of marriageable age.

"The nearer Asriel, with the prodigy in tow, came to New York, the deeper did Pravly sink into the golden mist of romance, and the more real did the great American city grow in his mind."

At first Shaya and Flora are like oil and water, but once Shaya becomes acclimatized to America and agrees to Flora's wish that he secretly study medicine, the two are betrothed. Eventually Asriel hears troubling rumours about Shaya – he has become an "*epikourus*," he smokes on Shabbos, he hasn't attended synagogue in weeks – and begins to shadow him. Seeing Shaya disappear inside an imposing edifice, Asriel is ready to believe the worst. "Dis a choych?" he asks a stranger in stunned disbelief, reflecting Cahan's wonderful ear for street cadences.

"A church? No, it's a library – the Astor Library," the stranger replies. Shaya has plunged into the vast ocean of gentile learning. America soon turns him into a proponent of Positivism and a passionate member of a weekly debating circle on Harriet Martineau's *Auguste Comte*, a text he considers sublime. Not even Flora can command her darling fiance's attentions any longer. Asriel, with bitter resignation, elopes to Palestine with his housekeeper. Such is how even the purest gold gets tarnished in America.

As evidenced both in his classic novel *The Rise of David Levinsky* (1917) and in his brilliant stewardship of the *Daily Yiddish Forward*, which he edited for half a century (until his death in 1951), Cahan was always keen to depict the world as it was – not glittering with romance but tarnished by the gritty realism of daily life. Even in his early novel *Yekl*, which became the basis for the movie *Hester Street*, he wrote about what he saw around him, not what he wished could exist in a better world.

Many Jewish readers who had worked their way into middle- and upper-class American society were appalled by the baseness evident in some of his ghetto characterizations, as in *Yekl*.

"If you want to describe the Jews to Americans, why not describe the best of us, instead of choosing this low, coarse, immoral tenement fellow?" one lady wrote to him.

"My dear madam," he replied, "I chose Yekl because he and his tenements seem to me more interesting than even the best Jews uptown."

Cahan had helped found the *Forward* in 1897, then left for greener journalistic pastures. In his absence, the paper lapsed into a struggling socialist feuilleton, filled with long theoretical articles about socialism that preached and shouted at the few readers it managed to attract. Beseeched by the paper's collective management, who offered him complete control to do as he saw fit, Cahan returned as editor in 1902.

His first edict was to order the staff to abandon their pompous German style and write in plain Yiddish. Next he jettisoned all abstract discussion of socialism, and he replaced an essay on Karl Marx with a lively piece on Jewish students at New York City College – it carried a socialist message between the lines.

Although labour's struggle with the capitalist bosses remained a key focus, Cahan added more American news to the paper and presented it without the usual socialist slant. He also included cultural reviews, translated stories, and articles that interpreted American institutions and life. Presented in the homely "mamaloshen" of the streets, the paper's new dynamic mix aroused immediate excitement. Readership soared from 6,000 to more than 225,000.

Abraham Cahan at his desk.

As in his literary works, Cahan filled the *Forward* with colourful scenes of everyday life as it was, not as it should be, and vigourously defended his editorial stance. When an article on the compulsion of Jewish mothers to equip their children with pocket handkerchiefs provoked some of his comrades to ask what handkerchiefs had to do with socialism, he replied, "Since when has socialism been opposed to clean noses?"

Perhaps his most famous innovation was the *Bintel Brief*, a column devoted to the ordinary problems of the people; Cahan called it "the book of life." One typical early letter came from an old Orthodox mother, lamenting that her son refused to say *Kaddish* for a recently deceased father. "I beg him; for weeks I cannot sleep. But still he refuses. He says he would be a hypocrite if he said *Kaddish*, because he does not believe in God. What can I do?" In reply, the paper orders the son to say *Kaddish* at once. "It will do your mother good, and so, when you go to the synagogue, you will not be a hypocrite, but only a kind son who is comforting a broken old mother."

Like a latter-day Moses and Aaron wrapped up in one, Cahan played a key role in public issues, was a gifted orator, and sometimes faced the people's wrath. In 1912, he urged the settlement of a strike, and an angry mob broke some of the paper's windows. Dauntless, he turned to address the crowd but suddenly collapsed. He was rushed to hospital and survived a serious operation.

Convalescing away from the daily grind of the press room, he began writing *The Rise of David Levinsky*, a work that had been on his mind for years. Written with his characteristic attention to everyday life, it is filled with fresh observations on the customs, thoughts, concerns and manners of Jewish Americans in the Gilded Age and early 20th century. Today it is recognized as a classic of Jewish immigrant fiction, and Cahan, deservedly, as a Jewish literary great.

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Arts & Travel

More than 700 exhibits

Continued from page 1

the scroll, the charter between the Israeli and his land was sustained through a document."

"The New Hebrews" is a thematic and chronologically arranged show of more than 700 exhibits divided into 15 themes. It tells the history of modern Israeli culture from its emergence 100 years ago to the present.

Upon entering the first room of the exhibition, you are immediately drawn to Shmuel Hirzenberg's huge mural *The Wandering Jew*.

Zoltan Kluger's photo *Workers coming back from the field* is representative of the idealistic artwork of the 1930s and '40s.

Based on the 17th-century legend of the Jewish shoemaker condemned to wander forever for taunting Christ on the cross, this striking image showing a man crazy with fear, leaping into the unknown as crosses impale naked corpses on the ground, symbolizes the terrible period of pogroms in eastern Europe.

At once, this painting sets the stage for the theme of "The New Hebrews," since the persecution of Jews gave rise to the Zionist dream to return home.

From the pogroms of eastern Europe we head into exhibits on Zionism and the First Fruits.

The years 1919 to 1925 brought thousands of young Jews to Palestine. The art produced during this period reflects the new immigrants' desire to integrate into the Arab world. They saw themselves as less European than Eastern.

The art displayed shows Israelis proudly wearing traditional Arab kaftans and headdresses. It wasn't until after 1929, with the growing conflict between Arabs and Jews, that there was a dramatic reduction in artwork with Arabic themes.

The section on the theme Utopia – The New Man portrays the propaganda-like artwork popular in the 1930s and '40s, reminiscent of Soviet and fascist propaganda of the time.

Presenting "The New Man" in an idealistic, socialist manner, this exhibit centres on pictures of muscular men with pickaxes in hand, conquering the soil. Artists portray willing, athletic, handsome farmers proudly tilling the land. The message is clear: in this new land, a new man will arise, free of the shtetl stereotype dominant in Europe.

Other themes include the Shoah, religion, immigration, war and conflict.

In War, a series of surreal photographs by Adi Ness dominate the room. One of these photographs is a depiction of the famous Last Supper painting, showing a group of Israeli soldiers eating their meal in the famous Da Vinci pose. There is nothing subtle about this; for these soldiers, this may very well be their last supper.

Nir Hod's colourful canvas *Lost Youth*, which depicts mourning Israeli soldiers, is especially poignant.

Probably the most controversial display is *Detail*, a short documentary by Avi Mograbi. It shows an Arab mother being prevented from taking her sick daughter to a hospital outside her village. The Israeli soldiers, safe in their armoured vehicle, refuse to allow them to leave or to allow an ambulance to come in to pick them up.

The Palestinian woman consoles her daughter by cursing the Israelis, assuring her that Allah will take care of them.

For an exhibit on Jewish art, especially one in Europe where anti-Israeli sentiment runs deep, this is especially brave.

But curator LeVitte Harten says this was intentional. The idea was to show that as a democratic nation, Israel does not hide from self-criticism.

"The idea that Europeans are pro-Palestinian does not make them anti-Semitic, nor anti-Israeli," she says. "Given that most artists in Israel carry this opinion, it is natural that they will express it in their work. It makes no sense to exercise censorship, and if we do not show it, will the truth of the situation evaporate?"

Tragic, comic and everything in between, this exhibit successfully portrays the history of Israel through the eyes of its artists.

It is unfortunate that because of space restrictions (it takes up 20 rooms), "The New Hebrews" will probably not be seen anywhere else.

Martin-Gropius-Bau, telephone 030/25486-0, www.gropiusbau.de or e-mail post@gropiusbau.de

. *Joseph Serge flew to Berlin via Frankfurt, a guest of Lufthansa Airlines and the Israel Museum. He stayed at the Hotel Adlon Kempinski Berlin, telephone 49 30 2261 1016, www.hotel-adlon.de*

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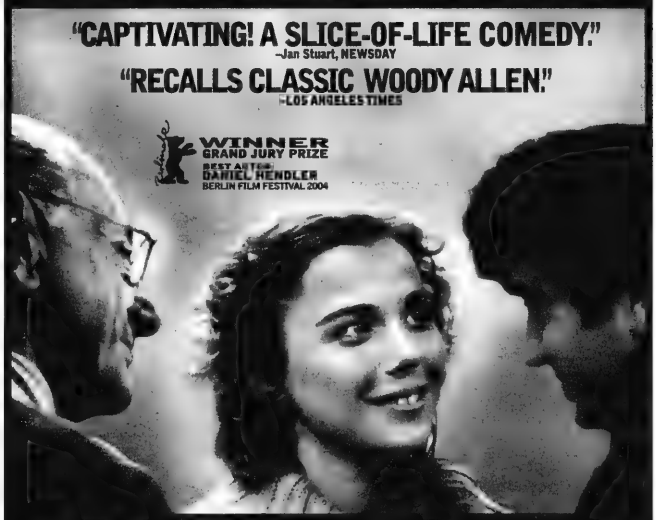

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Naim Kattan's memoir about Iraq, Farewell, Babylon, *re-issued*

***Farewell, Babylon* by Naim Kattan, Raincoast Books.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Naim Kattan's bittersweet memoir, *Farewell, Babylon*, examines an Arab country where Jews dwelled for 25 centuries.

There, as they went about their lives, they witnessed the rise and fall of empires, caliphates and colonial powers.

In Iraq, Jews lived virtually side by side with their Muslim and Christian neighbours, but seldom mingled socially. Everyone instinctively recognized the invisible borders.

Kattan was born in Baghdad in 1928 and immigrated to Canada in 1954. He left Iraq in 1947, and has not returned. In this book, first published 29 years ago and recently re-issued with a new foreword, he guides a reader through the permutations of its social boundaries.

Iraqi society was highly stratified and was based on religion, ethnicity and class. These lines and divisions were rarely breached. However, since Muslims constituted the vast majority of Iraq's population, they were understood to be more equal than Christians and Jews. This was the case even though Jews arrived in what is now Iraq before the advent of Islam.

Kattan and his friends, who considered themselves worldly and cosmopolitan Iraqis, gradually learned that this fact of life was carved in stone.

As he puts it, "In our group we were neither Jew nor Muslim. We were Iraqis, concerned about the future of our country… Except that the Muslims felt more Iraqi than the others… We were different…"

One's identity could be discerned in an eye blink. "We had only to open our mouths to reveal our identity," he writes early on in this pungent memoir. "The emblem of our origins was inscribed in our speech."

Kattan's family resided in Baghdad's Battawiyeen district, far from their old neighbourhood where Bedouin traders would come with their camels once a week to unburden them of sacks of grain.

To Kattan, the Muslim world seemed strange, exotic and hostile. "When a Jewish mother reprimanded her son, she would call him a Muslim," he observes. "The Muslim mother returned the insult by calling her offending son a Jew."

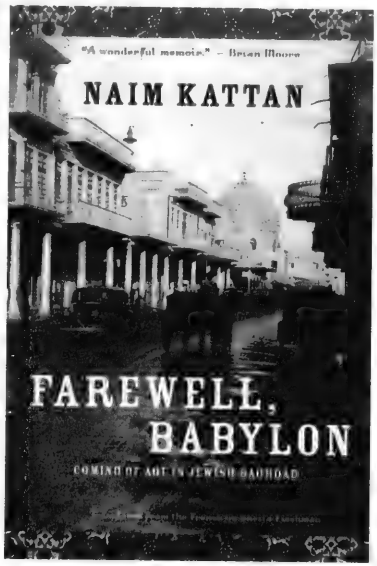
The commonest of pursuits could be dangerous in a divided city like Baghdad. Consider this tidbit from the author: "I had never ventured into a movie theatre by myself. As I was a Jew, the young boys of my age, Christians or Muslims, would have attacked me with kicks and slaps."

Despite the threat of such violence, Jews were basically left alone. But in June 1941, following a failed coup by pro-German army officers, a pogrom, known as the *farhoud*, erupted in Baghdad, spearheaded by Bedouins.

He describes it in detail.

"Armed with picks, daggers, sometimes with rifles, they unfurled in waves… As they passed through, they brought along Muslims [and] spared the Christians. Only the Jews were being pursued. As they advanced, their ranks swelled, teeming with women, children and adolescents who ululated as they did on great occasions such as weddings and feasts."

For the Jewish community, the *farhoud* was clearly a turning point. "With the restoration of order, the Jews came out of their numbness and stupor and began to plan for the future."



From that point onward, emigration was their number 1 priority.

In the meantime, Jews had to adjust to new realities. Jewish civil servants, such as Kattan's father, brother and uncle, had to relearn Arabic, which they had spoken only in a degraded form of a dialect. The edict was a source of humiliation to his father.

As the situation deteriorated still further, Jews applying for senior level positions in the civil service had to prove beyond a doubt that they were indispensable and that no Muslims could replace them.

And at Baghdad University's faculty of medicine, a place was allotted for only two Jewish students per annum. Wealthy parents had to send their sons abroad. "We learned painfully that our participation in building the country was required only where it was seen to be indispensable," he notes.

He and his Jewish friend, Nessim, enrolled in a Muslim school to improve their Arabic, whose rhetorical wealth they valued. They soon realized that their enthusiasm for Arabic was not shared by their teacher.

"He would question the whole class about a grammatical ambiguity or a complicated figure of speech," he recalls. "Nessim and I were usually among the first to raise our hands, pointing out with joy that we held the key to the mystery.

"The teacher never called on us. He persisted in ignoring our eagerness to declare our attachment to our common heritage and unconsciously rejected the tribute we were burning to pay to his teaching."

Yet *Farewell, Babylon* is not just an unrelieved chronicle of doom and gloom. Consider Kattan's amorous adventures. In accordance with local tradition, he lost his virginity in a house of ill repute.

His account stretches over several pages, but in a typical passage, he writes:

"She was naked. Never in all my dreams had I imagined a woman so resplendent in her beauty, so filled with poetry. I held out my hand towards her, timidly, touched one breast, then the other. She laughed to encourage me and then began to stare at my passive virility. She held me in her arms, caressed me. Everything happened in a cadence that took my breath away."

But within 20 pages, we're hurtled back to the grim political status quo in Iraq.

Kattan tells of the media war against the "Zionists" who were plotting the theft of Palestine. Community leaders proclaimed that Jews were not Zionists, but to no avail. "Protests of patriotism, professions of nationalist faith, did not calm those who, in greater numbers every day, questioned our loyalty to the Arab nation."

Jewish communists were in the forefront of denouncing Zionism. But they, too, were lumped together with Zionists.

Amid the rising climate of anti-Zionism, the government enacted anti-Jewish restrictions. "Henceforth, there was a curious quality to any project that might result in fixing us on our native soil. Only plans for leaving seemed final."

On this sombre note, *Farewell, Babylon* reaches its denouement. Kattan left Iraq, and settled in Montreal after finishing his studies in Paris.

He fared well in Canada. He edited the *Bulletin du Cercle Juif* for the Canadian Jewish Congress, published books, wrote literary criticism for *Le Devoir* and, for 25 years, headed the writing and publication section of the Canada Council.

But Iraq, judging by *Farewell, Babylon*, is still in his bloodstream.

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CJN Profile

The Cinderella Man of the online world

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

In the fickle world of online business, a person can go from being a dotcom millionaire to becoming bankrupt in a click of a mouse.

This is something Internet entrepreneur Michael Yack is all too familiar with.

After having been a dotcom millionaire who lost it all as quickly as he earned it, Yack managed to claw his way back to run an online business that is a true Canadian Jewish success story.

Yack, the brains behind fabuloussavings.com – a website designed to assist local businesses in getting a strong online presence and offering incentives to customers – compared his road to success to that of Jim Braddock, the boxer depicted in the film *The Cinderella Man*.

Braddock, an ex-prizefighter who had it all before the Great Depression hit, was considered down and out after he suffered a number of losses both financially and in the ring. But he proved everyone wrong when he took on the heavyweight champion of the world and won.

"I'm like the underdog," said Yack. "There were months where we had no money."

Because of these hardships, because his success did not come easy for him, Yack is grateful for the good fortune he enjoys today.

His company was recently named one of the top 200 global affiliate marketers by Molander and Associates Inc. – a performance marketing research firm – making Fabulous Savings one of the top online companies in the world.

Michael Yack, the founder of Fabulous Savings, is seen next to a poster in his office that advertises his pride and joy. [Benji Feldman photo]

"We started from humble beginnings and because of that we have an appreciation for the Internet and making it work," he said.

And it's the way that Yack is able to make the Internet work for his clients that is the "secret sauce" of his business.

He said Fabulous Savings creates an online presence for both local merchants and online businesses by manipulating search engines to get them highly placed on their lists, and offers coupons.

"What we do is called pull marketing. We don't push. The paper pushes, the radio pushes, we pull. We concentrate strictly on search engines, so when someone's looking for something on a search engine, not only do they find what they are looking for, they get an incentive they never would have expected.

"That's what everyone wants to know, is how do you get on top of Google," said the eccentric entrepreneur who prefers to work in the dark, with only the glow of the computer monitors emitting light into his spacious office.

He added that this service is in such high demand that Harvard University offers a course to teach its students how to manipulate the search engines the way that Yack does.

This technique, coupled with coupons that consumers can only get if they shop through Fabulous Savings, is the secret to Yack's success.

"We have coupons for more than 1,200 online merchants. The same thing we do for local businesses, we do for online businesses and it's working extremely well to say the least," he said. "It's fun because when you're shopping online, not only do you find exactly what you're looking for, but you get, like, 25 per cent off."

What makes it so unique, he said, is that the incentives that he offers are for goods and services that you could never get coupons for in the past.

"You can get a coupon to get your house renovated or your house painted. Skydive Burnaby – you can get a discount to kill yourself," he said.

Fabulous Savings didn't begin to thrive overnight, but Yack drew from past experiences to make this service attractive to both buyers and sellers.

"I used to get deals on everything, just from talking to people and whatnot. While running a marketing company, we came up with this idea just so my friends would stop bugging me about where to get things," said the 34-year-old Thornhill native.

"We put up a website, and this was prior to the Internet becoming what it is today. We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on traditional advertising that didn't work and we were broke. We had no money and then we figured out how the search engines work and that was the key.

"You know, it's very easy to build and put up a website, but if no one finds it then what's the point?" he asked.

What began as a local venture funded entirely by Yack and his family that catered exclusively to Toronto merchants has grown into a word-of-mouth phenomenon that American corporate companies are beginning to get wind of.

"Macy's is my client, Wal-Mart is my client, Target is my client, Uggs is my client, Sony's my client," he said.

Within the next year, he plans to open offices across Canada, and within the next three years, he hopes to have a presence in every major market in North America.

Although he anticipates the expansion into the rest of the continent, he emphasized how important the local merchants are to him.

"Our heart is in small, local businesses. That's what makes us go."

Yack expressed his concern that mom-and-pop-run businesses that thrive within their communities might fall prey to the big-box stores and online companies if they don't change with the times.

"There's a migration right now between the old world and the new world and people don't realize it. When they do realize it, it's going to be too late," he warned.

"It's not like you're just competing against people in your city – you're competing against people all over the world. With bookstores, you'll buy a book where you can save half the money. There's no more loyalty in the industry."

After struggling through years of debt, Yack, who said he has a passionate love affair with the Internet, was able to make it work for him.

"So far this year, I've pushed over $1 million in sales, which is pretty cool from a little idea. We're the superstars of the industry when it comes to Internet marketing."

The self-proclaimed natural entrepreneur, who used to make a buck by buying and selling working at flea markets and selling on eBay, is thrilled that he gets paid to do what he loves.

"I'm like Tom Hanks in the movie *Big*. I come to work and I play online every day."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Michelle Goldstein Zaldin
Chief Operating Officer

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

BATHURST-SHEPPARD CUSTOM HOMES
Choice of 3 custom homes to be built, ranging from 2500 to 4500 sq.ft. Crown moldings, large lots, euro design kits, unique exterior & interior design, high ceilings & much, much more. Please call *Carey Rosenzweig

• • •

PICKERING – JUST REEUCED TO $899,900
Custom home on 70 x 390 ft lot, with over $200,000 in extras, finished walk-out basement to ravine, 3 car garage, about 3900 sq.ft. Also for rent at $3,900/month. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK – ON SPRING GATE BLVD.
Custom home about 3400 sf, prof finished bsmt, very private yard w/mature trees & large deck. Great family home across from park, steps to schools, bus, shops. *Sarah Tamin & *Cila Fleischmann

• • •

"ROSEDALE NORTH" – WITH INGROUND POOL
Must see!! Stunning 4 bdrm, 9 ft ceilings, finished bsmt, totally redecorated & updated! New kitchen & baths, granite counters, limestone floors, hardwood firs, berber carpets, extensive landscaping plus pool & hot tub. Steps to Hebrew schools & Rosedale North P.S. *Sarah Tamin or *Cila Fleischmann

• • •

CENTRE-DUFFERIN "WILSHIRE"
Beautiful 4 bdrm home with 9 ft ceilings on main floor, stainless steel appliances, extras ++ **Mark Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK – DEEP LOT
Detached 4 bdrm, 2nd floor laundry room, 2½ baths, 2 year old roof, mostly new windows. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

"WESTMOUNT" BATHURST-CENTRE
Exquisite 4 bedroom home, completely renovated, walk-in closets in all bedrooms, designer finishings throughout! Shows great! *Ted Waxman

• • •

THORNHILL WOODS $369,900
Fabulous 3 bedroom townhome about 1600 sq.ft, main floor family room, 2 year old appliances, central air & vac, +++ Shows well. *Ted Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

CLARK-HILDA "THE CONSERVATORY"
Large corner unit, sunny & bright! 2 bdrms, 2 baths, balcony, low floor. Just reduced to $449,000. Don't wait! Call *Sarah Rovet

• • •

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
2 bdrms, two 4 piece bathrooms, terrace & balcony, 2 parking spaces and 1 locker. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Large split 2 bedroom layout, new ensuite, new appliances & window coverings, locker. Shows great! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-STEELES $234,500
Spacious 2 bdrm & solarium, ensuite laundry, eat-in kitchen, loads of cupboards. *Helen Winer

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES - $227,000
Large 3 bdrm corner suite, south-west exposure, some newer appliances, close to all amenities. Shows well. *Ted Waxman

• • •

YONGE-STEELES $199,900
Fabulous 2 bdrm condo with balcony, parquet floors throughout, renovated kitchen. Must see!! Shows well!! *Jerome Schrier

• • •

STEELES-BATHURST "THE COURTLAND"
Spacious & Sunny 1 bdrm SOLD bldg, great view, east facing balcony, 2 parking spots, beautiful grounds *Helen Gould

• • •

100 ANTIBES $189,000 – SHOWS WELL!
Fabulous condo, 2 bdrms + solarium, ensuite locker, large foyer with ceramic tiles, eat-in kitchen, appliances, immaculate! Close to everything. *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-WILSON
Renovated 1 bdrm condo with balcony, close to everything. Very motivated Seller Must be seen!! *Mary Fenyes

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

905-764-7200

REAL ESTATE Section

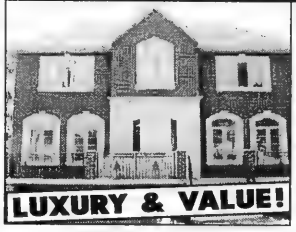
5 HOUSES FOR SALE

DAVID EICHORN

REALTY LIMITED REALTOR

416 787•1712 Visit our website: eichornrealty.com

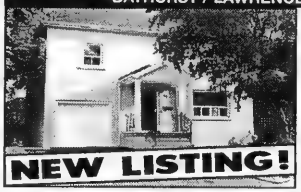
FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK



Magnificent new custom-built home on fabulous 50 x 140 ft. lot surrounded by other luxury homes. 5 + 2 bdrms., 10 ft. ceilings, library & fam. room on main floor, dream kitchen, wainscotting. Upgrades galore! $1,479,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!
A REAL CHARMER! Renovated, well-maintained 3 + 1 bdrm. bungalow, sep. entry to in-law suite, close to shops, TTC, schools. **A REAL DEAL AT $429,000!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Totally renovated and decorated throughout! 3 + 1 bdrms., main floor fam. room, new kit., sep. entry to in-law suite, prime central location, $649,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON — SPACIOUS EXECUTIVE HOME
4 + 3 bdrms., 5 baths, on generous deep lot in desirable Armour Heights! Main floor fam. room + library, renovated dream maple kitchen + granite counters. **ALL THIS FOR ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Spacious, renovated 2 + 3 bedroom bungalow on generous 50 ft. lot. Separate entry to in-law suite. Close to subway, TTC, shops. Asking $489,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

SOLD

Avenue / Bathurst / Lawrence Estate Sale Fabulous 40 x 122 ft. building lot in prestigious location close to luxury homes. **Opportunity to build your dream home — act now!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
AFFORDABLE LUXURY IN HOT AREA! Custom built, upgraded detailing throughout! 4 bdrms., 4 baths, granite counters & floors, hrdwd. floors on both levels, coffered ceilings, crown mouldings, marble fireplace ++. **REDUCED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE TO $819,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

ONLY A FEW LEFT: one just right for you!

One Glen Park

Prime Units from $291,800
Highly prestigious central location. Call David Eichorn* at (416) 787-1712. Special consideration to buyers of this condo who also list their current home with us.

- **910 sq. ft .....$ 291,800**
- **1,480 sq. ft. ....$ 479,900**
- **1,715 sq. ft. ....$ 599,900**
- **Penthouse 2,135 sq. ft. + huge terrace $1,049,000**

PRIME RENTALS, IDEALLY SITUATED!

- **BATHURST / BEDFORD PARK** 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 storey home close to Bathurst, $1,500 / mo.
- **BATHURST / GLENGROVE** 4 bedroom custom executive home, 3,000 sq. ft. + basement, $2,900 / mo.
- **BATHURST / SHELBORNE** 4 bedroom 2 storey detached home, $1,800 / mo.
- **AVENUE / LAWRENCE** Spacious 4 bdrm. executive home, backs onto Otter Crescent ravine, steps to Caribou Park, $5,000 / mo.
- **LYTTON PARK** Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm. ranch bungalow on gorgeous lot, $2,650 / mo.

Private Innisfil Waterfront!!!
New waterfront listing just minutes north of the 6th Line in Innisfil!! This Waterfront Home is nestled on a 50x200 ft. (approx.) lot .. with existing boathouse foundation & a fabulous view!! At almost 1400 sq. ft. this home boasts: hardwood flooring .. cathedral ceilings .. wood burning fireplace .. four good-sized bedrooms .. family room & a central great room tops it off!! Asking only $589,900.!!
Call **Derek Wager** at **1-888-712-9994** toll free or **1-705-717-5051** Direct
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ESSIE SHER

BATHURST/NEW WESTMINSTER
$699,900. Stunning 5 br, 5 bath. All the bells & whistles!
BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
$839,900. Best value for a 5 br. home w/many upgrades. Fin. w/o. bsmt.
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REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

SHEPPARD/ALLEN RD
Large 3 bedroom, 3 baths, 2 kitchens, fin basement, 2 car garage, large lot, steps to subway.
WILMINGTON/SHEPPARD
3 bdrm, 2 SOLD aped liv & din, fin bmst, garage, A-1 location.
BATHURST/SHEPPARD
3 bdrm, good sized liv & din rm, mod kitchen, 2 baths, Don't Miss.
416-633-7373

SALLY ROSEN
905-764-7111
CLARK & BATHURST
Large 4 bdrm 2 storey home, main floor family room, fin bsmnt, 2 car gar. $2,300/mo.
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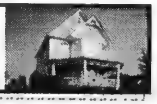

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

From condos to castles. Michael gets results

HOMES

Bathurst/Wilson – Great Starter Home! 2 Storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement, 44 x 132 lot, garage, asking only $379,900

Bathurst/Wilson – Custom Built by Owner, approx. 3,600 s.f., 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, bright and spacious, large kosher kitchen with Passover area, finished basement tons of extra features and in move-in condition, Great Value! asking $879,900

Bathurst/Wilson – New Home by Greenmount Homes! Approx. 3,000 sq .ft., 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 40 x 115 lot, A Real Beauty! Move-in Today! Asking $1,079,000

Bathurst/Lawrence – New Renovation by Castlehaven Fine Homes! 2 storey, 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, finished basement with self contained suite, all new construction! Ready in July for occupancy! Asking $799,900

CONDOS

Bathurst/Steeles – Large 3 bedroom plus solarium, 2 bathrooms, eat-in kitchen, ensuite laundry, low floor, pool and health centre, move-in condition, Sabbath elevator, asking $229,900

RENTALS

Bathurst/Lawrence – 3000 Bathurst, 1 bedroom plus a den, eat-in kitchen, Sabbath elevator, shows great! asking $1300 per month

Bathurst/Eglinton – Newly Renovated Apartments in Great Area, choose from 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom units, parking included! Prices start at $895 per month.

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Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc.

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Real Estate Inc. Realtor

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

482 LYTTON BLVD! GRAND 6+1BR 6BTH!
$1,499K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Rare Mn Flr Mbr+Fam+Lib+2Pce! Fab 67x135'! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FOREST HILL DELAVAN AVENUE
Lovely Trad'l details, move in/reno, 4 bedroom + den. S. Kimel* 416-785-1500

26 HILLMOUNT AVENUE! 5+2BR 4BTH!
$879K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+2Pce! Nanny Ste! 50 x 135'! Motivated! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

78 WEMBLEY RD UPPER VILLAGE $799,000
4bdrm, 3bath, great family home, fin bsmt, fireplace, private drive, on best part of street. Kathy Monahan** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 27 TILLINGHAM KEEP! $789K!
Balmoral Estates! Bramalea Cstm 2St 3+2Br 4Bth! Mn Fam+Lau +2Pce! Irreg 123 x 252'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

78 ALEXIS BLVD! UNBELIEVABLE!
$679K! Bathurst S/Sheppard! Fab 4+1Br 4Bth! Mn Fam+Lau+ 2Pce! Nanny Ste! 40x161'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NEW LISTING! 618 COLDSTREAM AVENUE
3 bdrm, 4 bath, custom built 22 years, lrg eat-in kitchen, main flr fam rm w/out to deck. Reesa Sud* 416-488-2875

AVENUE/LAWRENCE $619,000
Gorgeous updated 3+2 bdrm, 3 baths, w/o to deck +yard private drive, garage, sep entrance to bsmt. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

SUMMERHILL/YONGE $569,000
Semi-detached 17 x 89 ft, 3 bdrms, 3 baths, fireplace, skylight. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

UPPER FOREST HIL/FAIRLEIGH CRES.
4 bedroom, 1.5 storey, 2 bath, hardwood floors, garage immaculate. Faithe Sversky* 416-488-2875

UPPER FOREST HILL/FAIRLEIGH CRES.
$529,000 Charming, 4bdrm, 1.5stry, 2 baths, hardwood floor, fireplace, garage, Move Right In! Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

5A HEATHDALE ROAD! JUST N/ST CLAIR!
$515K! Amazing 3St 3Br 4Bth Semi! B/I Grge! Oversized Deck! Carefree City Living! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

SPECTACULAR STARTER IN THE VILLAGE
Full Renovated Dolls House 3+1 Bdrm, Condo Alternative. Lot 29 x 133 Ft. B. Westbrook* 416-226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

11 THORNBANK ROAD! "OLD THORNHILL"
$2,380K! Lifestyle Of The Rich+Famous! 6+1Br 11Bth! 3Car Grge! Superb 100 x 281'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 2 THE BRIDLE PATH! $1990,000!
Original Estate Is Now "Historic"+Totally Reno'd! Fab 5+1Br 6Bth! Gorg'us 101x161'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

67 DENLOW BLVD! EUROPEAN FLAIR!
$1,980K! Leslie/York Mills! Reno 4+1Br 4Bth! Indoor Spa! Lush Grounds! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

372 WILLOWDALE AVENUE! $495,000!
Bayview N/Sheppard! Live In/Add On/Build New! Fab 52x126'! Much New Dev't In Area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

JUST LISTED! GREAT THORNHILL HOME
Immaculate move in condition, many extras + updates, 3 bedroom + den. $438,900. Mary Goldberg* 416-488-2875

OPPORTUNITY $385K EXEC 3BR HOME
3 Bdrm T.H. with W/O Lower Lvl, 2 Balconies, Backyard, Dble Garage, Hdwd Under Broadloom. O. Guvenal* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL $669,000 RENOVATED CORNER
2bdrm, 2baths, hrdwd, gorgeous kitchen, stunning, treetop views, concierge, pool, pkg. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

ALLEN RD/LAWRENCE AVE CONDO $249K
Large Open Concept 1+1 Bedrooms, Tridel Built, 1 Parking, 1 Locker, Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

500 GLENCAIRN AVENUE! NOW $219K!
Incredible 1+1Br 2Bth South Facing Penthouse Ste! Hi Ceilings! Panoramic Views! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENO'D 3BDRM, 2STRY CONDO TOWNHOUSE
Eat-in kitchen, walkout patio, many upgrades! Near Seneca. $159,900. Mary-Anne Talbot* 416-785-1500

RENTAL PROPERTIES

EXECUTIVE RENTAL $6000/MO.
4+1 bdrms, 3baths, hardwood floors, move-in now! Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

YONGE/LAWRENCE 4BDRM+DEN $2500
Newly renovated over 2000 sq ft, backing on ravine, 2 parking. S. Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/ST. CLAIR EXECUTIVE UPPER DUPLEX $2300
Updated 4bdrm, 2 bths. S. Merrick* 416-488-2875.

BUSINESS PROPERTIES

KOSHER PIZZA AND FALAFEL RESTAURANT
Located At Bathurst/Lawrence Includes 4 Pc Bth, Apt In Bsmt, Owner Willing To Train. Stephen Green* 416-226-1987

****Associate Broker** *** Sales Representative**

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED

5 BEDROOMS 2-STOREY BACK SPLIT
Bathurst & Sheppard. Close to synagogues and all amenities. Original fam home on huge 50 x 159 lot. Main flr 5th bdrm w/4 pc ensuite. Fam rm w/out. $649K. Barry Allen Klupt* ext. 646

BATHURST/WILSON - CLANTON PARK
Lovingly looked after 3 bdrm side split home on fantastic 56 x150 lot. 2 Kit's. Same owner–36 years. Steps to parks, synagogues and all amenities. $549K. Barry Allen Klupt* ext. 646

BATHURST AND WILSON * HUGE 61 x 148 FT. LOT
Good size 3 bedroom bungalow with basement apartment. Steps to many synagogues, TTC, steps to Earl Bales Park and all amenities. $508,000. Barry Allen Klupt* ext. 646

BATHURST & SHEPPARD – 4 LEASE
Nicely renovated. 4 Bedrooms + den main floor, with 5th bedroom in large renovated basement. 3 baths, main floor hardwood throughout. See MLS#C717094. $2,200 + utilities/ month. Barry Allen Klupt* ext. 646

ACRES FOR SALE
147 Acres farm w/house and barn on property SE of Beaverton nr Durham in town of Cannington. $699,000. For more info pls. contact Barry Allen Klupt* ext. 646 & Ron Justein* ext. 569.

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst Manor sidesplit, near Beth Emeth, 2 kitchens, 3 bth, fin. bsmnt., CAC, dble. gar., long-term lease. Avail. Sept. 1st. $2190+/mo. 416-733-1844, x24.

BATHURST/PRUE, lux. bldg., approx. 2300 sq. ft., spacious 3 bdrms + den, 3 bathrooms, ample storage, large kitchen, 2 dishwashers, A/C, 2 indr. pkg. spots, $3800/mo. + cable, phone. Call Elina 416-869-2736.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

THE CONSERVATORY
GREATLY REDUCED!
333 Clark Avenue West
Motivated Sellers/Make an Offer!! Just Move In! Total Renovation (2004). Granite Kitchen, 2 Bdrms, 3 Baths, lrge Living/Dining, Open terraces, Gorgeous unobstructed views, (2,225 sf+), lrge locker, 3 pkg.
CAROL MINTZ 416-489-2121
ROYAL LEPAGE/J&D

FOREST HILL VILLAGE
Spacious updated 2 bedroom condo with exceptional unobstructed south west city view – steps to schools, synagogue, subway, shops/parks. **GENE PARKER, Royal LePage R.E. Svcs., 416-921-1112**

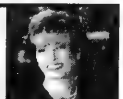
REAL ESTATE Section

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003 or 822-4003

SKYMARK DON MILLS & FINCH
65 Skymark Elegance: upgraded 2 bedroom + family. Approx. 1,775 s.f.
Skymark I: open concept 2 bdrm w/lrg living rm + sol.
Skymark 85: classic SOLD baths, 2 park., locker.
SANTEE LEUNG, E.R.I., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

ELAINE HARRIS



Associate Broker
Royal LePage Partners Realty
416-229-4454

THE CONSERVATORY – 333 CLARK AVE. W.
Corner suite, 2161 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 ensuite baths, powder room, family room, 4 walkouts, hardwood, 2 parking, 2 lockers. Reduced to $649,900. View at www.virtualproperties.ca/q4518
1st floor suite, no need to take the elevator, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, with walkout, $334,900. View at www.rpt.ca/clark110

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

BathurstSteelesCondos.com
2 Bdrms, Free Colour Brochure
GideonWaichenberg.com
Sales Representative
416-520-5700 - Cell
905-764-6000 - Office
Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc.

Bathurst/Clark, close to Promenade Mall, 2 bdrm. condo for sale immed. 905-886-3184.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Clark, close to Promenade Mall, 2 bdrm. condo for rent immed. 905-886-3184.

Bathurst-Steeles/Townsgate, lrg. lux. 1550 sf, 2 bed., + sun-room, corner unit, all amens. 2 parking. $2200/mo. Call 905-731-3321, 647-299-0371.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

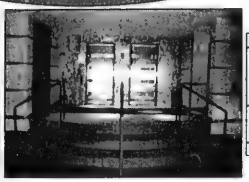
Bathurst/Sheppard, country feel in the city, spacious, bright, clean boutique apts., quiet ravine setting off main st., newly reno, TTC, 1 bdrm. avail. Sept./Oct. 905-474-3600, 416-633-1484.

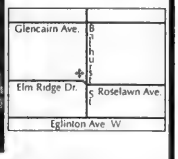
75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Luxury Apartments for Rent

The Eldorado
2500 Bathurst St.

Few Remaining Call Today!





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- Hardwood Floors
- Laundry Facilities on each Floor
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- 2 Bedroom + Den: 1,700 sq. ft.
- 3 Bedroom: 2,300 sq. ft.
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- Shabbat Elevators

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BATHURST & WILSON

Great living at this immaculately maintained building. ***Its nothing like you have seen before.*** Large, bright and newly refurbished suites with oversized balconies and breathtaking views. Indoor pool, sauna and jacuzzi. 1 & 2 bedrooms from only $999. **Please Call.....**
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416-931-2206
OPEN HOUSE every Sunday 10-2

BATHURST/STEELES

3 bdrm., 2 bth. corner unit apt., great location, lots of upgrades, balcony, ensuite laundry, move-in condition. $195K. Only 2

Century 21 New Concept
416-230-3388
Priscilla Wong, Sales Rep.

Marlee/Lawrence, 3 bed., 2 bath, triplex, parking. Available mid-August. Call 416-781-5742.

Thornhill, furn. bsmnt., private entrance, steps to TTC and shopping. Please call 416-369-4314.

Bathurst/Wilson, spacious 2 bed., furn'd., bsmnt. Now available. Please call 416-992-4998.

Bathurst/Eglinton, beautiful, spacious 1 bdrm. reno'd, hardwood floors, laund. on floor. Owner occupied bldg. Rent w/option to buy. Sept. 1, $1150/mo. Call 416-961-5343.

Bathurst/Clark, 1 bdrm. + bsmnt. apt. New, next to TTC, shopp. Perfect for bachelor or student. $750+. 647-895-2309.

BATHURST-SHEPPARD

ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl.
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or 416-631-0388 - Super

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Large room in bright, new finished bsmt., a/c, cable, parking, all inclusive. 2 bdrm. common area, clean, new bathroom with shower. $450/room. Bathurst/Centre, 905-881-4934.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

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LANDS OF THE PRESIDENT
PRIVATE GATED GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY
Best Location in Palm Beach County
Minutes from Airport, Palm Beach, and the new
CITY PLACE!!!
- Luxury Condos
- Garden Court Villas
- High Rise Doorman Buildings
- Town Homes

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South Florida. Selling, buying, new const. Call me for all your real estate needs. Enid Berk Hey, 954-292-2298, **Keyes Realty.**

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Miami, Sunny Isles, Winston Towers, lux. conv., 1 bdrm., 2 baths, walk to the beach, Jan.-Feb. $2000/mo. US. Please call 416-739-7555.

185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES

BUYING A HOME IN PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE?
Call Howard Nochomovitz; Former Toronto Resident Your Arizona Realtor
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Keller Williams High Desert Realty

190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

ESCAPE THE COLD
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www.howardknows.com
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Arts & Travel

Brooches are a girl's best friend

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

It only took a compliment from Oscar-winning actress Renée Zellweger to push a creative, young woman to turn her hobby into a business venture.

Avi Leigh Bader, a 27-year-old *Eye Magazine* photographer described the first time she wore her vintage, handmade, pearl-adorned jewelry in a Toronto bar.

Avi Leigh
[Benji Feldman photo]

"I was walking through the Horseshoe Tavern and the first compliment I got was from Renée Zellweger," Bader said.

"She walked up to me while I was standing at the bar by myself and she grabbed my hand and she said, 'Oh my god, I love your ring.' She wouldn't let go of my hand."

After that chance encounter, Bader decided to send Zellweger complimentary jewelry through her assistant while she was filming in Toronto.

"From that I ended up getting a bunch of press," said Bader, who has done a spot on *eTalk Daily*, and radio station 102.1 FM.

Since she first presented her wears at the annual Clothing Show in Toronto, she now creates vintage brooches, earrings, necklaces and even purses that can be found at trendy Toronto boutiques such as Over the Rainbow and Gypsy at Bayview Village.

While she said that making one brooch is a long process as they are all hand painted and usually include her photography, she loves what she does.

But the photographer in her warned her not to make herself choose between one passion and another.

"I like having my hands in a bunch of different things. I love fashion and I love photography and I love making things.

"I see them as not just jewelry, but as art pieces because the brooches are my own photos, so it's like you're wearing a little canvas."

Bader was influenced by her mother, who loved to accessorize with brooches. Once she rediscovered a fraternity pin she had inherited from her grandmother Pearl, and found the materials she had been searching for, she let her creativity take over and began her collection called Pinned by Avi Leigh.

Each collection is named after a special woman in her life – her grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, sister, and mother.

While brooches and vintage jewelry may be trendy, Bader said that to her the brooches are sentimental and not a short-term fad.

"Brooches were really trendy and popular last year, but I think they have staying power. I think it's original," she said.

"You know, it seems everyone and their dog has a line of jewelry, but mine is a little different and I put a little bit of my art into it and there is nothing out there like it."

It is for this reason, Bader said, that people all over North America have shown interest in her work. Ever since she did some press with *Famous Magazine*, a Canadian entertainment magazine, people from Vancouver, Montreal, Edmonton and even Los Angeles have shown interest.

For more information visit www.pinnedbyavileigh.com.

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CJN News Services

Canada's Irwin Cotler was under the spotlight at last month's Maccabiah Games, but this time it was sports and not politics that brought attention to the federal justice minister.

Competing in the 17th Maccabiah Games, Cotler didn't look out of place in his first competitive ping-pong game in 40 years.

But his hopes of winning a medal ended in 27 minutes.

Decked out in a Canadian red and white jersey, Cotler, 65, attracted a large crowd to his match in the masters category, and he won the first game 11-9 against Israeli masters champion Menachem Stein with a powerful cross-slam.

But the experienced Stein, who is 15 years younger than Cotler, quickly recovered, winning three straight games 11-4, 11-7 and 11-5 to take the match.

"You win if you participate, that's my motto," Cotler, surrounded by his family, told Canadian Press. "For me, competing here was fulfilling a childhood dream. I was just worried that I didn't come over here for comic relief."

After his success early in the match, Cotler hoped he might give Stein a challenge.

"I thought I would surprise him, maybe shake him up, but I really don't think he was ever worried," Cotler joked. "Now, I'm hoping to get him to coach me and return in four years for another opportunity."

Stein said the justice minister was a bit rusty.

"He's a courageous man," Stein told CP. "I could tell that he has other things to keep him busy and didn't come across as if he played too much. Still, his first game was a good challenge."

Cotler said his trip to the Middle East would also include a meeting with justice ministers from Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Speaking to *Ha'aretz*, he joked that the media coverage he received during the games, "is a lot more positive than what I get in Canada."

Reflections on Maccabiah 2005

By MIRAY CHESKES-GRANOVSKY
Special to The CJN

I have just returned from the Maccabiah Games in Israel, where my husband David competed in masters tennis.

The Games showcased top Jewish athletes from 55 different countries competing in an impressive array of sports. From soccer to table tennis, gymnastics to judo, it was inspiring to watch the strength, skill and determination of our athletes from around the world.

I was amazed by the countries represented at the Games. When thinking about world Jewry, countries such as Finland, India, Panama and Turkey don't generally jump to mind.

On our way to the opening athletes' party, we were fortunate to share our bus ride with the Indian cricket team, some of whom wore kippot and kept the long ride amusing by singing *David Melech Yisrael*.

Back in Toronto, we showed a picture of the Indian cricket team to an acquaintance from India. He immediately recognized one of the team members as a famous cricket player who is well-known throughout India for his ability.

The tremendous achievements of our athletes were rivalled only by the overwhelming camaraderie that existed between them.

At the opening ceremonies, I was struck both by our diversity and by our unity as Jews.

From left, Ron Herczeg, David Granovsky and Mitch Schacter

Seven thousand athletes from a multitude of cultural backgrounds and varying levels of religious observance were united by their shared Jewish roots and support for Israel.

The stadium was packed to capacity for the opening ceremonies, with 40,000 people cheering, singing and dancing as the athletes paraded onto the field.

And despite the attempts of Islamic Jihad to disrupt the Games with a suicide bombing in Netanya the next day, only one athlete out of 7,000 withdrew from the competition and flew home.

When the athletes weren't training or competing, they could be found trading their Maccabiah clothing for the uniforms of athletes from other countries.

My husband, who is as skilled in negotiations as he is in tennis, returned home with clothing – ranging from socks to jackets to hats – from 10 different nations.

During the negotiation process, a great deal of information was exchanged about Jewish life in different parts of the world. The same positive sentiments were expressed repeatedly by many of the athletes about the glamour of participating in the Games in Israel, the bonds felt with fellow Maccabiah participants and the thrill of meeting Jews from every corner of the globe.

For me, the Maccabiah Games trumps the Olympics, and I left the Games with heightened pride as a Jew and confirmed optimism about the importance of "being Jewish" to Jews around the world.

Scenes from two of the sporting competitions at the 17th Maccabiah Games in Israel. [Israel photo]

Different, yet similar

Last month, the most pressing issue on my mind was choosing between a pink dress or black pants to wear to a party I was going to, all in the name of a cute boy I'm seeing.

Another twentysomething also had pressing issues on his mind last month. Shahzad Tanweer, 22, was planning to blow himself up along with as many London commuters as possible, all in the name of martyrdom.

By SANDIE BENITAH

Worlds apart, yes. But are we that different?

One news agency described Tanweer as a "fun-loving, rich kid" who drove a Mercedes, played sports and loved being a university student.

My brow furrowed. I quickly scanned the article again, thinking I might have jumped ahead to a story about a David Goldberg from Thornhill.

Then I read that Tanweer had recently started embracing his religion and had travelled to the Middle East to learn about his culture and heritage.

Hmm. I'm pretty sure I read the same thing in an e-mail from my buddy Avi before he went on a birthright israel trip.

Déjà vu? Of course not, but there's no denying that in some scary way, my friends and I have more in common with this monstrous murderer than we do with our own parents.

Let me explain.

My interest in the conflicts haunting Israel began in earnest in university, as conversations with friends drifted from Brad Pitt to world issues before drifting back to Brad Pitt. We were becoming somewhat more mature and more aware of the world that our parents had warned us about.

I remember two incidents in particular at Ryerson University, where I was a student.

One afternoon, I was walking around campus and a man with a warm smile handed me a newspaper. I smiled back, looked down and saw a screaming headline about "apartheid in Palestine" and "atrocities" committed by Jews. I threw the paper back at him, shocked, scared and disgusted. My friend and I alerted campus officials immediately and asked that this man be removed. I remember fighting back tears the entire time, wondering what, if anything, I could do.

Soon after, Sept. 11 happened and my class assignment that day was to write an article about reaction at our school to the terror attacks in the United States. I interviewed the head of the Palestinian student group on campus, but before I did, I set my cellphone ringer to the highest volume so he could hear *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem, loud and clear as told me about all that is wrong with Zionism.

My parents tried to warn after each of these incidents, telling me that the best defence is education, and fighting back with facts and reason rather than stupid stunts. They said they didn't want me to get into trouble – or worse, into a dangerous situation. I dismissed them as being typically overprotective, and I continued to hold fast to my twentysomething zeal for what I believe in.

Not every suicide bomber is in his or her twenties, and certainly not every zealous twentysomething will even think about doing something as atrocious as what Tanweer did, but we are undeniably excitable and that can be a problem, too. I'm not sure what it is about us twentysomethings, but I see myself saying and doing things all the time to prove that I've found my voice and, more importantly, to show that I have a voice. But as I get older, I have to question what kind of voice that is.

There's no question that Tanweer's voice had an impact on the world, yet it hasn't advanced it in any way. The western world is not more sympathetic to his cause. All he has done is re-affirm the belief in the war on terrorism. My actions at Ryerson, though quite tame compared to his, also did not change anybody's mind about Israel. I'm not equating our actions, but I am saying that voices like ours, whether they be relatively meek or rather extreme, end discussions instead of creating them, and they halt progress and prevent peace.

Of course, we can't help but be impassioned. We are finally beginning to understand and take part in this world. But I hope that my voice will learn to speak passionate words of truth and hope instead of anger and revenge, and that, in the end, there will be no similarities between us and cold-blooded killers.

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Dressing
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1 tblsp lemon juice
1/2 tsp minced garlic
1/2 tsp tarragon
salt &pepper to taste

Cook pasta according to package instructions, drain and set aside.

Prepare dressing-mix together mayonnaise, yogurt, lemon juice, garlic, tarragon, salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

In large mixing bowl, mix together cooked pasta, cabbage, tomato, pepper, green onions. Toss with dressing; refrigerate until ready to serve.

Makes 8 servings.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My husband and I were invited to a bar mitzvah in New Jersey. We live in Toronto and left work early on the Friday so we could be there to join in the festivities with our family.

When we arrived, to our surprise, there were no festivities. Nothing had been arranged for any of the out-of-town guests for dinner. Some of the guests were shomrei Shabbat and literally had nowhere to eat.

I thought this was disgraceful. There were only a few of us, but the only arrangement that was made was to suggest a hotel to stay at so we would be close to the shul.

The whole bar mitzvah started on a sour note.

The only meal that was arranged was the luncheon after the bar mitzvah.

After the affair, we changed our tickets to leave earlier than we had planned. Is it unreasonable to feel this way?

Neglected Out-of-Towners

Dear Neglected Out-of-Towners,

I'm sure that opinions on this subject are endless and that everyone does things differently. However, my feeling is that if you are already making a simchah, go all the way.

Why would someone leave out-of-town guests to fend for themselves, especially when I assume most of them were there for Friday evening.

A gift basket could have been left in their rooms with a welcome card, some fruit, a little nosh, and some information about the area such as restaurants, sights to see, etc. But the one thing I would have really enjoyed as a guest is a Friday night dinner with my relatives. After travelling for many hours, it's nice to relax and have things arranged for you.

It's possible that money was tight and your hosts couldn't afford to feed every out-of-town guest for another meal. At the very least, however, they could have made reservations for you at a restaurant.

The bottom line is that out-of-town guests make a great effort to rearrange their lives for a short time to come to simchahs. It's up to the people making the affair to make their guests feel comfortable and wanted.

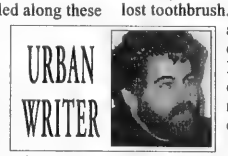
Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Camp Northland: a forever experience

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Many of the roads in Haliburton run through Eden-like highlands with pre-Cambrian rock formations, where every fissure or crack in the granite surface has a sprouting plant, a fern or a pine seedling.

Late last month, as I travelled along these snake-like roads on my way to visit my buddy Burt, the mashgiach who oversees kashrut at Camp Northland-B'nai Brith, I imagined campers bouncing up and down in the traditional camp school bus, some singing and others staring nervously out the window worried about making friends.



When I arrived at Northland, a "community camp" that's owned and operated by the Jewish Camp Council of Toronto (JCC), I was warmly welcomed by Ellen Nash, director of Northland and the JCC, and Stephen Polevoy, the camp's business manager and assistant director. Their reputation of being disciplined yet thoughtful camp managers and community leaders preceded them, and I was impressed by their combined camp experience of more than 50 years.

We shmoozed for a while in Ellen's office, interrupted once by a camper reclaiming her lost toothbrush. It quickly became clear that, as with all great teams, a powerful symbiosis exists between Ellen and Stephen, one developed through years of collaboration, and a love for the camp experience, youth and Judaism.

As an ex-camper myself (I went to a Lubavitch boys camp in 1968), memories came flooding back to me, and I became as inquisitive as master detective Jacques Clouseau.

How big are the grounds? Northland covers 750 exquisite acres. How do you feed hundreds of kids three times a day? With very tasty food and in two separates shifts, with alternative meals for vegetarians. How do you ensure a home-away-from-home atmosphere with healthy human interaction? By banning cellphones, portable DVD players, iPods, Blackberries, Walkmans or computers – basically, anything from Future Shop.

Northland is predicated on the fundamental Jewish values of chesed (kindness) and tzedakah (justice). As we toured the camp, Ellen, with obvious pride, told me that the JCC distributes more than $200,000 in subsidies each summer to ensure that Jewish children of all backgrounds can enjoy camp – which, a colleague once told me, makes a greater and more lasting impact on youth than do most other organized settings.

We walked the paths, some of them beaten out over the years by young romantics sneaking about on late-night rendezvous. The grounds and resources are superbly maintained by Rob Abbs, the camp's chief maintenance professional, and include 58 cabins, well-equipped lakefronts, a rock climbing wall, an adventure sports course, and one awesome camp radio station run by Toronto funkmaster David Weiss.

Later, I took a stroll on my own, frequently stopping to ask campers and staffers their feelings about camp. Staff members, some of whom were back for their 15th season, expressed sentiments such as, "These are the greatest weeks of my year" and "Camp is my second home." Some individuals had come from as far away as England, France, Mexico and the United States.

I continued to amble along, spotting the requisite boondoggles on campers' wrists and names such as "Ken Sugar" (canoe staff 1975-76) and "Steve 'Little Jew' Goldberg" scrawled on cabin doors and beams. I realized then that what Ellen and Stephen had told me back at the office was right. Camp is magic, and anathema in many ways to our wired existence in the city. It's a summer oasis where youngsters get to enjoy a shared lifestyle filled with unbridled fun while learning leadership skills and making lifelong friendships.

This column is, therefore, a tribute to every camper – today and through the years; to the Northland staff and campers of 2005; and to Ellen and Stephen, masters of their craft and memory-makers for thousands of Jewish youth who have ridden that bouncing school bus through the wooded entrance to this extraordinary paradise.

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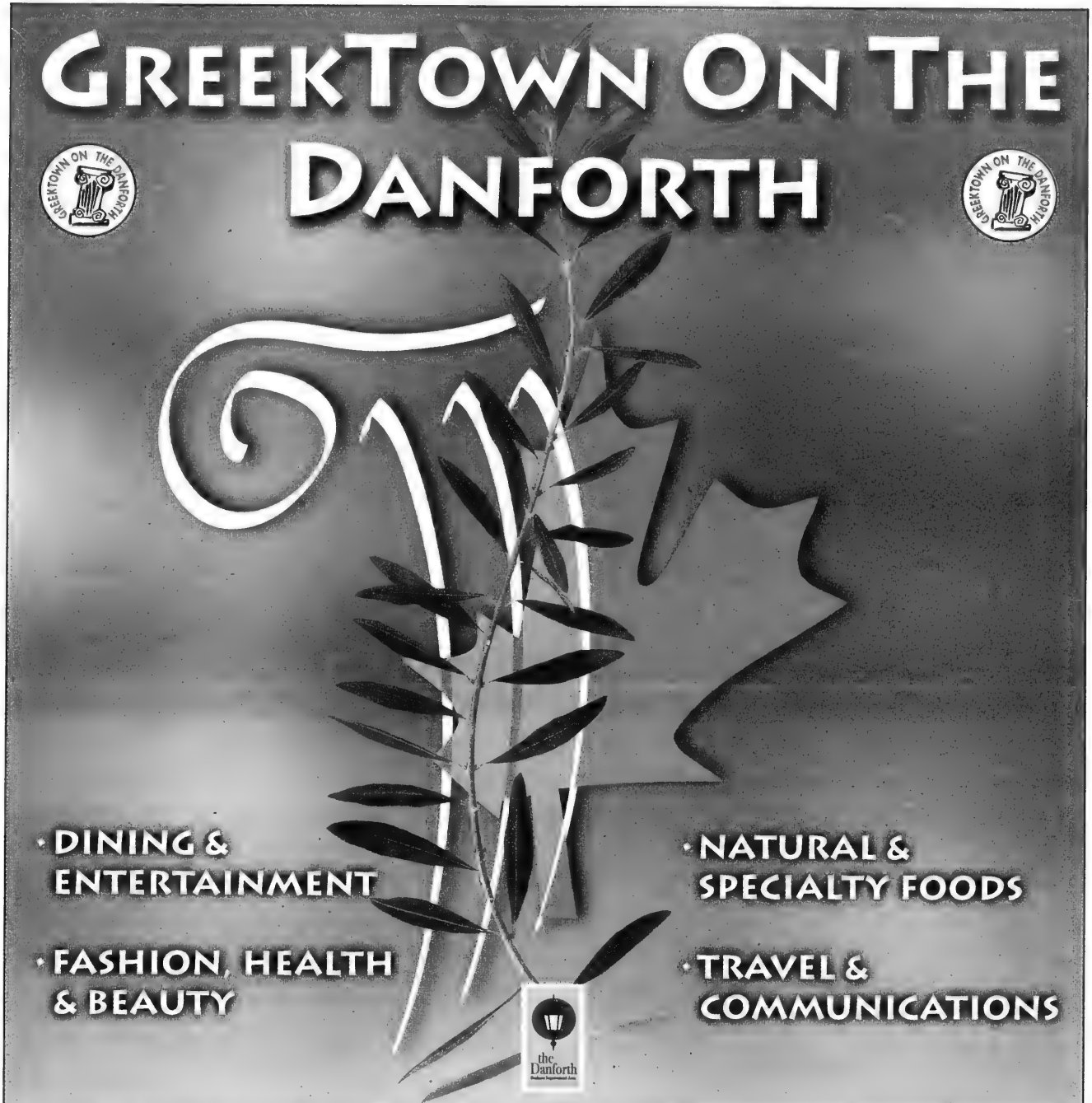
GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH



- DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
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- TRAVEL & COMMUNICATIONS

the Danforth

KRINOS TASTE OF THE DANFORTH AUG. 5-7

ALL IN GREEKTOWN, ALL YOURS TO ENJOY!

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

2005 Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth focuses on healthy eating, healthy lifestyle

Doctors and scientists around the world are talking about the Mediterranean diet — low on cholesterol and fats and high on taste. This year's Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth, which takes place Friday, August 5 to Sunday, August 7, picks up on this theme, offering healthy foods from Greek and other Danforth restaurants and new health-inspired activities and events.

Chris Trahiotis, Chair of this year's festival life and owner of Ouzeri Restaurant, thinks the focus on health and fitness is a perfect fit. "A traditional Greek saying is 'live life as was meant to be lived', says Trahiotis. "This year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth will help you find ways to do just that, in North America's largest GreekTown."

Over 80 restaurants are planning to take part, offering tastes from their menus reasonably priced from $1 to $5. As you explore the food of the Danforth, you can also take part in activities with Toronto sports teams, get health advice, and even cheer on participants in Toronto East General Hospital's Bed Dash.

Health of mind and soul is also high on the program, with three stages active over the weekend. The Scotiabank Stage at Logan Avenue will feature great music from rock to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra to the National Band of the Canadian Naval Reserve. New this year is a taste of great theatre, including *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*.

The Visa Stage at Playter Avenue will feature music and the popular Visa Fashion Show, including high couture to casual wear from close to a dozen Danforth merchants. This show is brought to you by the talented folks at Fingerprints, with their own eclectic children's line and a knack for special events; expect something special this year!

The Greek Stage at Pape features traditional and modern Greek music and dance, and is a great way to experience a little Greece in Toronto. Use your VISA card at participating merchants along the Danforth and you could WIN a trip to Greece compliments of World of Vacations. Need to sit down for a moment? The beer gardens near the Stages all feature Amstel and Heineken — Greece's most popular beers — and Ouzo 12. Speaking of Greece, do you want to call Greece for FREE? Drop by the Vonage booth. Also new this year is the Skyy Vodka Martini Garden located at Danforth and Ferrier in the heart of GreekTown.

This year's midway is bigger and better than ever. Sensodyne is hosting an ice-cream eating contest and Pepsi's "Get Spotted Team" will be awarded prizes along the Danforth all weekend long.

Alex Alexakis, President of Krinos Foods, expects this year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth will be the best yet. "Every year this event gets better," said Alexakis. "And this year, with a focus on the healthy benefits of the Mediterranean diet and an active lifestyle, we are offering visitors a valuable gift – a long and happy life. Opa!"

For more information on the 12th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth, visit www.tasteofthedanforth.com

Sharing the taste of Greece at Mezes

Sharing the taste of Greece with its customers, and accordingly celebrating family and culture, is the definition of Mezes' appeal. Consistency, quality, and freshness have been the anchors of its success.

For years Mezes has been enticing patrons to choose from a markedly extensive menu of its namesake: small, appetizer-sized portions of deliciousness meant to be ordered in multitudes and collectively enjoyed by the table. In fact, this communal style of dining, which is as authentically Greek as the gastronomy, serves to uniquely heighten the experience at Mezes.

"It makes for a convivial meal," says Mezes proprietor Sue Zindros. "It stimulates conversation, sharing good feelings as well as food, and it encourages people to try new things."

Hungry diners, in Sue's experience, tend to order familiar things, or "comfort food". Mezes encourages diners to blend the familiar with the new. The fact that everything at Mezes is made fresh from scratch, with the finest natural ingredients, is added incentive to experiment.

Seafood abounds on the Mezes bill of fare. Certainly try the tender grilled octopus, or the shrimp prepared one of three ways: broiled and crusted with garlic; surrounded by fresh vegetables and splashed with lemon; or baked with feta in a tomato sauce. The fish, broiled whole and drizzled with the best olive oil, is embellished only by the promotion of its own natural flavour. *Dolmades* — grape vine leaves embracing a delicate mixture of rice, ground beef, and dill — remain one of the most popular selections. The tender lamb chops, ordered by the piece or as an entrée, have inspired quite a following of their own. Vegetarians will delight in a vast number of menu items, among them the *Gigantes* — lima beans slow cooked with garden vegetables and fresh herbs in a tomato base.

Mezes
AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE
456 DANFORTH AVENUE
416-778-5150
WWW.MEZES.CA

For the summer, Mezes has a covered, luxuriously curtained, waterproof pavilion that extends the warm, candlelit setting of the indoors right out into the street. The attention to detail at Mezes — from the service to the cookery to the creation of memories — is truly what makes every day and every meal, a celebration.

Astoria signals future of Greek dining

Think "Danforth", and you're liable to think "Astoria." For over 30 years, this venerable "institution of higher dining" has come to symbolize the culinary qualities the Danforth is known for: great food, great quality, and great value.

Astoria recently underwent a major renovation that has seen it emerge brighter and roomier than ever. If it shone before, now it positively sparkles. A nouveau rustic take on traditional Greek motifs unfurls in rich golds and maroons, with elegant tile underfoot and soaring sky blue overhead.

Company Director Peter Kerasiotis undertook the renovation with a view to embracing the needs and tastes of a new generation of diners while remaining mindful of Astoria's long-standing clientele. "Many of our original guests are still regulars three decades later," he notes. "They rely on us for their family outings and special occasions, and it's their loyalty that has allowed us to grow."

The essentials — freshness, quality, and friendly personal service — haven't changed. Astoria still imports staples such as feta cheese, olive oil and olives in small quantities directly from Greece. Their staggering portions still quell the most outrageous appetites.

Astoria's now-famous "souvlaki window", always a beehive of activity, is an indelible image of Danforth life. And what souvlaki! Judged **"Best of the City"** by *Toronto Life* and **"Best of Toronto"** by *Now*, Astoria's souvlaki helped make it a multiple winner of the **Toronto Sun's Readers' Choice Award** as Toronto's favourite Greek restaurant. Astoria was also rated "Best Greek International Restaurant" by *Where*.

ASTORIA
shish kebob house
390 Danforth Avenue
at Chester subway
416.463.2838
and opening this fall at
1970 Dundas St. East
Unit 1, Mississauga

Other jewels on the menu include hearty moussaka, exquisite grilled sea bass and salmon steaks — and Greek appetizers like grilled calamari and creamy homemade tzatziki, if you can keep your souvlaki craving at bay long enough to sample them.

Location and atmosphere are other Astoria assets. For a big restaurant, it's remarkably cozy, due to its corner location and dual outdoor patios (still the Danforth's largest, and now among its brightest as well!)

Heading eastbound on Bloor, you know you're on the Danforth once you hit Broadview; but you don't really *feel* it until Astoria leaps joyously into view, bidding you "Welcome to GreekTown" in words that the food lover in you understands so well.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Thuna Herbals' past a beacon for future

It's a delightful anachronism reminiscent of an old English apothecary shop. Fifteen hundred glass jars, each filled with a different herb or root, stacked high in orderly rows. The original creaking hardwood floor. And a proprietor who's all about knowledge and caring.

Established in 1888 (how's that for history?), this family business is now run by Evelyn Dorfman, the granddaughter of founder Dr. Max Harriman Thuna, and a staff of qualified herbalists on the original turn-of-the-century premises at 298 Danforth Avenue.

Over the years, the Thuna family has seen the use of herbal remedies — once the *de facto* method of treatment for most medical problems — lose ground to the synthetic drugs that have flooded the marketplace.

More recently, however, the pendulum has slowly but surely begun to swing back, as more and more people seek alternatives to mainstream medicine. Thuna's doesn't diagnose problems presented to them; rather, they advise customers seeking a diagnosis to obtain it from their medical practitioners. Some come with the blessing of their GP, but many are referred by naturopathic practitioners. Typically, clients come in on their own initiative.

Saul Pasen helped pioneer herbalism in Canada

THUNA HERBALS
298 Danforth Avenue
416-465-3366

Drawing on their schooling, Dorfman and staff choose from some 2,000 herbs, berries, roots, and leaves the precise combination most likely to alleviate an ailment presented to them. To cite but one example, a formula for bladder infection, or even interstitial cystitis, might include uva-ursi leaves, buchu leaves, parsley leaves, marshmallow root, corn silk, and goldenseal leaves.

Dr. Thuna and his children, including son-in-law Saul Pasen, pictured above, helped pioneer herbalism in Canada.

The current premises stand as a rich reminder of Canadian history. Even if you have only a passing interest in herbalism, you owe it to yourself to visit this Toronto landmark. And who knows — by asking a few questions, you might become further enlightened on this ancient practice.

Christina's crown jewel of Danforth

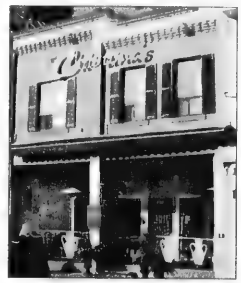
For truly authentic, upscale Greek cuisine, live entertainment and star quality, no restaurant shines quite as brightly as the effervescent **Christina's**. Outside, its year-round patio is *the* spot to eat, greet, see and be seen — an epicentre of Danforth activity. Inside, earth tones, buttercup yellow and turquoise form a soothing backdrop for historical Greek etchings.

Christina's is ideally suited for intimate private functions such as Bar Mitzvah parties, and also does a brisk business catering to special events.

Christina's star power is such that you might find yourself sitting next to Robert De Niro. Or Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, Jim Carey, or Paul Anka. The same high standards of cuisine and unique ambience that have appealed to these luminaries (sans pretension, sans high prices) will gratify you too.

The formula is simple, the commitment total: fresh, homemade Greek recipes, prepared lovingly, one meal at a time.

In addition to wonderful mainstream Greek fare such as succulent leg of lamb and moussaka (both traditional and vegetarian), you'll find specialties such as *Kolokithoketedes* — minced, mildly spiced zucchini patties with potato, onion and parsley, gently pan-fried to golden crispness. The assorted dip platters (Pikilia Mezedakia, cold; Christina's Pikilia, hot & cold) are teeming and delicious.



Christina's
On The Danforth
492 Danforth at Logan
416-463-4418
www.christinas.ca

Fish and seafood are delivered fresh daily. Choice abounds; there's even a Seafood Souviaki, with large, marinated chunks of calamari, shrimps and scallops, grilled to perfection.

The portions are generous, the wine selection vast, the service impeccable.

Live entertainment on weekends includes belly dancing and a two-piece (bouzouki and guitar) Greek band playing a blend of old and modern Greek tunes. There's nothing like a rendering of *Never On Sunday* or *Zorba The Greek* to tug at your heartstrings and whet your Greek appetite. On Sundays, a delightful continental brunch featuring many traditional favourites is served.

Enjoyed inside or out, the GreekTown experience doesn't come any better.

"a cheery place ... great respect for the food they serve ... Christina's has fulfilled its promise" — *Sara Waxman, The Toronto Sun*
"Best Greek Restaurant" – *Where Toronto*

Big Carrot's commitment to organics & service repaid by customer loyalty

How do you remain the leader in an increasingly crowded field? By stocking your shelves with products that are as good for the environment as they are for your customers, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. From humble beginnings in 1983, **The Big Carrot** has grown into metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living.

Organic, GMO-free, Kosher products

Wilde Kosher Juices are a hit with customers

Run as a worker owned co-op since its opening, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. As it happens, many of these products are also Kosher.

The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market, a wholistic dispensary, and an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

The Big Carrot's well-versed staff can help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot has it.

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, muffins, and other wholesome *noshery*, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher — or a combination thereof. The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra pack.

Among many others, the Kosher products include Crofters Organic Premium Fruit Spreads from Ontario; tomato products from Utopia, also Ontario-grown; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Neil's Prepared Soups; Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Cold Mountain Miso; Jersey Farm Non-Dairy Soy Yogurt; cookies from Organica; Soy Delicious Non-Dairy Frozen Desserts; selected products from Eden Foods; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods.

The Big Carrot carries a tremendous variety of healthy desserts and sweets. Tropical Source Kosher chocolate bars, made in Israel, are available in several delicious flavours. Sunflower Kitchen dips, pesto and soups are popular mainstays, as are Bob's Red Mill packaged grains, cereals and baking goods; the Big Carrot stocks both in abundance.

The Deli counter offers more than 50 mouthwatering selections, both hot and cold. From the Organic Lentil Daal to the Organic Couscous Salad, every item is a taste and visual treat. It also offers a selection of sinfully delicious desserts *without the sin*, since they're free of refined ingredients.

The Big Carrot's Wholistic Dispensary, located across the courtyard, constitutes a store in its own right. Among other Kosher products, it carries Omega Flax Seed Oil and selected Solgar Supplements.

Of Toronto's growing number of juice bars, The Big Carrot's is the only one that's 100% organic, giving you, in a quick pit stop, the optimum high-octane fuel. There are over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, nutritional boosts, shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees, as well as sandwiches and other treats. Popular blender drinks include Zen Berry (banana, blueberries, orange, vitamin C crystals, bee pollen, flaxseed oil, and protein powder) and the Energy Elevator (carrot, spinach, raspberry, Ginseng). This isn't just juice, it's a meal replacement.

"Searching for Nature's Finest"

348 Danforth Ave.
416-466-2129
www.thebigcarrot.ca

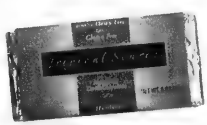
M-W 9:30–8 **Sat. 9–7**
Th & F 9:30–9 **Sun. 11–6**

Wholistic Dispensary
416-466-8432

Toronto's only 100% organic juice bar

Among the sandwiches, try the Grilled Tempeh, lettuce, tomato, red onion & honey mustard mayo. Fresh, delicious and wholesome — just as Nature intended.

For a summer treat, enjoy Mapleton's organic ice cream, as well as Cool Hemp, a Kosher, organic non-dairy dessert available in a cup or wholesome organic waffle cone.



Tropical Source bars from Israel are organic & Kosher

Through its continuing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit. If you want the word "stress" to disappear from your vocabulary — at least temporarily — shop here.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Pan leads Danforth taste parade

Now in its second full year under the direction of Chris and Soula Christodoulou and their son George, the ever-innovative **Pan on the Danforth** sports a festive new look — golden on the outside, cozy fireplace inside — but its Greek / Mediterranean cuisine takes you on the same magical taste ride it always has.

Cited as "one of the city's best" Greek restaurants by *Toronto Life*, Pan continues to deliver consistently superb quality across an array of dishes that are deliciously different — sometimes subtly, often dramatically — from other versions you'll encounter.

Pan is open for lunch as well as dinner, and is a prime destination for intimate gatherings.

The appetizers and dips tell you immediately that at Pan, you're home. Try the Baked Goat Cheese encrusted with pistachio, placed over tomato and a portobello mushroom cap and served with wild greens. Also recommended are the Avgolemono Soup and the Marinated Beets. The dips still lead the Danforth parade in flavour and presentation.

PAN
Mediterranean Cuisine

516 Danforth Ave. 416-466-8158
www.panonthedanforth.com
Double Aeroplan Miles at all times

The menu complements holdover signature dishes with compelling new offerings. Try the Char-Grilled Loin of Lamb with fig and orange glaze and the Santorini chicken, or the filet of Atlantic Salmon with Madagascar mussels, a skewer of shrimp in a white wine lemon dill cream sauce with garlic mashed potatoes and pan seared vegetables.

The Black Angus New York striploin still tops the heartiness scale; it's served with garlic mash and grilled portobello mushrooms, finished with Madagascar peppercorns in a brandy-beef reduction sauce.

Pan caters to an international clientele liberally sprinkled with movie stars and other show business personalities, but friendly, down to earth service is still the rule here.

Vibrant as ever, Pan continues to reward guests with an elevating dining experience.

"The greatest Greek Food Toronto has ever known"
Globe & Mail

"Freshness and textural detail of the essence"
Toronto Life

Sher-E-Punjab: pioneer still reigns

The recent explosion in popularity of East Indian cuisine has seen items like samosas and pakoras offered as fast food on a growing number of menus — even those of some mainstream restaurants.

For the true connoisseur of this genre, however — for the perfectionist who insists that each dish, each item be prepared slowly, lovingly, one by one — there's still only one place that unfailingly fulfills these expectations.

SHER-E-PUNJAB RESTAURANT
351 Danforth Avenue
West of Chester subway
416-465-2125

The soulful strains of the sitar greet you as you enter. The deep, rich earth tones of Indian slate tile — reddish brown, copper, a hint of gold — are exotic, yet peaceful. Magnificent tapestries, hand-woven in Rajastan, adorn the butternut-yellow walls.

You're not even seated yet, and already you've begun to experience the tranquility that is **Sher-E-Punjab.**

30-year legacy of Northern Indian home cooking

For Amar and Malkit Singh (and recently, son Jaspal), this is more than a restaurant; it's a 30-year legacy of fine Northern Indian home cooking. They've not only shared wonderful flavours, but also touched guests with their gentle demeanor and quiet dignity.

Widely reputed for its Butter Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala, Pakoras and Samosas, Sher-E holds the distinction of making Toronto's finest Naan bread — a soft, oval loaf that's best served hot. But be forewarned: it's addictive! Hand-made on the premises, it is baked fresh virtually on demand — every 15 minutes or so, at busy times — and delivered piping hot to your table. The experience of seeing it emerge from the massive Tandoori clay oven is surpassed only by the pleasure of eating it. This, truly, is manna from heaven.

Saag — a pureed mixture of spinach, broccoli, and rapini — is prized by Sher-E's customers for its unique combination of sharp and mellow tastes. The ever-popular Daal (pureed lentils) and Bartha — barbequed eggplant with green peas — are also first-rate.

If you can put down the Naan bread long enough to order dessert, try the refreshing Kulfi (Indian ice cream). Indian Tea – strong, sweet, and mildly spiced — is a piquant complement to any meal or dessert.

Those unfamiliar with Northern Indian cuisine tend to associate it only with curry. To be sure, you'll enjoy fine curried dishes here, made from scratch with the freshest, hand-blended spices; but this is only a very small part of the culinary picture. Sher-E-Punjab completes the tableau with elegance and grace, and with the kind of personal attention, respect and warmth that's only found in a long-established family business.

Nowhere is the multicultural appeal of the Danforth better exemplified than at Sher-E-Punjab, and those who visit it are in for a richly rewarding experience.

Pantheon sets standard for fresh fish

The Olympic Pantheon was blessed with the opportunity to taste the Ambrosia and Nectar of the Gods. How fitting that in this, the year of the Athens Olympics, you have that same opportunity at **Pantheon**, in the heart of GreekTown.

The spectacular decor sets the stage for a royal feast. In the East wing, creamy white floor tiles etched with gold offset walls alive with colourful murals and capped with finely etched wooden trim. In the West wing, rust-coloured tiles and a working fireplace effect a similarly regal ambience. The tables, bedecked with crisp linens in white and gold, are flanked by real wooden chairs.

Pantheon's ever-growing clientele has allowed it to double in size while retaining its charm, intimacy and culinary excellence. Though its mainstream Greek cuisine compares favourably with that of other Danforth restaurants, fresh fish from Greece is what keeps Pantheon's loyal following coming back in droves. Whole sea bass, striped bass, red and white snapper, orange roughy, black porgy, salmon, red mullet, sea smelts — the variety is incredible, the preparation impeccable. As one major daily noted, "Above all, small fish imported from Greece, such as anchovies and baby sardines . . . demand repeat visits. [This lovely fish] is what sets Pantheon apart from most Toronto Greek restaurants."

407 Danforth Avenue
ACROSS FROM CHESTER SUBWAY
416-778-1929
OPEN 11 AM – MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS
www.pantheonrestaurant.com
"... a winning charm ..."
"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."

Chef Nick Paroussis — who, with partner John Troupis, is responsible for maintaining these lofty standards — clearly understands the need for delicacy and refinement when preparing fresh fish. Likewise for the fresh Ontario lamb chops, which can be enjoyed on their own or as part of a substantial mixed grill.

Mouthwatering homemade desserts provide a fitting conclusion to your meal. The traditional baklava is enticing, as is the homemade Greek honey cake — "as golden and desirable as an Olympic medal" (*Toronto Star*).

Pantheon's prices are actually below average for the Danforth — exceptional value for a GreekTown outing that ranks second to none.

Smart couples agree: leave it to them

For generations, smart husbands have made "yes dear" an integral part of their vocabulary. For the past seven years, however, an increasing number of smart *couples* have made "leave it to us" their expression of choice.

"US" refers not to the bride and groom, but to the husband-and-wife team of John and Joanna Pagonis, partners in **Leave It To Us Weddings.**

LEAVE IT TO US
WEDDINGS
824 Danforth 416.778.7771
www.leaveittousweddings.com

This fast-growing company, which now has 25 employees and is moving in August from its current location at 824 Danforth to larger premises nearby at 1672 O'Connor Drive, is a wedding service provider with a difference. Unlike many planners who merely subcontract out services, Leave It To Us arranges all the services **IN HOUSE.**

That's right: invitations, photography, videography, DJ, flowers, limo, cake, and more — all under one roof.

The opportunity to make these arrangements in the same place and at the same time is incredibly convenient for the bride and groom. It can also be incredibly stressful for John and Joanna, especially when weddings are dropped into their lap at the last minute.

"Our record is three days," says John. "The couple came in on a Wednesday and got married on the Saturday, with the works — photography, flowers, reception, you name it." Obviously, says John, "the more lead time the better, but we'll work with whatever you give us. Our name isn't "Leave It To Us" for nothing."

The stress is offset by "the satisfaction of making it work for all parties concerned. We worry about the details so you don't have to," says Joanna. And the ability of Leave It To Us to supervise all the components of a wedding has other benefits for the bride and groom, she notes: "By keeping everything in house, we maintain tight control on quality. We have to. If anything goes wrong with any detail, there's no passing the buck ... it stops with us."

If you like running around town attending to all the details, more power to you. If, on the other hand, you'd prefer to hand over this weighty burden to someone else and spend more time actually enjoying the process of getting married, Leave It To Us sounds like the best invention since modern psychiatry.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Sushi Delight leads in taste, value

Now entering its fourth year on the Danforth, Sushi Delight has established itself as Toronto's leader in quality, freshness, variety, and price.

A recent renovation has enhanced Sushi Delight's already bright and inviting decor, making the dining experience even more enjoyable. With a menu that's easy on the pocketbook and delightful to the palate, Sushi Delight is always busy, and their lunch special is the best value you'll find anywhere.

Complete meals, in a Bento box, range from $6.95 for the Vegetarian Box, which includes Tempura, to $11.95 for the Tokyo Box, which includes Sushi. Sushi Delight's Special Party Trays are a hit for large groups; priced at $29.95 for 48 pieces or $49.95 for 86 pieces, they offer tremendous variety and value. Custom catering is available, as is take out and delivery.

For a light meal or a tasty snack, four delicious Sushi Bar specials are offered: three at $6.50 and the delectable 6 pc. Sushi Pizza (a crispy Sushi Rice Base topped with Salmon, Green Onion, White Onion, Tobiko & Special Sauce) for $6.95.

You can taste the Sushi Delight difference in the freshness of the ingredients, and the entire menu is MSG-free. Good taste and good health at great prices, a cheery atmosphere, and a caring staff — what more could you ask for in a sushi restaurant?

LUNCH SPECIAL

11 am – 4 pm 7 days a week

$5.95

Choice of CHICKEN TERIYAKI, BBQ BEEF RIB, SALMON TERIYAKI or WHITE FISH CUTLET served with Miso Soup, Salad, Rice & Fresh Fruit Dessert

DAILY SPECIAL

Special Box $9.95

• 3 pcs. Salmon Sashimi & 6 pcs. California Roll, Shrimp & Vegetable Tempura

• Choice of Grilled Black Codfish or BBQ Beef Ribs served with Soup, Salad, Rice & Fresh Fruit Dessert

SPECIAL SET DINNER Six fabulous courses to choose from, serving 2 – 6, starting at $23.95

461 Danforth Avenue 416•406•0288 Sun. – Thurs. 11 am – 11 pm Fri. & Sat. 11 am – 12 midnight

Historical flavours come alive at Messini

When visiting most websites, you're tempted to "Skip Intro" as prompted. You want to get to the heart of the matter ASAP.

Visit Messini's website, however, and you'll find yourself engrossed in the historical introduction; at Messini, history *is* at the heart of the matter.

A sequence of richly-textured, sepia-toned photographs of the southern Greek village of Messini, circa 1930, set the historical stage for the taste treat you'll experience at 445 Danforth.

After 23 years of restauranteuring in Europe, owner Marinos Dafnas opened Messini with the singular goal of elevating gyros preparation to the lofty level it enjoys in Greece. If you know gyros only as meat on a pita, Messini will open your eyes — and your taste buds — to an exciting new dining experience.

So how does the Messini version of gyros rise above the rest?

- **Meticulous preparation.** Roasted to perfection on a spit, the gyros (pronounced *yee'-ros*, from Modern Green *guros*, "turning") combines the finest marinated cuts of moist and dry meat to ensure that it retains its juiciness and tenderness throughout the cooking process. Unlike your typical fast-food gyros, Messini's are prepared fresh from scratch: no freezing, no precooking;
- **Quality and freshness of trimmings.** The tzatziki, red onions, parsely, spices, and French fries (as per Greek tradition), like the meat, are all up-to-the-minute fresh;
- **Pita made fresh daily on the premises.** As with any fresh homemade bread vs. mass-produced, there's simply no comparison.
- **Variety.** Messini caters to a wide range of palates and dietary preferences by offering chicken and vegetarian gyros in addition to the traditional meat.

MESSINI AUTHENTIC GYROS

445 DANFORTH 416-778-4861 WWW.MESSINI.CA

The result: a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts — a sandwich that melts in your mouth with a rich blend of subtly interwoven flavours.

The prices are more than reasonable, with gyros dinner entrées starting from $8.25, lunch specials from $5.60. The menu also includes mainstream Greek selections, but you'll do yourself a disservice if you don't at least try the gyros.

Messini's immaculate interior flanks an open kitchen. Pleasant brown and cream tones — gleaming ceramic tile floor, rich wood trim and comfortable seating — create an aura of casual dining elegance.

The beaches of Peloponessos may seem far away, but at Messini, some of southern Greece's best tradition and culture is right here for the sampling.

Got high speed Internet and high landline phone bills? Try Internet phone service.

It probably occurs to you every time you e-mail someone in another area code that it would be nice to be able to *call* that person for the same zero cost. And you'd probably be thrilled to pay a nominal monthly fee for that privilege.

Now you can — with Vonage.

Vonage, a telecommunications firm that came to Canada in April 2004 and has more than 700,000 customers worldwide, is one of the first companies in Canada to offer VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) technology. This isn't just thinking outside the box; it's thinking with a brand new box — an open box without sides, top, or bottom.

Simply stated, VOIP technology sends your voice call over the Internet as a data file. Yet Internet phone service is not that different from the phone service most of us are used to today. You still make and receive phone calls the same way you used to, and you continue to use the same touchtone phone that's in your house today. The only difference is in the money you'll save every month, and in the great features you'll get. What's more, the people you call will never know you're using a digital phone service, because call quality is crystal clear.

So if you have high-speed Internet at home and want to save money, Vonage Internet phone service may be for you. Do you make a lot of long distance calls? Are you tired of the outrageous cell-phone or long-distance charges incurred when you travel? Do you have a talkative teenager at home that keeps your phone line busy for hours on end? Are you a snowbird, or do you have kids away at college or university? Then you are a prime candidate for Vonage Internet phone service.

Example 1. If you're planning to travel this year, with Vonage you can throw your adapter in your suitcase, plug it into any touch-tone phone and high-speed Internet connection anywhere in the world, and voilà, you'll be calling family and friends all over North America without paying long distance. Plus your family and friends can call you on your home phone line while you're travelling just as if you were at home — with no additional charges or long-distance costs.

Example 2. Your son is in law school at UBC, and the phone bills are astronomical. As a Vonage subscriber, you can get a second phone number with a B.C. area code for $8 a month and you and your son can call each other 24/7/365 for that eight dollars. That's right: **UNLIMITED** calling for an additional $8 a month.

But it gets better. If your son is also a Vonage subscriber, you can call each other for **FREE** anywhere in the world. Whether he's attending Yeshiva in Jerusalem or working in Tel Aviv, you can talk 24/7/365 for free. Gratis. *Bechinem.*

Monthly Vonage bill full of zeroes, not extra charges

VONAGE Monthly Premium Unlimited Plan $39.99	
Voicemail	0.00
Call display	0.00
Call return (*69)	0.00
Call forwarding	0.00
Busy call Return/Repeat Dialing	0.00
Touch-Tone Service	0.00
Network charge	0.00
Call ID block	0.00
Call transfer	0.00
In-network calls	0.00
International call block	0.00
MONTHLY TOTAL	39.99
INCLUDED: Long distance plan Unlimited LD calls in North America	0.00

VONAGE CANADA

The Internet Phone Company

Toll Free 1.877.272.0528

www.vonage.ca

Even if only one of you is a Vonage subscriber, that party can still take advantage of competitive international rates, such as 6¢ a minute to Israel and 4¢ a minute to England, France, and Italy.

According to Joe Parent, Vonage Vice-President of Marketing & Business Development, the biggest factor in a customer's decision to switch from their traditional landline service to Vonage's VOIP service is not the price — the numbers speak for themselves — but understanding the technology.

"We get a lot of calls from people saying that it's too good to be true, and asking what the "catch" is. There's no catch. We're using the same communications channels which carry your e-mails around the world to carry your voice signals. If you do a lot of long distance calling, compare your last three phone bills with what it would cost you to use our service for the same period. And we include free of charge most of the features that are "extras" with other companies."

And how. Virtually all the useful additional features that mainstream phone companies nickel and dime us to death with are standard with Vonage. In Vonage's Premium Unlimited Plan, for example, $39.99 gets you:

- Unlimited calling anywhere in Canada and the United States;
- Free Voicemail, Call Display, Call Return, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, Busy Call Return, Touch-Tone Service, Caller ID Block, Call Transfer, and more.

No nickel and diming

That's a *lot* of phone service for $40 a month. Vonage is so confident you'll be happy with their service that — unlike most companies which offer attractive rates only with a long-term commitment — Vonage has a no-contract policy and a money-back guarantee. "We have to earn our customers' loyalty each and every month," says Parent. "If you try us out for one month and you don't like us, you can walk. But if you do the math", he grins, "chances are you'll stay on board."

Vonage is available online at vonage.ca. If you order online, you'll pay a one-time shipping fee of $19.99 Cdn. to have your voice adapter shipped to you, plus an activation fee of $39.99. Vonage is also available at retailers such as Future Shop, Best Buy, Staples Business Depot, The Source By Circuit City, and London Drugs. Buying at retail saves the shipping and activation costs.

An additional $16 a month for a blow-by-blow description of my son's latest adventures in frat? Pull up the gangplank; I'm not going anywhere.

For Saul Korman, retiren

Saul Korman has a one-track mind. Would someone please tell him that *My Back Pages* is not only an advertising position request, it's also a song by Bob Dylan?

Ironically, the lyrics of Dylan (née Robert Zimmerman, a lost-again, found-again Member Of the Tribe) *do* apply to Korman, who appears to be taking literally the intimation that "I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now". For a man well past what many of us would consider a natural retirement age, Korman continues to roar along — louder and stronger than ever.

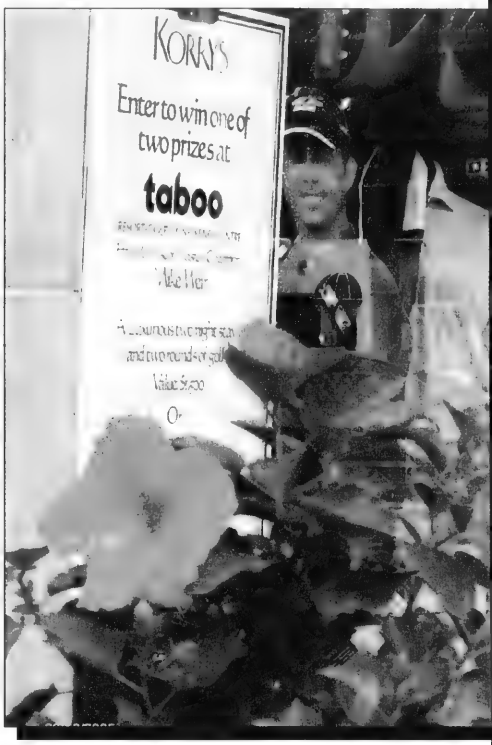
The radio spots, like the man, are ubiquitous. He's been in business for over 50 years, yet tune in any radio station and you'll hear him screaming for more tailors, more salespeople, more Danforth, more GreekTown.

That's what happens when you sell more Boss, more Canali, more Arnold Brant, and more Roberto than ever before.

A vision for the street

Korman adlibs his radio commercials, live from wherever he happens to be when they air — often from his cell phone. "My radio spots are prepared fresh from scratch — just like the food in GreekTown," he chortles.

Ever the promoter, Korman credits suppliers like Hugo Boss and Canali for supporting his marketing efforts to the hilt. "They understand that there's something special going on here in GreekTown." He also lauds media suppliers like "the Fan, CFRB, all the radio stations, the *National Post* and *The Canadian Jewish News* with their special GreekTown sections — everyone who realizes that this isn't just another area."



Window on a man's heart: "I love my

His knees are no longer his own, thanks to a "made-to-measure two-for-one" courtesy of St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital (do the promotional wheels ever stop turning?), but his personality certainly is. Irrepressible, over-the-top enthusiastic, he wears his heart on his immaculately-cuffed sleeve.

What keeps the juggernaut going? What makes a man who could easily walk away walk *in* at seven in the morning?

What makes "retirement" a four-letter word?

"I love my business. I love fabric. I love *clothing*. Just being around it gives me goose bumps. To me, a suit is a living thing. Just being here, in the calm of the early morning, with my merchandise ... I love my wife Myrna dearly, but clothing is my mistress."

"Fashion, love, intrigue ... the European way"

But his passion for fashion is only part of the story. The luxurious fibres that make his day are inextricably intertwined with the fabric of the GreekTown experience. Just mention "GreekTown", then try getting a word in edgewise.

"Stores all over the city go to such lengths to create a European ambience", he exudes. "We don't have to *create* it; it's built in. Where would *you* rather walk — in circles around a shopping mall, or along a European street? We've got world class clothing — never mind *us*, I'm taking Maxi and Labiri here. I'm talking world class food stores like Sun Valley and The Big Carrot. World class restaurants everywhere you turn. And the cafés! What makes an area so attractive to a company like Starbucks that they would open not one but *two* restaurants within a few blocks of each other ... have you seen the big new one east of Pape? What makes every chain from Tim Hortons to Mamma's suddenly feel that they have to

KOR
569 Danfo
416-46
www.ko

ment is a four-letter word

wife Myrna, but clothing is my mistress"

have a presence in GreekTown?"

On the subject of chains, Korman has mixed feelings. On the one hand, he says, their influx is "inevitable, and they contribute to the area." On the other hand, "it saddens me to see rents go up to the point where the little guy can't afford them any more." Yet he remains confident that ultimately, GreekTown will retain its unique ethnocultural character. "There are enough independent Greek restauranteurs who continue to pass their family tradition on to the next generation. They aren't going anywhere. And just as important, their children take pride in following in their parents' footsteps ... you can't pass the torch if there's no one to take it up."

RRY'S
rth Avenue
3-1115
rrys.com

When he first set up shop on the Danforth some 50 years ago, Korman had a vision for the street — one he retains to this day. "I see the street closed to traffic permanently. I see mothers zigzagging across the street with their baby carriages. I see the big-box stores blending in seamlessly with the small family businesses. I see fruit and flowers everywhere. And I expect to see this in my lifetime."

As one of Toronto's foremost purveyors of the Hugo Boss, Canali and Strellson lines, Korry's has long championed the virtues of dressing for success. Vindicating his stand is the recent movement away from business casual and back to the traditional suit or jacket and tie. The sport jacket is stronger than it's ever been; it carries effortlessly from business meetings to casual luncheons to sipping ouzos in GreekTown. "This is the European way" beams Korman. "You simply cannot go wrong with a classic sport shirt and a sport jacket. If you're too warm in the afternoon, take the jacket off and slip it over the back of your chair, or — even better — sling it over your shoulder. "Ever looked at that famous Ruth Orkin poster?" he beams. "*American Girl in Italy*? It's fashion, love, intrigue all in one. That's the European way ... that's what we cultivate here."

Black is still the leading power colour, with taupe coming on strong. Don a crisp, classic white shirt under an exquisitely styled Boss or Canali jacket — mixed and matched with a pair of black, taupe or beige slacks — and you're not just ready for the Orkin poster, you're *in* it.

Korry's homegrown Arnold Brant label, featuring avant-garde styling and high-end fabrics at approachable prices, continues to flourish. And his in-store Roberto label — the focal point of his ever-popular two-for-one promotion — remains a magnet for men throughout the GTA and beyond seeking cutting-edge quality with unbeatable value.

Community involvement a priority

Community involvement continues to be a focal point of activity at Korry's. Korman co-sponsors the annual Toronto East General Hospital Golf Classic, and is a driving force behind the annual Taste Of The Danforth, which raises money on behalf of many worthy charities.

"We've got the best gig in town here to start with", he crows. "The best restaurants. The best cafés. So for three days, the money you're going to spend here *anyway* goes to charities that desperately need it. If that isn't a win-win situation, what is?"

Even as he speaks, a customer leaves with *both* Boss and Canali in hand. No wonder these garments are flying out the door; they just look so much better on your back than on the rack.

As you stroll through GreekTown, resplendent in your new threads, feeling like a million bucks, it hits you: you were so much older then, you're younger than that now.

GreekTown on the Danforth: Canadian heritage in the making

More than a tourist area, GreekTown on the Danforth is a community. In the summer, when the trees reach their full green and Toronto's restauranteurs put out their patio tables, GreekTown puts on its Mediterranean face.

color and exotic decor; the sounds of the bouzouki; the aroma of lamb souvlaki wafting from a grill; and the tastes of exotic foods. It is the restaurants above all — and the atmosphere they help create, at once lively and relaxed — which draw people from all over the city

children, as well as European-quality beauty salons and spas.

There is plenty of live entertainment here. At many establishments, audience participation is the rule, though after a fine, full meal, you may feel disinclined to dance on a tabletop.

Alexander The Great Parkette at Danforth and Logan: a popular spot to pause, relax, and reflect

Here, when friends and acquaintances greet, you are as likely to hear *"Kall' imera! Ti kanis?"* as "Hi! How are you?" In the restaurants and cafés, you hear patrons converse in every language of the world.

Plenty to woo your senses

While the music of Greek polysyllables will appeal to your ears, the most important thing is not the language, but the fact that people do greet each other. Bustling and busy as the community is, everyone — not just tourists, but everyone who lives and works here — is as liable to stroll as to hurry.

There is plenty on the Danforth to woo your senses, and make you want to slow your steps: bright

and beyond.

Many restaurants capture, in their decor, the pleasing colours and terraced style associated with the Greek islands and mountainsides. And while souvlaki is everywhere on the Danforth, its dining establishments take pride in offering the full range and flavours of Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines.

But the Danforth boasts many other fine ethnic restaurants as well. To name but a few, Japanese, Italian, and East Indian cuisine are well represented. And its cafés and dessert houses are unparalleled, both in number and quality.

GreekTown is also home to Toronto's finest natural and specialty food stores and many alternative health practitioners. And it's become a leading fashion destination, with a host of fine specialty boutiques for men, women, and

There are a few other Toronto streets which are wider in actual metres, but the Danforth has an expansive feel about it which you don't find anywhere else. Majestic trees shade well-kept homes; here and there are streetside parks, where you can sit and rest your feet.

A solid community with solid values

If you look closely, you see there is a solid community here. You see not only the tourists, but also the elderly and the children, as they shop, stroll or sit and chat in the cafés and parks. In the restaurants, waiters and bartenders offer everyone prompt, friendly service; there are plenty of regular guests whom they greet by name.

Nor is it just staff who do this. You will see the owners showing guests to their tables, greeting them warmly; in GreekTown, customers are family.

Also here are the institutions that belong in any healthy city neighborhood: schools, houses of worship, clubs, and community centres. People not only work here, they *live* here; and it is in great part because they keep GreekTown pleasant to live in, that it is pleasant to visit.

If you really want to get to know the community, chat a little with the staffs of different restaurants; you'll find that everyone knows everyone else. There is plenty of competition here, but it is friendly. To thrive, a restauranteur has to cherish the firm conviction that his or her establishment is the best; but in GreekTown, they do so without knocking the competition. If anything, the reverse is true.

It is from this wealth of restaurants that the "Taste of the Danforth" festival was born. This annual event has become so popular that GreekTown is closed to traffic for its duration. It's a great opportunity to sample the Danforth's culinary delights while enjoying its ambience, all in support of worthy charities like the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation.

While the Danforth is a community, it has never been a closed enclave. Saul Korman of Korry's Clothiers, an active member of the Jewish community, is also an enthusiastic promoter of GreekTown. Having been there for half a century — Korry's is now celebrating its 50th anniversary — Korman knows the people of this community, many of whom started as dishwashers and short-order cooks in the '50's and '60's, then opened the first modest Greek restaurants in the '70's. Many of them came here seeking both prosperity and freedom; the late Andreas Papandreou (a recent Prime Minister of Greece) lived in Canada from 1969 to 1974.

Korman shares with the people who live and work on the Danforth their joy in the prosperity and freedom of Canada. If you come to GreekTown, you are breathing, hearing and tasting Canadian heritage — not in a museum, but as contemporary history in the making.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Nobody does Greek like The Palace

"The ambiance ... of a Greek country home"

"The Greek goddess Helena would venture to the Danforth" for the *Dolmadakia*

"The grilled chicken, the lamb dishes, and the kebabs are beyond superb."

— Metro News

THE PALACE RESTAURANT
722 Pape Avenue at Danforth
416-462-1166

At The Palace, every meal is a special occasion. From the moment you enter, you're treated like royalty.

Among a royal selection of appetizers, the Hot Mezze Platter (Kalamari, Grilled Octopus, Loukaniko, and Bifteki) is a meal in itself; the Cold Mezze Platter (Tzatziki, Taramosalata, Melitzanosalata, Kalamata Olives and pickled beets with pita) is similarly lavish.

Among the soups and salads, the Avgolemono soup — chicken and rice broth finished with gently whipped egg & lemon juice — is the essence of delicacy, the Greek salad crisp and generously portioned.

The Rack of lamb and moussaka are standard-bearers, and The Lamb Kleftiko's divine combination of lamb, feta cheese, sweet bell peppers, onions and mushrooms is enticingly ensconced in crisp phyllo pastry.

The Palace is also highly reputed for its fresh fish; try the Grilled Swordfish Steak with lemon and herbs, the Whole Broiled Sea Bass, or the Atlantic Salmon Steak. Whatever your preference, you'll find it here, prepared to the absolute maximum of its flavour.

As befits a Palace, there's a private Party room for up to 100 people. Located on the upper level, it's ideal for birthday parties, Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties, or any event requiring the kind of ambience a banquet hall simply can't provide.

Chef Napoleon and the staff go to great lengths to ensure your comfort and satisfaction. A visit to this culinary kingdom is pure pleasure; nobody does Greek like The Palace.

Home cooking lives at Kalyvia

Think of the best home-cooked meals you've ever tasted. Probably they were (or still are) your mother's. Maybe your grandmother's. Sitting down at that dinner table was one of the most pleasurable experiences you've ever had.

That's the kind of homemade taste you can expect at **Kalyvia**, served up in gargantuan portions worthy of any doting mother.

This is particularly true of the combination platters (poikilias) of seafood and meat, priced from $25.95, which are so big you need a road map just to get around them. Teeming with a variety of Greek specialties, these platters are more than just food ... they're a symbol of the bountiful GreekTown dining experience.

KALYVIA
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333
WWW.KALYVIA.COM

If you're a fish and seafood lover, you can cut your travel time to Greece by about 14 hours. Try the *garides* (shrimps sauteed in white wine sauce) or the salmon steaks topped with Kalyvia's own homemade lemon sauce, which also garnishes the broiled Red Snapper. Like everything else at Kalyvia, all the dips and sauces are made fresh daily from scratch.

How much better does this taste than prepared food? It's like comparing your mother's cooking to fast food: no comparison.

Founders Mike and Peter Tsafatinos are both from the Greek town of Kalyvia; when you name your restaurant after your home town, you've got a culinary legacy to live up to. These lofty standards for quality and freshness have earned Kalyvia a four-star rating from *Toronto by Night Journal*.

While Kalyvia's cuisine is authentically Greek, it's a family place that caters to appetites of all ages. Kalyvia's *Makaronada* (Greek-style spaghetti), available in a variety of entrées and as a side alternative to rice or potatoes, will appeal to the kids, and it's a fun way to introduce them to Greek cuisine.

The Tsafatinos' sons Jim and Jim, and a host of other family members, ensure that each and every dish emerges from the kitchen brimming with the homemade taste their customers expect.

Kalyvia's homemade goodness can be enjoyed on the premises, or in the privacy of your home or office. Large enough for substantial gatherings, but configured for intimacy, Kalyvia is ideal for birthday parties, Bar Mitzvah parties, and other special events.

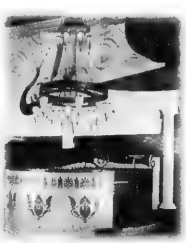
Kalyvia is one of a very few places in Toronto where you can still enjoy the tastes and trappings of home in a family restaurant environment. It has "Mom" written all over it.

Myth is prime party destination

Myth, which has consistently garnered rave reviews for its avant-garde Mediterranean cuisine, has also become one of Toronto's leading special events venues.

Today's Myth is actually a restored theatre with theatrical mystique intact, complete with a loft-style mezzanine that hosts some of Toronto's most upscale private parties. Architecturally, it's a glorious fusion of Greek, Far Eastern and Italian motifs, outrageously hurled together in a rich palette of gold, black, copper, maroon, and pewter. Improbable on paper, it works spectacularly well in person. With palatially high ceilings and enthralling sightlines, Myth is fronted by gigantic, articulated glass garage doors that unfurl to accommodate the Danforth's most lively patio.

Myth has achieved ultrahip status while maintaining a firm grip on the warm hospitality and consistently high quality that are the underpinnings of any fine restaurant.



myth
417 Danforth Ave.
416.461.8383
www.myth.to

The menu is traditionally Mediterranean, but like the decor, it melds influences from further afield and offers delightful departures from the culinary mainstream. For example, there's the French Lentil soup with ginger, lemongrass and parsnips in vegetable broth with smoked tomato pesto and a dollop of garlic mashed potato. Eclectic vegetarian offerings include Imam Biyaldi (currants, pine nuts & saffron pilaf stuffed in purple eggplant with melted onions & tomato). Among the mains, try the Portobello Moussaka (layers of potato, sweet peppers, chickpeas, zucchini and goat cheese baked in a roasted purple eggplant with oregano, basil, tomato and kefelotiri béchamel).

Myth now offers brunch on Saturday and Sunday, salsa on Thursday night, and live Greek blues on Friday night.

Its size and cutting-edge chic have made Myth a prime destination for Bar Mitzvah parties and other catered private events. If you haven't yet enjoyed this Myth-ological dining experience, one visit will corroborate everything you've heard and read about it. That's Myth — *and* reality.

"Myth sets a new standard on the Danforth ... by which everything else will be measured" — *Sara Waxman*

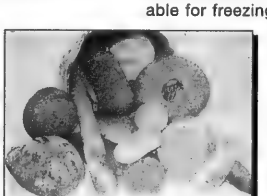
"Heaven for vegetarians ... fragrance and flavour to die for." — *Vitality*

"Most distinctive ... on Danforth" — *Adele Weder* • "Great Greek food" — *Fodor's*

Select Bakery evokes childhood memories

A bakery is not merely a place where bread is made. It's a symbol of sustenance that evokes treasured memories of still-warm goodies emerging from the oven with a maternal blessing and simultaneous admonishment not to overindulge.

Nowhere is this symbol better exemplified — and brought to life on a grand scale — than at **Select Bakery**. Huge (5,000 sq. ft.) yet intimate (GreekTown's only bakery with a dedicated seating area), its majestic array of baked bounty is to the palate what surround sound is to the ear. Enhancing its seductiveness is the colour scheme (tan on caramel on chocolate) and a refinement of presentation worthy of the illustrious cafés of Europe after which it's modelled.



Select BAKERY
DELI • PATISSERIE • CAFE
405 Donlands Ave. 416.421.2400
info@selectbakery.ca

The father-and-son team of Emmanuel and Kosta Katsamakis, with a combined 50 years of expertise in baking, lead a cheery staff of skilled bakers and pastry chefs. A full range of traditional Greek, European and continental pastries (baklava, *galaktoboureko*, petits fours et al) is complemented by exceptional European breads, specialty cakes of the highest order, and sublime specialty coffees.

Further distinguishing Select is its prepared foods. No time to cook? Moussaka, *pastitsio*, Greek-style lemon oregano chicken — and many other entrées — plus the full gamut of Greek dips and sauces — are prepared fresh daily for your dining pleasure. Many entrées are available fresh or frozen, and most are suitable for freezing. Need to entertain on short notice? Select is a one-stop destination for party trays, rolls, and related comestibles. And its ultraconvenient location on Donlands just south of O'Connor has ample, inexpensive meter parking at the front door.

But we digress from the baked temptations. Among the highlights at Select are:

- European Village Bread: crusty on the outside, buttery soft on the inside;
- Kalamata Olive Bread: as good as it sounds. Buy two;
- Chocolate-covered baklava: a hybrid pioneered by Select, it picks up where "to die for" leaves off;
- Mille feuilles: Select's version makes a good run at the proverbial thousand sheets, each one shatteringly good.

Bakeries are the stuff of childhood longing; each is measured against our favourites of yesteryear. This bakery belongs in that Select group.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Athens Pastries redefines taste buds

It's easy to recognize Athens Pastries and Pies, with its cheerily distinctive mosaic tile facade of silvered turquoise and gold. Once you've ventured inside, however, the taste sensations you'll experience will leave it etched in your memory far more than the visuals.

You've undoubtedly tasted, and probably enjoyed, the traditional Greek spanakopita (spinach pie), cheese pie, meat pie and bougatsa before, but until you've sampled the Athens versions, you haven't truly experienced them at all. Simply stated, it's like comparing homemade fresh-baked bread as your mother used to make it to the store-bought variety. For freshness, crispness, and flavour, no comparison is even possible.

The Athens version will permanently redefine your taste buds. Baked continuously throughout the day from the purest ingredients, with no additives or preservatives, the pastries and pies served up at this little gem of a shop have made Athens a prime destination of Danforth-goers seeking a light meal or an exquisite dessert. A nice bonus: their coffees, both regular and specialty, are as fresh and full-flavoured as you'll find anywhere.

When you're not in GreekTown, you can enjoy Athens' second location, conveniently located on Victoria Park just south of Sheppard, with ample free parking on site.

Everything at Athens is worth trying, but if you're a dessert lover who'se been disappointed occasionally — haven't we all? — the bougatsa will really send you over the top.

Reminiscent of the French *mille feuilles*, or the English custard slice, Athens' rendition of bougatsa is as close to perfection as a dessert gets: ultracrisp, delicate crust outside, light, mildly sweet vanilla custard inside. And here's the best part: even with a liberal sprinkling of icing sugar and cinnamon, at no time does it taste too sweet, and the cloying aftertaste so common with commercial desserts is noticeably absent.

This second-generation family business (owner George Tsioutsioulas, father Evangelos and their dedicated staff) has probably rolled enough pastry dough to stretch from here to Greece, so the name "Athens" is perfectly apt. The fact that it's rolled lovingly, with constant attention to quality, is confirmed by your first bite.

ATHENS PASTRIES

509 Danforth Ave.
416-463-5144
(near Logan)

2567 Victoria Park
416-491-0095
(1 block South of Sheppard)

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Sun Valley more than brand names

If you value quality, hate spending hours schelpping through giant faceless supermarkets, and need more than the corner grocery store can offer, **Sun Valley Fine Foods** is tailor-made for you.

Larger than the typical neighbourhood European food store, yet small enough to navigate your way through quickly, Sun Valley is boutique food shopping at its very finest. Just about every sought-after brand name is here, from gourmet grocery items to breads, cakes and pastries. The produce is spectacular; the meat, fish and poultry are perfection itself.

But Sun Valley is more than just brand names and quality. It's about finding exactly what you need for your family and special occasion dining with efficient, friendly personal service.

It's these attributes which keep customers coming back — not only the locals, but shoppers from North York, Thornhill, and even Richmond Hill, often armed with the temperature-controlled bags that have become standard equipment among shoppers willing to go the extra mile for the very best.

People come from outside GreekTown to shop Sun Valley "for the same reasons they patronize the restaurants," says partner Spiro Aravantinos: "quality, freshness, flavour, and value."

Ah yes, value. What Aravantinos doesn't mention — but what's obvious from a quick tour of Sun Valley — is that they've resisted "snob appeal". In true GreekTown spirit, they've kept their prices affordable even as their reputation has continued to grow.

The bottom line is that under this one roof you'll find exactly what you want in less time — yet at a more leisurely pace — than in the "big box" supermarkets. And, if you're a husband who'se been "commissioned" to bring home the groceries, your chances of getting a glowing report card on arrival are better here than just about anywhere else.

The reason is simple: Sun Valley just doesn't sell anything that won't get the spousal seal of approval — no matter how hard that may be to come by in your household.

Sun Valley Fine Foods
583 Danforth Ave.
416•469•5227
www.sunvalleyfinefoods.com
Open to 9 p.m. 7 days • Delivery available

Greek geography plus plus

Check almost any real estate listing, and you'll find its list of features accompanied by the phrase *plus plus*. Dramatic entranceway *plus plus*; gleaming hardwood floors *plus plus*; state-of-the-art kitchen *plus plus*.

In GreekTown, the kitchens are definitely state of the art, and their culinary output art *plus* ***plus***. The restauranteurs who preside over these kitchens are justifiably proud of their art.

But GreekTown is so much more than Greek–Town. So when the Taste Of The Danforth bids you to "come taste the world", they're not kidding. And implicit in this invitation is the opportunity to experience the warmth of an area that has historically embraced other cultures not only as clients, but also as entrepreneurs.

Take Saul Korman for instance. Not many Jewish boys can say they're from Rouyn-Noranda, Québec, but Saul can. The gold mines' loss is our gain, as are Korman's many nicknames. Where does "SuperGreek" stash his Kryptonite? In GreekTown, of course.

The businesses featured in this section, which represent but a sampling of those in GreekTown, are owned not just by Greeks, but by people from all over the world.

In addition to geographic origin, of course, ethnicity, culture, and environment all contribute to who we are. Within my own immediate family — through birth, marriage, adoption, and osmosis — these influences include Canadian, Polish, Italian, American, French Canadian, French, Israeli, Native Indian, East Indian, and Dominican. And I've spent enough time in GreekTown to fancy myself an honourary Greek.

Most other neighbourhoods give GreekTown its due. Those that don't — the GreekTown wannabees — will tell you that the Taste Of The Danforth could have happened anywhere.

That's not the point. The point is, it happened in GreekTown. It happened in GreekTown not only because of the energetic forward thinkers who conceived it, but also because of the fertile soil in which they planted their seed. It happened in GreekTown because the welcoming spirit of the dozen blocks from Broadview to Jones is precisely the kind of environment that allows such an undertaking to flourish.

It's a big world we live in. Whether you're 5 or 55, if you dropped everything right now and spent the rest of your days travelling this planet, you'd barely begin to cover it. Even if you confined your travels to a much smaller area – like Greece – you would experience a small part, at best, of its wonders.

You can't know the entire planet, but a visit to GreekTown will get you off to a running start.

— *Sholom Wargon*

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Awakenings speaks to the soul

You almost feel guilty calling it a "store"; it certainly doesn't "feel" like a store. Perhaps that's because **Awakenings**, a bright addition to the increasingly trendy strip of the Danforth east of Pape, is less a store than the fruition of a personal and spiritual odyssey.

Owner Natasha Dern reveals that her father, who passed away almost a year ago, was the catalyst for awakening in her the idea of owning a bookstore — a bookstore filled with products to enrich the soul and spirit. "The idea came out of the blue," she says, "but somehow it all made sense to me". In fact, the store name is also a reflection of Dern's continued awakenings to the possibilities in her own life. She hopes that Awakenings will offer the same possibilities for others.

Prior to settling on a location, Dern viewed many retail spaces in a variety of locations, but none "felt" right until 744 Danforth, so she considers her location "bashert" as well as the undertaking itself.

A visit to Awakenings will put you in the right frame of mind to embrace your quest for serenity and self-fulfillment. Enter its portals, and you're welcomed by the soothing scent of incense and an abundance of positive vibrations. The environment is pristine but down to earth ... warm and welcoming.

Awakenings
Mind · Body · Spirit
Books Music Gifts & More
744 Danforth Ave.
(just East of Pape)
416•466•2002

Everything in the shop speaks to the soul. The book selection can broadly be described as "inspirational" and includes popular titles such as *The Teachings Of Abraham* (Esther & Jerry Hicks), *Healing With The Angels* (Doreen Virtue), and *The Power of Now* (Eckhart Tolle). A variety of titles deal with personal growth and healing through prayer, meditation, and personal exploration.

There's a great selection of meditation CDs; candles, incense, crystals, hand-made healing stone bracelets; richly-coloured cotton T-shirts with a Chakra motif for yoga; and a variety of gift items and greeting cards perfect for anyone who values the spiritual over the material.

This non-denominational shop is a gleaming new tile in the Danforth's growing ethno-cultural mosaic. It's a quiet oasis amid the bustle — an opportunity to awaken to the possibilities within you.

Sürga's fashions make stylish statement

The good news: you have a flair for fashion that resonates with your growing clientele. The bad news: you've outgrown your current cozy but confining premises in the Beaches.

Solution: move to a bigger space with even better energy — in GreekTown!

That's exactly what Robert Purwa and Stephen Jones did. Partners in **Sürga** — Indonesian for "heaven" — Purwa and Jones have parlayed their fashion backgrounds (including a lengthy stint by Purwa at Holt Renfrew) into a mini fashion mecca.

In keeping with its celestial name, you'll find Sürga both bright and whimsical. ("Holt Renfrew style without Holt Renfrew prices"), winks Purwa. The focus is on handbags and accessories, but there's also an eye-catching selection of dresses and tops.

Looking for the perfect purse that has so far eluded you? Chances are it's here, with oodles of hats, sunglasses, and costume jewellery to match.

Mass merchandising is everything this shop is **NOT**; it's an eclectic mix of items hand-picked on buying excursions both near and far for women who march to their own fashion drummer.

Says Jones, "We let the department stores address an audience of thousands. We "speak" to our customers one to one and one *by* one."

A few examples: ultracool tattoo tops from L.A. (Sürga's one of only three shops in Toronto to carry them); jean jackets hand-painted by a local artist; and hand-made jewellery encrusted with freshwater pearls.

"Every day an adventure"

SÜRGA
TNAIVA
YUDRLN
LSILIT
SAANS
HLTH GARDE
294 Danforth
416.686.0611

Always on the lookout for new and exciting designers, Purwa and Jones attend fashion shows religiously, both domestically and abroad. "We support local talent as well as big-name designers," says Purwa.

Thanks to their theatrical flair, the partners have received a growing number of commissions from the music, film and theatrical industries. "Every day is an adventure in fashion", says Jones. "We embrace it and celebrate it."

For a shop with lofty ambitions, Sürga's prices are enticingly low. "It's not how much you spend on an item", notes Jones. "It's what that item says about *you*."

Taste The 4th Sense heats up GreekTown

TASTE "The Fourth Sense", a division of The Salivation Corporation, has opened its doors at 375 Danforth Ave.

With a unique retail style and one of the largest selections of hot sauces in the country, it's sure to become a destination for foodies everywhere.

The most unique aspect of TASTE is that virtually every item sold in the store can be sampled on the premises. One of the store's highly trained and personable sales staff will be happy to recommend products and take your taste buds on a tour. No surprises when you get home!

TASTE also exclusively retails a unique line of oils, vinegars and salad zests from The Herbery. The Herbery products are the cornerstone of the store, and aren't available anywhere else in the city. These unique products are handcrafted in Orangeville, Ontario. They are all natural, chemical free, and made exclusively with cold pressed or expellerated oils.

Many of The Herbery products come in hand-painted bottles. These oils have never been subjected to heat and retain all of their inherent nutrition. They not only possess amazing flavour but are also very beneficial to general health and well-being. TASTE is also one of the few stores in North America to aggressively promote grapeseed oils. These heart-smart oils contain half the saturated fat of olive oil and are world-renowned for their high level of antioxidants.

The virtegars and salad zests are made exclusively with all-natural white wine or apple cider vinegar. Using real fruit and fresh herbs, the flavours are strong and the applications numerous.

Proudly featuring hand-picked Canadian and directly imported products, TASTE puts its reputation on the line each and every day. With row upon row of the finest, most flavourful products, many of them all-natural, organic, chemical-free and/or certified kosher, TASTE is a flavour haven where **"Sampling is encouraged and tasting is believing."**

Taste
The 4th Sense
A Div. of The SALIVATION CORPORATION

375 Danforth Ave.
at Chester Subway
416-649-0024
salivationcorporation.com

Ampeli knows only one way: the right way

There's no substitute for freshness. In six short years, **Ampeli** has drawn the kind of rave reviews restaurants covet, and now belongs to that select group of restaurants that keep loyal clients like Saul Korman coming back for more.

George, the manager, attributes this success to a simple formula: use the freshest, highest-quality ingredients, lightly seasoned and prepared simply. Everything's cooked to order, meaning you have to wait a little longer for your meal to arrive; but the wait is more than worth it.

Meat and fish are always fresh, never frozen, and Ampeli has become renowned for both. You simply can't find better rack of lamb or Ontario lamb chops anywhere. The fresh fish is so popular customers usually specify, when making reservations, which type of fish they want. Red snapper, porgy, codfish, smelts, whiting — if it's just been caught, you'll find it on Ampeli's table the same day.

For George this means more legwork, combing the market for the freshest catch of the day. "This isn't an option," he notes. "It's an obligation to our customers."

Warm ciabatta bread accompanies every meal with a side of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Fresh pasta is handmade on the premises, and all sauces are à la minute.

AMPELI
TAVERNA
526 Danforth Ave. 416-465-4001

Ampeli's distinctive red brick exterior and huge patios, complete with bright flowers, are a welcome sight for anyone seeking Greek and Mediterranean cuisine as it's meant to taste.

> "... Only at Ampeli did we meet moist, tender, roast Ontario lamb. Ditto the moussaka experience .... at Ampeli the moussaka was marvellously fragrant, full of rich flavours. Roasted mashed eggplant dip is zinged with fresh mint, and marinated octopus is tender with a lovely vinegar bite. Meaty little quails have been marinated for tenderness and are cooked just so, and the grilled fresh porgy is a paragon of Piscean virtue, with especially crisp skin."
>
> ***Joanne Kates, Post City Magazines***

From "Bravo" to "Bravissimo" in one short year

Sleek, sexy, and resplendent behind its slate gray facade, *Trapezzi*'s Italian culinary flair and glitz has been a whirlwind success on the Danforth.

Trapezzi — Greek for "table," as in the familial dining table — lives up to its moniker with grace and panache. The interior features a long, lean, granite bar flanked by plush bench seating seductively swathed in jaguar orchid velour. In a typically Italian juxtaposition of sumptuousness and starkness, honey-brown birch flooring and amber parquetted ceiling tiles cozy up to textured concrete walls.

TRAPEZZI
wine & dine
505 Danforth Ave.
416-465-8778
www.trapezzi.com

The cosmopolitan environment is chic but friendly, the cuisine a triumph of substance and style that in one short year has garnered a regular clientele for both everyday and special occasion dining.

Under the direction of chef David Bizeau, the upscale but reasonably-priced menu continues to evolve and delight. For starters, try the bruschetta with whipped goat cheese — a crisp, refreshing new take on an old favourite. House specials include the Fettuccine with dried cranberries, toasted walnuts, leeks, and gorgonzola cream; the Mushroom Risotto, resplendent with shitake, oyster, and portobello mushrooms in porcini broth, asiago and truffle oil; and the new Seared Breast of Muscovy Duck, served with ravioli of duck confit, wild mushroom, baby spinach, and mascarpone in baby duck jus.

Fresh daily seafood specials are *de rigueur* on the Danforth, and Trapezzi's Chilean Sea Bass, among others, is first-rate.

Fresh, homemade desserts showcase Trapezzi's expertise and attention to detail. Their molten chocolate cake and tiramisu rank in the "eye-closing ecstacy" category.

Everything's fresh, made to order, and with ample flair and flavour to satisfy even the most demanding connoisseur.

Italian cuisine, served with traditional Greek warmth . . . at 505 Danforth Avenue, this fusion really works. **Bravissimo!**

Hat maker a throwback to bygone era

His hats adorn the heads of celebrities, but you won't find Louis Alexakos in any spotlight. You won't meet him at trendy parties, nor will you see his name in the fashion section on a regular basis.

Hat Depot
Custom Made Hats
704 Danforth (E. of Pape)
416.406.1222

Where you *will* find him is sitting quietly at his venerable Singer sewing machine in his shop at 704 Danforth, making one by one, with his own hands, the hats that have become synonymous with quality among those who insist on old-school perfection in their headwear.

And the everyday folk like you and me who seek him out for this kind of perfection — at unfathomably low prices — rate equally in his book with the likes of Naomi Campbell, the Backstreet Boys, Big It Up and David Justice, all of whom are living testimonials to his milliner's art. "I make hats with the same care, no matter who is going to wear them", he says. "They tell me the hats are going to be worn on this show or that show, but I don't have time to watch TV. I'm too busy making hats."

Alexakos is part of a dying breed, a throwback to the glory days of Spadina when our parents and grandparents made every stitch count. His stubborn refusal to go mass-market stems from a simple, defining principle: "I love to make hats. This is what I do."

In addition to making a selection of classic styles that are always in demand, such as the Greek Fisherman's hat he sports at left, Alexakos will custom-make a hat to your specifications. Bring him an idea — or better yet, a picture or sketch of what you want — and before you can say "Louis Alexakos", your vision will become reality.

When you purchase a hat bearing the Hat Depot label, it goes without saying that you're getting a garment made of the finest quality materials, fashioned with old world craftsmanship. You can see it in the stitching, in the lining, and in the embroidery.

But really, you're getting more than a hat: you're getting a little piece of history, a rich reminder of a bygone era.

If the hat fits, wear it.
(and the sweaters, and the bags, and the scarves, and ....)
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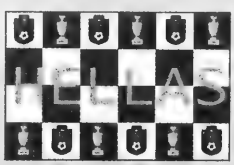

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This Week

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After disengagement, more challenges

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

With its planned withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank virtually a fait accompli, Israel is bracing for the morning after. Israeli decision-makers expect challenges on several fronts: international, Palestinian and domestic.

The first challenge could be a call for a new international conference to kickstart the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. France first suggested the idea six months ago, and it was later picked up by Russia and the United States.

Israel remains adamantly opposed. Israeli officials argue that before weighty peace issues can be discussed, the Palestinians must show they can run their affairs in the Gaza Strip and prevent terrorism. The Israelis assert that a premature peace parley could do more harm than good by signalling to the Palestinians that the process can move forward even if they don't carry out their promised security, economic and political reforms or stop attacks against Israel.

Western diplomats, however, fear the process could bog down unless strong international pressure is exerted on both sides. An international conference, they say, would be part of that effort.

Continued on page 32

Yesha Council leader Zviki Bar Hai was held back by Border Police last week as he tried to breach their ranks near Ofakim in the Negev. Thousands of disengagement opponents were in the area to try to outflank security forces who were trying to prevent Israelis from marching into Gaza, which has been declared a restricted military zone ahead of the upcoming disengagement. Some protesters managed to evade police even as some were arrested near the Kissufim crossing. The army says Israelis trying to enter Gaza are endangering soldiers and themselves. *[Israel photo]*

CJC condemns death curse against Sharon

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canadian Jewish Congress has condemned an ancient death curse against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon issued by 20 Israeli far-right activists, including rabbis, opposed to Israel's forthcoming withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Late last month, the activists held a ceremony near Safed in which they released their *pulsa denura* ("lashes of fire" in Aramaic).

'It is utterly unacceptable'

One of the participants, Rabbi Yosef Dayan, issued the same curse against former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin several months before Rabin's assassination in November 1995.

"The position taken by these individuals is so corrosive to the values of Judaism that it must be roundly condemned by religious leaders and all responsible elements within our community," Congress said in a statement.

It was signed by CJC's national president Ed Morgan and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, chair of Congress' religious affairs committee.

In a plea to religious and lay leaders, they added: "We urge you to take opportunity with your congregations and others… to appropriately condemn any and all actions that encourage lawlessness and violence in this way.

"It is utterly unacceptable for the political leadership of the state and, indeed, for the Jewish nation itself, to be threatened by extremism in the name of Judaism."

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Shabbat Chazon – Devarim
Candlelighting: 8:09
Havdallah: 9:14
Greater Toronto Area

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Could Shfaram attack stop the pullout? — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Segal Named to Senate

OTTAWA — Longtime Conservative strategist Hugh Segal was among five new appointments to Canada's Senate announced last week by Prime Minister Paul Martin. Segal, a graduate of Montreal's Talmud Torah school system, served as principal secretary to former Ontario premier Bill Davis and as chief of staff to former prime minister Brian Mulroney. He also made aborted runs for the Tory leadership in 1993 and 1998. Segal will become Canada's fifth Jewish senator.

Mayor to Visit Israel

VANCOUVER — In one of his last acts in office, Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell will visit Israel this month. Campbell will tour Haifa, at the invitation of its mayor, as well as Kiryat Shmona. Campbell, the inspiration for the TV show *Da Vinci's Inquest*, was also slated to attend a gay pride parade in Jerusalem, but the event was cancelled due to security concerns.

Burial Plots

REGINA — Regina's Jewish community has developed a new cemetery where non-Jews can be buried beside their Jewish partners. The new space incorporates two cemeteries, allowing Jewish and non-Jewish people to be buried side by side with a chain link fence separating the plots. A spokesperson for the Jewish Burial Society said the innovation recognizes the modern reality of intermarriage, the CBC reported.

Argentine AMIA Judge Impeached

BUENOS AIRES — An Argentine judge has been impeached because of "serious irregularities" in his handling of the investigation of a bombing at a Jewish centre.

A special panel said last week that Juan Jose Galeano committed a number of irregularities in the case of the 1994 bombing of the AMIA centre, including paying $400,000 (US) to a witness to change his testimony, burning evidence and ordering illegal bugging operations.

The impeachment strips Galeano of immunity from prosecution, and he could face criminal charges. He denies wrongdoing.

The bombing of the AMIA social service centre in downtown Buenos Aires in July 1994 killed 85 people and injured hundreds. The case remains unsolved.

WORLD

Stem Cell Support

WASHINGTON — Jewish groups have welcomed the U.S. Senate majority leader's statement that he supports a bill to expand embryonic stem-cell research. Bill Frist's comment brightened prospects for the bill, which President George W. Bush opposes. The legislation, backed by a wide array of American Jewish groups, including Hadassah and the Orthodox Union, passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May. A Senate vote is not expected until next month, but Bush says he'll veto the bill.

Favourable Attitudes

WASHINGTON — More Americans admire Jews than Roman Catholics, Muslims, evangelicals or atheists, a poll showed. Jews received a 77 per cent favourable rating in a survey published recently by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life that assessed attitudes toward Muslims. Catholics scored 73 per cent, Protestant evangelicals and Muslims each got 57 per cent and atheists earned 35 per cent. Pew described the figures as stable in recent years.

Nuclear sale

LONDON — Britain sold Israel material in the 1950s that can be used in nuclear production, the BBC reported. The 1958 sale was for 20 tons of heavy water, which is used to make plutonium. The deal was camouflaged as a non-nuclear transaction between Norway and Israel. It is widely believed that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, but the government won't comment on the matter.

Population Stabilizes

LONDON — The decline in the birthrate of British Jews has stopped. According to the annual survey by the Board of Deputies, a community umbrella group, the same number of births, 2,665, were recorded in 2002 and 2003, the latest year for which figures are available. Births have dropped nine per cent since 1993, but the downward trend appears to have ended, the report noted.

Teacher in 'Hot' Water

BOSTON — A journalism instructor at Boston University was fired for calling a student a "true Sabra," or native Israeli, who is "incredibly hot." Writing on his personal Web log, Michael Gee, a former *Boston Herald* sportswriter, described a student as "so incredibly hot" that "it was all I could do to remember the other five students," *Boston* magazine reported. Gee did not identify the student, but *Boston* named her as Natalie Zfat, a Brooklyn native from the University of Central Florida taking summer courses at BU. Zfat, 19, quit the course, telling the magazine, "You're entitled to feel safe and comfortable knowing that your professor is a professional, not a pervert."

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Former BJE head was in 'a league beyond the ordinary'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Irwin (Yitzchak) Witty, former executive director of Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, a man whose interests and talents ranged from theology to education to music to public speaking, died recently after a long illness. He was 73. In line with his dedication to religious Zionist ideals, he was buried in Israel.

Obituary

Rabbi Witty was born in New York, and received his smichah from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) at Yeshiva University.

After serving as a pulpit rabbi in Philadelphia and then as a pulpit rabbi and school principal in Winnipeg, he joined the Toronto BJE in 1969 as its executive director, a post he held until his retirement in 1997.

He had a firm belief that every Jewish child, regardless of financial situation or ability, has a right to a Jewish education. He fought for subsidies from United Jewish Appeal for needy students, and, even after his retirement, he urged governments to fund Jewish day schools.

Together with the late Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg, and Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, he founded She'arim Hebrew Day School (now Dr. Abraham Shore Academy She'arim Hebrew Day School), one of the few day schools serving Jewish children with learning disabilities.

He also "transformed the BJE into the community's predominant educational consulting service for Jewish educators," UJA Federation of Greater Toronto said in a statement.

After his retirement, he worked for a short time in Milwaukee, then returned to Toronto, where in 2002 he became executive director of the Albert and Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library.

He also gave a daf yomi class in Yiddish, as well as sermons and classes in Torah, and he led services on the High Holy Days.

Rabbi Irwin (Yitzchak) Witty

"A great soul has left us and we are all deeply sorrowed by this passing," said BJE chair Baila Lubek.

The tremendous respect and affection for Rabbi Witty was demonstrated at a memorial service held for him at Clanton Park Synagogue that was attended by hundreds of people from all sectors of the Jewish community.

Rabbi Yehoshua Weber, spiritual leader of Clanton Park, called Rabbi Witty "a scholar with a burning intellect and incredible people and pedagogic skills."

Rabbi Witty, an Orthodox rabbi, dealt with many people who were not observant, yet "he didn't either break bridges or burn them," Rabbi Weber said.

Clanton Park's rabbi emeritus, Yitzchak Kerzner, praised Rabbi Witty's "versatility, intellect, vision, commitment, and dedication – [he was in] a league beyond the ordinary."

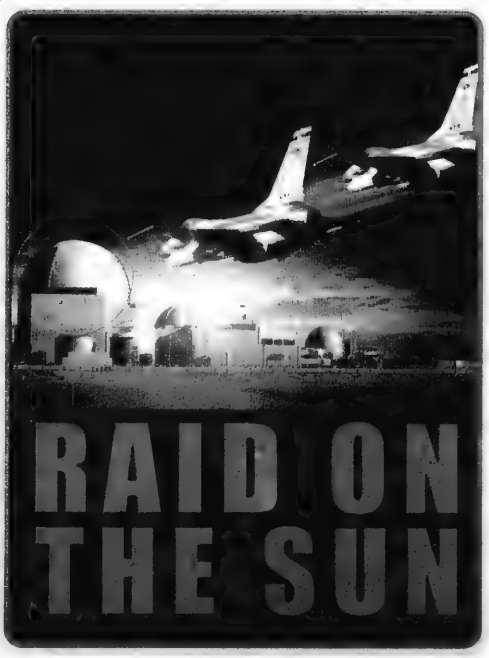
He was a "talented speaker and electrifying teacher who enthralled his listeners," and his sense of humour, which many people noted, "made his speeches, even the most profound, easy to listen to," Rabbi Kerzner said.

The most moving parts of the service came from the contributions of Rabbi Witty's family. Three grandsons said *Tehillim* (*Psalms*), in his memory, and one talked about learning with him and how he would make his grandchildren their favourite breakfast, take them to the zoo, and make up stories with them – with "no adults allowed."

His oldest son, Rabbi Noach Witty, described his father as "an unabashed religious Zionist, even when it was unfashionable in the Orthodox community to be Mizrachi."

Bernie Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, said, "It was impossible to follow him on stage because he had a booming presence. He would tell a joke, and when he left the stage people were still laughing."

Rabbi Witty is survived by his wife, Shulamith, sons Rabbi Noach Witty and Rabbi Avraham Aryeh Witty, daughters Leah Stromer and Judy Lustig, and 22 grandchildren.



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No search for root causes

From the editor's desk

Was he motivated simply by hatred of Arabs, or by politics? Did he believe his murderous rampage would halt or even suspend the disengagement process? Did he hope to evoke an emotional conflagration among the Arabs of Israel? Did he expect to die in the line of his demented "duty?"

We will never know. For IDF soldier Pte. Eden Natan Zaada was set upon last Thursday by the outraged mob of some of his intended victims, and he was killed as violently as he killed the four passengers on a bus in Shfaram, an Arab village in the Galilee.

In the immediate aftermath of the murders, the country held its breath for fear that the violent anger at the scene of the shootings would spill over into the streets in Arab communities throughout the country and the territories.

But after the initial mob rage was spent, calm prevailed.

In part, order was restored because of the swift response by police and security forces. The national chief of police, personally took charge of the tense, bloodied murder site and asserted fair but firm authority.

In equal part, however, peace was restored to the community by the quick response of Israel's military and political leadership. As well as speaking directly and sincerely to the people and leaders of Shfaram to convey personal and collective condolences, they also spoke directly to the people of Israel, unequivocally denouncing the murders and the murderer.

The IDF Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz, and the minister of defence immediately expressed their condolences to the families of the victims and their wishes for a quick recovery to those who were wounded. Halutz also ordered an investigation into the circumstances surrounding and leading up to the possession of an IDF weapon by the soldier, who had gone AWOL and was of a problematic background.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon condemned the atrocity in the harshest of terms, without equivocation or nuance.

"This was a reprehensible act by a bloodthirsty Jewish terrorist who sought to attack innocent Israeli citizens. This terrorist event was a deliberate attempt to harm the fabric of relations among all Israeli citizens.

"Terrorism by civilians against civilians is the most dangerous thing affecting the future of the State of Israel and its stability as a democracy. On my behalf and that of the government, I send condolences to the families of those who were murdered and my best wishes for a quick recovery to those who were wounded. The entire State of Israel, regardless of race, religion or sex, strongly condemns this act of terrorism. The government is determined to protect the lives of Israel's citizens, from all ethnic communities and sectors. I have instructed the security services to accord the highest priority to investigating this terrorist attack. At this difficult hour for the State of Israel, I call on all public leaders in Israel – Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze – to work together in an effort to maintain the internal fabric of relations and to act responsibly and with restraint, and to allow the legal authorities to finish their investigation of this awful terrorist attack."

The statement was a powerful expression of the total revulsion felt by the vast majority of Israeli society at the shootings and an equally powerful reiteration of the values underpinning that society.

Sharon minced no words. He described the shootings precisely as they were, namely, a "reprehensible act by a bloodthirsty Jewish terrorist." After his public statement, Sharon telephoned Shfaram Mayor Ersan Yassin to again convey his sorrow over the terrorist attack.

"Jews and Arabs will always live in the State of Israel together… even in the wake of such horrific events, we will succeed in maintaining quiet together," Sharon said.

Jewish leaders around the world echoed the unwavering denunciation by the Israeli leaders.

Marc Gold, National Chair of the Canada-Israel Committee: "The attack on innocents – regardless of race, religion or ethnicity – is a very serious and intolerable breach of Israeli democracy. We call on all political and religious leadership to signal – in word and deed – their commitment to the principles of democracy and civil society."

Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith Canada's executive director:"Our entire Jewish community is outraged by this unconscionable act."

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America: "There is no justification for this reprehensible act which is clearly at odds with fundamental Jewish teachings. Acts of violence in the name of Zionism and/or Judaism are degradations of these noble values and must be eradicated from the midst of the Jewish People."

And so on. Every major Jewish organization in the Diaspora condemned the terror attack last Thursday.

As they should have.

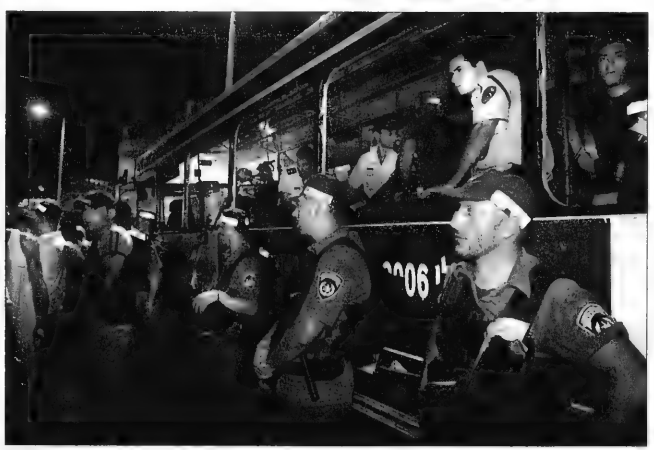
No excuses. No attempted rationalizations. No search for root causes.

* * *

Next week's column will be written from Jerusalem as I try to convey some of the atmosphere and sense of history as the disengagement from Gaza begins.

— MBD

SeeJN



MAINTAINING CALM

Israeli police surround the bus in the aftermath of the murder by Eden Natan Zaada of four Israelis in Shfaram.

[Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

CIJA looking ahead to World Peace Forum

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A couple of years ago, when the blueprint for the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) was being laid out, the architects of the agency determined that community organizations should move beyond simply reacting to crises.

They determined that it is important for the Jewish community's resources to mobilize to respond more effectively to ongoing developments but that the community should also anticipate upcoming issues.

With almost a year to go before the World Peace Forum convenes in Vancouver, CIJA affiliates on the West Coast are already developing strategies to address the possible detrimental affects of the international meeting on Canadian Jews.

The World Peace Forum, said CIJA CEO Hershell Ezrin, is a direct spinoff of Durban, the one-word shorthand for what is widely regarded in the Jewish community as an anti-Semitic hate fest. Already 45 per cent of the program suggested by NGOs for Vancouver focus on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, he said.

Personnel from the Pacific region of Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) are working with the local federation to develop strategies and marshal resources to best respond to the event.

Ezrin pointed to that co-ordinated effort as an example of how CIJA, which was established to streamline, improve and fund Jewish advocacy organizations, can best "leverage" community resources for maximum impact.

"Leverage" is a word that comes up frequently in a conversation with the well-connected Ezrin, who was chief of staff to the former Ontario premier David Peterson. One of the mandates of the organization is to employ community resources more effectively and to be able to demonstrate in an empirical manner that its efforts are bearing fruit.

Despite its growing pains, CIJA has succeeded in streamlining processes, eliminating redundant back- office operations and employing community resources more efficiently, Ezrin asserts.

Whether that sort of "leverage" has been successful will, no doubt, be one of the factors to be examined in a review of CIJA being conducted by UIA Federations Canada, the national organization under whose umbrella CIJA operates. CIJA receives community funds through UIA and, in turns, allocates them to three recipients, Congress, the CIC and National Jewish Campus Life, and monitors how the funds are spent.

When CIJA was conceived, there was widespread concern that traditional community advocacy didn't seem to be responding effectively to challenges.

A who's who of the Jewish business establishment put their weight behind the new advocacy organization and CIJA was born. CIC was reorganized and a national campus organization was established to respond to particularly vicious anti-Israel agitation at Canadian universities. Congress, which had qualms about coming under the CIJA umbrella, also saw its internal structure modified.

Ezrin believes the reorganization has worked. Costs across the board have been reduced, with some services such as information technology, accounting and payroll consolidated. In addition, the organizations communicate better among themselves. By reducing costs, more money is left over for actual program delivery, he said.

CIJA and its affiliated organizations operate on an annual budget of $10 million, almost double the amount available before CIJA's creations – a sum that no doubt, staffers in both organizations wish had been available to them pre-CIJA.

Ezrin acknowledged that Congress has seen its overall budget reduced substantially, but he said the organization's program budget has gone up. Program money is pooled and each agency must compete for it by demonstrating its use best advances the core goals of community advocacy – among them, improving Canadians' attitudes to Israel, Ezrin said.

Ezrin rejected suggestions that CIJA has added a layer of bureaucracy to Jewish communal organization and reduced the funds available to advocacy groups. CIJA, he said, has been "additive" and thanks to CIJA, more funds are flowing from donors into community coffers.

Part of CIJA's strategy is to foster grassroots political action committees to advocate for Israel in local communities, by emphasizing the "shared values" that bind Israel with Canada.

Ezrin said CIJA had a role in supporting the creation of Fighting Anti-Semitism Together, a project spearheaded by Bank of Montreal CEO Tony Comper and his wife, Elizabeth. The organization attracted the participation of 21 senior business executives from Canadian blue-chip corporations.

Working in conjunction with Congress, the Compers plan to launch an educational project this fall targeted at public schools.

Ezrin said CIJA played a role in other major events of the past year, including Prime Minister Paul Martin's reference to seeking justice for Jewish refugees from Arab lands, a shift in Canada's voting pattern at the United Nations away from automatically siding with critics of Israel and the statement by Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew that Canada and Israel see eye to eye on Hezbollah.

Ezrin acknowledges Canada's UN voting pattern has not changed as much as he'd like, but "we consider it a first step."

Ezrin claims polling commissioned by CIJA proves attitudes of Canadians are changing toward a more positive perception of Israel, but he would not release specific findings.

He said the Jewish community is improving relations with other groups, such as the Chinese, Sikh and First Nations communities.

Still, he said, the Jewish community faces many challenges, on campuses, in labour movements and from demographic shifts that sees the country's Muslim population growing, making opposition to Israel more palatable to politicians.

"No doubt there are a lot of concerns, but the people who supported CIJA realized early on that we always faced a negative numbers game over the centuries and we have to work in as effective and efficient way as possible. We have to work smart."

CIJA, he continued, "is all about collaboration. We're a small community in a very large country geographically. We're a small percentage of the population. We have to collaborate. CIJA gets people to sit down and work together."

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Israeli, Palestinian debate merits of disengagement

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The practicality of Israel's imminent withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank was the subject of a lively debate between two academics – one Israeli, the other Palestinian – last week in Toronto.

Gabriel Ben-Dor, a Haifa University professor of political science and an architect of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's unilateral disengagement plan, presented an optimistic view of its value.

Khalil Shikaki, director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Security Research in Ramallah, predicted that Israel and the Palestinian Authority will fail to take advantage of the pullout and that it will probably backfire.

Ben-Dor and Shikaki were in the city at the invitation of the Canada-Israel Committee and also visited Montreal and Ottawa.

Ben-Dor, an expert in Israeli foreign and national security policy, and the author of more than 10 books on these and other topics, described unilateral withdrawal as a non-political, pragmatic, flexible idea free of ideology.

Its broad purpose, he explained, is to relieve Israel of the burden of maintaining an occupation over one million Palestinian Arabs, to break the current political deadlock and to give Palestinians hope about the future.

In a more narrow sense, the relinquishment of these territories is manifestly in Israel's military and demographic interests, Ben-Dor said.

Israel will be easier to defend and more Jewish."Israel will be smaller but more secure, and will be better off, even if the Palestinians do not reciprocate."

He added, "We're doing the right thing at the right time."

If disengagement succeeds, Israel and the Palestinians can proceed to implement the 2003 internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan, which envisions a two-state solution.

Though Ben-Dor acknowledged that Sharon and some of his associates covet the West Bank, he disagreed with the claim that disengagement is essentially a conspiracy by Israel to strengthen its grip on the bulk of the West Bank.

Israel's readiness to jettison four isolated settlements in the West Bank is an important precedent, he said.

By agreeing to dismantle 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank, Sharon has undergone a huge transformation in his thinking and thereby alienated many of his former supporters, Ben-Dor observed.

Sharon recognizes that hanging on to territory with a hostile and resentful Palestinian population is untenable and harmful to Israel's status as a Jewish state, he added.

Yet Sharon is basically confused. "He doesn't know what to do next."

If peace and stability prevail in Gaza after Israel's pullout, Sharon will proceed to "phase two" of his unilateral plan, said Ben-Dor, who did not elaborate on what that would entail.

But if Palestinian militias attack Israel in the wake of its withdrawal, Sharon will freeze the situation, he said.

Describing Gaza as "a miserable place," Ben-Dor said its economy must be radically overhauled so that it can support its inhabitants.

But this transformation cannot occur unless the Palestinian Authority shows real leadership and imposes order, he added.

At the end of the day, there is room for optimism, he said, because PA Presidents Mahmoud Abbas is a decent man who does not obsess about past injustices, though he has mentioned the right of return in his speeches.

As well, in terms of leadership, Abbas represents an improvement over his late predecessor, Yasser Arafat, Ben Dor said.

He added that another reason for optimism is that most Israelis have given up on the notion of keeping territories captured in the 1967 Six Day War at any cost.

Shikaki, a political science professor at An-Najah University in Nablus, said disengagement can be advantageous for Palestinian society under certain conditions.

It gives the Palestinians an opportunity to end their "violent relationship" with Israel and offers hope that the peace process can be restarted, he said.

Continued on page 14

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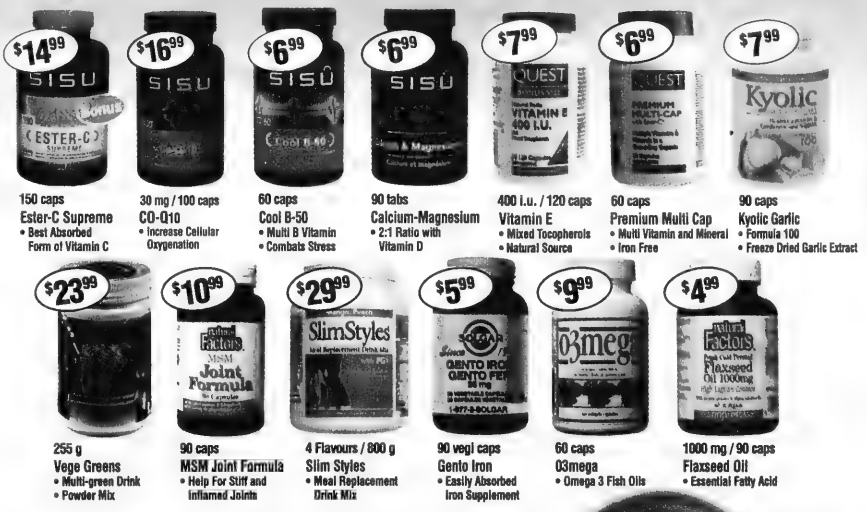

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Bracing ourselves, embracing others

If a month can be said to be sad, then this month, Av, is the saddest of all months. In particular, the ninth day of the month, Tisha b'Av, has been a lightning rod of sorts for national Jewish disaster for more than two millennia. And we have marked and commemorated that day with tears, prayer and fasting.

As the images of the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and four northern West Bank communities slated to begin in a few days beam around the world, some Jews will contend that these events too will be added to the roster of Tisha b'Av calamities.

We will see Israeli soldiers forcibly evicting Jews from their homes and many, if not all, of those homes being turned into rubble. We will see Palestinians celebrating, planting their own flags in the sand. And, of course, we will see masked terrorists brandishing their weapons in obscene, triumphalist bravado. "The disengagement has been won through the blood of our martyrs," they will shout. "This is a great victory against the Jews," they will boast to the receptive news agencies of the world.

The images will be very hard indeed for us to witness. There is no avoiding it. We will have to brace ourselves for the pain and the emotional aftershock they will evoke.

But we will also have to understand that the terrorists' shouts will be but hollow whooping and their boasting a hysteria of mass, self-delusional ecstasy. As will become clear over time, disengagement is less about the Palestinians than it is about the Israelis. As Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has correctly observed, the State of Israel must not, as a matter of principle, rule over the millions of Palestinian Arabs. Moreover, as a matter of practice, it cannot. International law will not allow it. Nor will Jewish governance be able to absorb it. Sharon has acted boldly and decisively to ensure and to safeguard the Jewishness of the future Jewish state. When the shock and the pain abate, as they surely will, that fact and that future will be incontrovertible. Disengagement is vital for the sake of the soul and character of the Jewish state.

As difficult as the images will be, withdrawal from Gaza is not to be counted among the theological disasters of our history. Let no lamentations be said for disengagement.

From the beginnings of time, the Jewish People has always risen from the low benches of our sadness; we have always sung hymns of praise after the doleful melodies of our tearful keening. So, too, must we today. We must embrace each other and bridge the internal divides in renewed, restrengthened resolve.

25 years ago in The CJN

• Daylight time (summer time) was instituted in Israel for the first time since pre-state days and a brief time after the Yom Kippur War. Energy conservationists and nature-loving Israelis welcomed the extra daylight at the end of the day, but the Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Shlomo Goren, charged it would cause problems with morning prayer times and lead to desecration of Shabbat.

• Len Marcus, director of Canada's United Israel Appeal effort in Jerusalem, demanded more Canadian input into how UIA money is used in Israel and less bureaucratic interference with UIA programs.

Dry Bones

BIBI WILL RUN AGAINST SHARON IN THE NEXT ISRAELI ELECTION!
WELL THAT'S NO SURPRISE!
NOPE.
THE SURPRISE IS THAT SHARON . . .
WILL BE THE LEFT-WING CANDIDATE.
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Young offender's apology

I represent one of the young persons who was recently convicted with respect to the defacement of property at a Jewish school, synagogue and cemetery in March of last year.

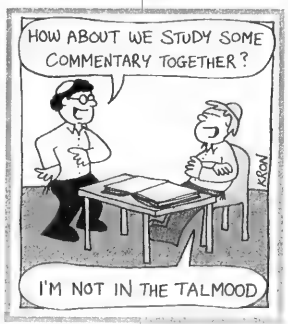
Prior to his arrest, he wrote the attached apology. The letter was given to the court during his sentencing. At the time, I offered to give a copy of it to your newspaper as you may wish to publish part of it. The only alteration I have made is to block out his name, so as not to identify him.

Paula Rochman
Rochman Bawden, Toronto

Editor's note: The following letter, addressed to a rabbi, has been published in the form in which we received it.

Dear Raby:

This letter is cunserning the damage that was dune to your cinagoge. I wanted to apologize because I was one of the people who damaged it. At the time I didn't think that this would hurt people in the way that it did. I didnt know the history behind your peoples sufering and when I lernd of what I had really done I turned myself in and cunfesed because I did not intend to hurt anybody. The intent was to do something that would be on the NEWS. So me and two of my friends copped something that was already on the NEWS. We had no idea what we were really doing and I hate myself for what I did but I just wanted you and your people to know that I dont hate the Jewish community and the crime that we committed was not out of hate. Infact I respect you and your people for going threw what you went threw and still keep fighting against hate. I just wanted you to know I am trully sorry for what I did and from now on Im fighting against hate instead of promoting hate.
Sincerely



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ARZA Canada on the disengagement

In recent weeks, reports have been coming out of Israel indicating that some religious leaders are advocating more or less open revolt against the government of the State of Israel in the matter of the planned disengagement from the Gaza strip. Pronouncements have been coming out couched in language reminiscent of the inflammatory rhetoric preceding the tragic assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. Whatever position one takes on the advisability of the disengagement, it has been decided on by the democratically elected government of Israel, which feels that it is acting in the best interests of the state. Disagreements should be expressed at the ballot box, and not through insurrection. The rabbis write that the Temple was destroyed because of *sinat chinam* (senseless hatred). We call upon the citizens of Israel not to allow their miraculously revived homeland to succumb to this ancient scourge and remind them of the rabbinic dictum *dina d'malchuta dina* (the law of the land is the law).

Joan Garson, President
Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel, Executive Director
ARZA Canada
Canadian Association of Reform Zionists

* * *

Jewish organizations and Darfur

In listing Jewish organizations that have worked for the Darfur victims of genocide, we were remiss in not mentioning Avrum Rosensweig and Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee's great leadership in coalescing Jewish groups ("Blacks in Darfur experiencing 'African Auschwitz,'" July 21). Avrum helped Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan navigate and stimulate the response of the Jewish community. As well, the March of the Living did some significant initiatives.

Norman Epstein
Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan

* * *

Scribe replies to article about her

There were a couple of incorrect points made in the story about me ("Female scribe writes Torah for Seattle synagogue," *CJN*, July 7).

The article said, "The rabbi (who wishes to remain anonymous) said it 'might be possible' for him to teach her Torah writing if they met and if they hit it off. He also insisted that she live an observant life." I'm concerned that the "hit it off" stipulation might sound a bit like a casting couch. If anyone got the impression that our relationship went beyond that of teacher-student, it is simply untrue. Also, I was already a committed mitzvah-observant Jew before he and I ever had contact, and I did not become one in order to learn *sofrut*.

The article went on to say: "But I've finished Genesis and I'm part way through Exodus." I have only written the last few chapters of Genesis, the very beginning of Exodus and some of Deuteronomy. I am concerned that if my clients who commissioned the sefer Torah from me were to believe that I had completed more work than I have, it would negatively and unnecessarily complicate our business relationship.

The article also said: "Barclay says she knows of no other woman who has written a sefer Torah." However, I did mention to your reporter that there is one woman who may have done so and I am currently researching her for my upcoming book.

Aviel Barclay-Rothschild
Vancouver

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info@cjnews.com

Perspectives

Reflections on the 120th anniversary of the death of Sir Moses Montefiore

By PAUL SHAVIV

Few Jewish "heroes" of the last 200 years can equal the combination of longevity and good deeds displayed by the British Jewish philanthropist and activist Sir Moses Montefiore, who died well into his 101st year on July 28, 1885.

In his day, the name Moses Montefiore carried the same aura in the Jewish world as did the names Rothschild or Herzl in theirs. His six decades of ceaseless activity were, in their own way, pioneering efforts in Jewish world affairs.

Moses Montefiore was born in 1784. His wife, Judith (1784-1862), was a daughter of Levi Barent Cohen, a Dutch merchant who arrived in England in the late 18th century and who perspicaciously married off his children to Rothschilds, Goldsmids and Mocattas.

For a century and a half, almost everyone who was anyone in Anglo-Jewry, Sephardi or Ashkenazi, was a descendant of Levi Barent Cohen. Under the patronage of Victorian and Edwardian royalty, they were created knights of the shire and peers of the realm. They were "the Jewish great and the Jewish good" of English society and of Jewish charities and community organizations alike. Sir Moses, while not their biological patriarch (he and Judith had no children), was the symbolic head of the family, from whose legacy they derived a considerable sense of public and Jewish noblesse oblige.

At the age of 40, he retired from the City of London, where he worked closely as a broker with his brother-in-law, Nathan Mayer Rothschild. In his business life, he was an innovator, investing in the supply of gas for street lighting piped to European cities, through the Imperial Continental Gas Association. He was among the founding consortium of the Alliance Life Assurance Company, and a director of the Provincial Bank of Ireland. Highly regarded in the city, he was elected as sheriff of London in 1836, in which capacity he was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1837.

From the time of his retirement until the day of his death, Montefiore devoted himself to philanthropy and to alleviating the distress of Jews all over the world. He also presided over the Jewish community in England for decades.

The details of his journeys overseas are relatively well-known – to the sultan of Turkey in 1840 to defend the Jews of Damascus against a blood libel; to Rome in 1858 to try to free the Jewish youth Edgar Mortara, kidnapped and baptized by his Catholic nurse; to Russia in 1846 and 1872; to Morocco in 1864 and to Romania in 1867. In every case, he went armed with the full panoply of British Victorian diplomacy. While history debates the practical efficacy of these trips, they were indisputably the forerunners of Jewish representation across borders to advocate for the welfare of Jewish communities in distress. These missions, more than anything, made Montefiore a folk hero of nearly mythological proportions in the depressed Jewries of eastern Europe, North Africa and the Levant.

We know tantalizingly little about his public and political life in general Victorian society, although there are indications of his civic and societal standing: Montefiore is mentioned in Charles Dickens' diaries and in the personal papers of George Eliot, and he is even mentioned in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

We know he had contacts with non-conformists and social reformers in Victorian England. He was active in public initiatives aimed at alleviating the persecution of minorities in the Middle East and elsewhere, and he worked closely with organizations that campaigned for the abolition of slavery. A government loan raised by the Rothschilds and Montefiore in 1835 enabled the British government to compensate plantation owners and thus abolish slavery in the Empire.

His birthdays, his activities and certainly his passing drew considerable comment in the British press of the time.

But it was the Holy Land that was dearest to his heart. Accompanied on several of the trips by Judith, despite her delicate health, he made his way by carriage and ship to the Land of Israel no less than seven times – in 1827, 1838, 1849, 1855, 1857, 1866 and 1875. He was 91 years of age when he made his last trip. There he dispensed liberal philanthropy to many supplicants, but always sought to promote industry, education and health.

Montefiore's indelible mark on the Jerusalem landscape is, of course, the windmill and adjacent cottages and almshouses opposite the Old City, built by him as the executor of a fund left by the American Jewish pioneer Judah Touro. The project, bearing some of the hallmarks of 19th-century artisanal revival, aimed to promote productive enterprise in the Yishuv. The builders were brought over from England. Unfortunately, because of the lack of wind in Jerusalem, the windmill has never worked.

Although Montefiore spent only a few days in Jerusalem in 1827, that visit changed his life. He resolved to increase his religious observance and to attend synagogue on Saturdays, Mondays and Thursdays. And indeed, while his observance of Jewish law was perhaps not strict in his younger years – the most often-quoted evidence being Judith's descriptions of the meals they enjoyed in inns along the south coast of England on their honeymoon in 1812 – from that time on, he lived a life of dignified and devoted piety and observance.

Interestingly, a key document relating to his work for Zion is, via the generosity of a local bibliophile, now in the University of Toronto Library. The ornate artifact, important for the light it sheds on the early Hovevei Tsion organization, is a tribute to Moses Montefiore on his 100th birthday from 20 Jewish communities across Poland and Russia.

Sir Moses Montefiore

Montefiore's life was also inextricably bound up with the city of Ramsgate, Kent, on the southeastern coast of England. In the 1830s, he and Judith had bought East Cliff Lodge, a country estate then adjacent to the town, very much in the manner of the Victorian Jewish gentry. He played a huge part in the affairs of Ramsgate and one of the local ridings still bears his name.

In 1873, a local newspaper mistakenly ran his obituary.

"Thank God to have been able to hear of the rumour," he wrote to the editor, "and to read an account of the same with my own eyes, without using spectacles."

The town celebrated his 99th and his 100th birthdays in great style, and every local charity and church benefited from his philanthropy.

At East Cliff Lodge, he established a Sephardi yeshiva (Judith Lady Montefiore College) after Judith's death in 1862. In the grounds of the house, he built a beautiful and ornate Italianate synagogue; next to it he built a mausoleum modelled on Rachel's Tomb outside Bethlehem (whose refurbishment and upkeep he had paid for). There, in 1862, Judith was buried, and there, in 1885, he too was laid to rest.

One hundred and twenty years later, what remains of Sir Moses and his legacy? Those wishing to record the detailed story of his life and times work under a huge disadvantage. After his death, his heir, a nephew, apparently on instructions left by Sir Moses, burned virtually his entire archive of a century of life and work. In doing so, he destroyed a huge slice of history.

Montefiore's secretary, Dr. Loewe (himself an interesting character), also took part in the burning, but "rescued" some diaries, which he published a few years after Montefiore's death. They are at best fragmentary, and it is very difficult to distinguish Montefiore's writing from Loewe's commentaries and embellishments. The originals seem to be lost.

East Cliff Lodge, eventually inherited by uninterested family, is in ruins, and the grounds of the estate have long ago been sold off and absorbed by the city of Ramsgate for parks and housing. The synagogue and the mausoleum stand isolated. The present trustees of the estate have long wished to reinter the remains of Sir Moses and Lady Judith in Israel, but they have been vocally opposed by haredi groups in London who have taken up the cause of leaving Sir Moses undisturbed.

Poignantly, several final acts of the Montefiore legacy have recently played out. Last year, the collection of rare manuscripts from the yeshiva library was sold by the trustees of the Montefiore Endowment at Sotheby's in New York for over $9 million (Cdn), the proceeds to be devoted to funding the training of rabbis to serve Sephardi communities.

The printed books, including Sir Moses' personal library, were purchased as a philanthropic gesture by a foundation bearing the name of the famous Foyle bookselling family, and presented to the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. No British Jewish source could be found willing to buy and preserve the collection. On the announcement of the Foyles' gift, a large private archive of Montefioriana surfaced, held by descendants of the chazzan of Montefiore's synagogue in Ramsgate, including material that he had apparently saved from the fire. It, too, was deposited in Oxford.

But the most bizarre event was the recent death at age 85, just two months ago, of the most famous modern bearer of the Montefiore name in Britain – the Rt.-Rev. Hugh Montefiore, great-great-nephew of Sir Moses, an eminent Anglican and the former Bishop of Birmingham. Sadly, Bishop Hugh was probably the most religious of the hundreds of Montefiore descendants.

Paul Shaviv is the director of education of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Opinions

Settlers need compensation

As Israel prepares for the relocation of the settlers from Gush Katif, many fear internal disruptions and unpleasantness. The controversy is so dominant that even the terms of description are contentious. Is it a disengagement, a pullout, resettlement, return, abandonment, eviction or expulsion? Is it hasty or timely?

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Whatever the description, it has surely caused a great rift in Israel and in the Diaspora. And wherever you go, people want to talk about it. They do not necessarily want to listen, but most have very strong opinions that they wish to pronounce with great authority, myself included.

But I do not want to address the controversy itself. Rather, I would speak with you about the way in which we formulate our opinions. Upon what kind of information do we rely and what is its source? Do we know enough of the story?

The Israeli government, a duly elected democratic government, has determined that Israel's safety requires the elimination of Gaza from Israeli territory. Those in agreement and those opposed have argued and debated. There are rational, religious and emotional factors on both sides. It is clearly a very painful decision.

My brother-in-law and his family live in Gaza: it has been their home for 25 years. They went there because Israel told them to be pioneers : "We need you there." And now they are prepared to leave, but the distress and sense of loss is authentic. And they cannot find the means to leave!

Since the Israeli government wants the settlers to move, one might think that they would facilitate the move with all due speed. But that is not the case. Some might believe that the settlers uniformly do not want to move. Again, this is not so clear. If a family is willing to move to caravans whilst the government decides to build homes and then does so, fine. But if a family decides to choose their next location, they are in a quandary. The government has declared that it would reimburse the settlers, but when? One might think a government besieged by those unwilling to move, would do everything in its power to aid those willing to move.

But bureaucratic wheels turn ever so slowly. And Israel certainly has a bureaucracy! First one must apply for reimbursement. There are forms to fill and lawyers to hire. Then an official must come to measure the property. Finally, someone must decide how much the property is worth.

So with less than a month to go, have you seen the money? How can a family move? All they have is literally invested there. No money, no new home, no move. So some settlers are still there because the government that wants them to move cannot find the means to facilitate that move. Ridiculous.

What we should really worry about...

The Supreme Court of Canada, Parliament and the senate have all agreed: gay marriage in Canada is legal. And the negative reaction from some provinces, religious leaders and conservative politicians, as well as some men and women on the street, is going to continue for some time.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

At the same time – this morning, as a matter of fact – the sun did not rise in the west, but continued to rise in the east. Somewhere in British Columbia it was raining. Mosquitoes patrolled Winnipeg streets, looking for hapless pedestrians to bite. Ontario and Quebec still had a heat wave. Newfoundland is still a Rock. Our national animal is still the beaver.

The Apocalypse did not happen. So let's all take a deep breath.

The Torah has several passages condemning homosexuality – by inference, male homosexuality, since women's lesbian proclivities were of little interest in biblical or rabbinic world views. But the world of then, where temple prostitution and Hellenistic practices scandalized the rabbis, is not the world of now. Some men love men, some women love women, and that is apparently how God made them. (See most scientific thought on the matter.)

However small the references to homosexuality in the Torah, magnify those references a thousand thousand times and you will get the number of admonitions to end poverty and injustice. That is where Judaism, rabbinic ethics and our own moral centre should be focused, not on whether Jules marries Jim.

The prophetic voice is Judaism's unique gift to western thought and jurisprudence. "You have sold the needy for a pair of shoes," thundered the prophet. "You grind the faces of the poor." And you will pay, with the destruction of your nation.

"Justice, justice shall you pursue." The Hebrew is powerful – pursue it, as a fleeing goal, with all your might.

"Care for the widow and orphan." Over and over again, prophets admonish us to an ethical life. Do they spend years moaning about gay marriage? Nope. Do they confront kings and priests in the court and temple over lesbian love? Nope. They have their inner eye on the main injustices of society, and their outward message, though it costs them their lives, on our behaviour towards our fellow creatures in distress and need. Both as individuals and as a state, we are compelled to act justly, do mercy, deliver tzedakah in a Godly way.

Not one word about gay marriage.

Of course, prophets never anticipated our modern world's recognition of gay relationships. But gay marriage will not destroy western democratic institutions. What does threaten them is the increasingly chilly response to social need on the part of neoconservatives. To chip away at the prophetic message is far more dangerous to a caring society than gay marriage is.

If politicians and opponents of gay marriage stopped hand-wringing over gay issues and started really attending to issues of social justice, income inequality and populations at risk, we would have a better, more caring society. If we obstruct gay marriages, we will not create a more caring society. That's the ethical truth of the matter.

Will this decision lead to incest and bestiality? Last time I looked, those were practices of the heterosexual population. Rape? It's a man's attack on a woman – and blazingly heterosexual. Pedophiles? How they even get mentioned in this debate is amazing, as they have no idea of what a loving adult relationship is. And here in British Columbia, we have our own little polygamous world in Bountiful, also heterosexual.

Certainly none of these outrages has anything *at all* to do with gay marriage.

Is marriage as an institution under threat, now that gay and lesbian marriages are as normal, or as normally dysfunctional, as heterosexual ones? Give me a break. Where over 50 per cent of heterosexual marriages fail, how strong an institution is it? Parenting? I'll take loving lesbian parents any day over uncaring, dysfunctional heterosexual ones. Gays will be as good – or as bad – at the daily tasks of family life as anyone else. You'll know they have succeeded when the gay divorce rate catches up with heterosexual divorce.

Our tradition teaches us to worry about the poor being sold for a pair of shoes. Let's leave gay couples alone to find their own happiness.

Politics and religion

Last month, I wrote about the growing influence of organized religion in politics in Canada and elsewhere.

In the United States, this trend has led to major court decisions respecting the public display of the Ten Commandments in legislative buildings and courthouses. In the course of a U.S. House of Representatives debate relating to proselytizing at a U.S. Air Force academy, Indiana Congressman John Hostettler stated that Democrats were waging a "war on Christianity" and were "denigrating and demonizing Christians." Another congressman, Joel Hefley, commented during the same debate that he didn't think that Congress should "scrub religion or faith from all aspects of our public life."

Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton

In Israel, we have often witnessed how smaller religious parties in the Knesset have extracted political concessions with respect to religious issues through the threat of withholding support for non-religious issues. This has allowed the survival of various coalition governments over the years.

In Australia, legislator Ashraf Choudhary recently supported the stoning of homosexuals and adulterers in an interpretation of sharia or Islamic law in a way that would prescribe that punishment.

Here in Canada, we are experiencing an increase in the influence of religion on politics. Recently, the issue that seemed to exacerbate this trend was that of same-sex marriage. For example, in the Roman Catholic diocese of London, Bishop Ronald Fabbro recently barred member of Parliament Joe Comartin of Windsor from continuing to teach marriage classes at his church because of his support of the same sex-marriage legislation, Bill C-38. MP Charlie Angus was denied communion by his local bishop as a result of his support of Bill C-38. In the Senate debate on Bill C-38, Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell decided to support the legislation after reflecting that "as a Christian I often ask myself: 'What would Jesus do?'"

The difficulty in mixing politics and religion is multifaceted.

A concern arises if particular religious beliefs dominate and influence policy decisions. Given that the majority of Canadians who hold religious beliefs subscribe to a form of Christian theology, arguably, the voices of less prominent religions could be impaired in the making of policy.

Another problem relates to whether a religious characterization of a given issue addresses its underlying rationale. For example, with respect to the issue of stem cell research, should a religious underpinning dominate the debate or should the scientific and medical potential of this research be the dominant factor in the making of a policy decision?

Also, some issues are truly secular in nature. For example, laws that address misleading advertising have no religious component.

The criminal law in Canada has always been somewhat of a moral statement and debates over amendments to the Criminal Code often contain a moral dimension. When the late prime minister Pierre Trudeau declared that the state has no business in the nation's bedrooms, was he not essentially arguing for a greater separation of church and state? Are we now returning to a lessening of that separation in the debate, for example, over same-sex marriage?

Morality and religion, however, do not necessarily coincide. A given policy may be morally principled but not dependent upon a religious foundation. And a given religious dictate, such as a jihad that advocates hate and violence, may objectively be morally unprincipled.

Canada is not and should not emulate those states that are theocratic or religious-based in nature. But rather, the test that ought to guide us in making policy is what constitutes the best interest of Canada and Canadians. And the best interests ought to be informed by the various values and principles that are enshrined in our basic constitutional instruments. These include the preservation and protection of our fundamental freedoms, egalitarianism, multiculturalism and the various other constitutional principles that we, as Canadians, cherish and respect.

Politics has been described as the art of influence. When religion assumes a dominant role in the formulation of public policy, the public is essentially being influenced on the basis of faith-based ideology rather than on an arguably more impartial basis. Religious politics may lead to beneficial decision-making, but it may also lead to a particular, parochial and narrow view as to what is in the best interest of the nation.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

The Middle East never ceases to fascinate. Here are a few new books that will add to your knowledge of this historically, strategically important region.

Bernard Lewis, one of the most accomplished Mideast scholars, offers readers penetrating insights in *From Babel to Dragomans* (Oxford University Press). Consisting of more than 50 previously published pieces on topics ranging from Israel to Islam, this book sparkles with erudition. *The Road To Martyrs' Square: A Journey into the World of the Suicide Bomber* (Oxford University Press), by Anne Marie Oliver and Paul Steinberg, explores the cult of martyrdom among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through interviews and graffiti, videotapes, audiotapes and posters. The paperback edition of *Arafat's War* (Publishers Group Canada), by Efraim Karsh, was released before Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat's death last November. Karsh claims he sought Israel's destruction.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The 2003 allied invasion of Iraq is still being debated, and in *A War Against Truth* (Raincoast Books), Canadian journalist Paul William Roberts, who was there during much of the fighting, argues that it was an ill-considered enterprise. He delves deeply into Iraqi society, but some of his observations are questionable. Seymour Hersh, the muckraking American reporter, brings his talents to bear in *Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib* (HarperCollins). It's generally an intriguing account of the events from Sept. 11, 2001, but his pieces on Afghanistan are musty and dated. Jane Corbin's *Al-Qaeda* (Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books) is a thorough analysis of an Islamic fundamentalist organization whose capacity for causing harm to western interests, she warns, should not be underestimated.

Brutal Truths, Fragile Myths: Power Politics and Western Adventurism in the Arab World (HarperCollins), by Mark Huband, examines the current state of the Mideast from a hard left-wing perspective. His notion of the Arab-Israeli conflict is simplistic. *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* (Oxford University Press), by John Esposito, contains more than 2,000 entries and focuses mainly on the 19th and 20th centuries. Read it in conjunction with F.E. Peters' *Islam: A Guide for Jews and Christians* (Princeton University Press) and *I Believe In... Christian, Jewish and Muslim Young People Speak about Their Faith* (Publishers Group Canada). Both are quite informative. *Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam* (HarperCollins), by Asra Nomani, a seasoned journalist born in India and raised in the United States, contends that contemporary Islam is sexist and intolerant and denies women basic rights. *Saudi Arabia* (Raincoast Books), a Lonely Planet guide to a seemingly impenetrable country, parts the veil to some extent. *Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism* (Oxford University Press), by Howard Schwartz, is billed as the first such anthology in English. It draws on the Bible, the Talmud, medieval folktales and chassidic texts.

The Middle East Under Rome (Harvard University Press) is an excellent introduction to an obscure subject. Covering the era from Rome's conquest to the end of the third century CE, with chapters on Bar Kokhba's revolt and the position of Jews in Syria, Maurice Sartre's magnum opus is rich in scholarship. *The Temple of Jerusalem* (Harvard University Press), by Simon Goldhill, is an illuminating meditation on cultural and religious memory. Built by Herod and destroyed by Roman Emperor Titus, the temple is a potent symbol of the human search for a lost ideal and an image of greatness. Travellers will appreciate HarperCollins' *Middle East* map. Published on a scale of 1: 4 million, it's top-notch in terms of quality.

The Holocaust is embedded in our consciousness. Consider these books: *When Courage Was Stronger Than Fear* (Publishers Group Canada), by Peter Hellman, is composed of six inspirational stories about Christians and Muslims who saved Jews. *Oskar Schindler* (HarperCollins), by David Crowe, is a slightly revisionist take on the German industrialist whose "list" is still the stuff of legend.

Approaching the Holocaust: Texts and Contexts (Vallentine Mitchell), by Robert Rozett, is a useful primer on issues raised by this catastrophe. In *Resilience and Courage* (Yale University Press), Nechama Tec, a survivor herself, skillfully traces the different ways in which men and women coped with the Nazi terror. Eva Hoffman, in *After Such Knowledge: Memory, History and the Legacy of the Holocaust* (Public Affairs), grapples with two interrelated issues: how the memories of survivors can be passed on to their children, and how they, the sons and daughters, can keep these memories alive. *Nine Suitcases* (Pimlico) by Bela Zsolt, a Hungarian survivor, is a top-notch memoir.

When British soldiers liberated Bergen-Belsen 60 years ago, they came upon unrelieved scenes of horror. In *Remembering Belsen: Eyewitnesses Record the Liberation* (Vallentine Mitchell), edited by Ben Flanagan and Donald Bloxham, former inmates, soldiers and aid workers recall that moment. *Theresienstadt: Hitler's Gift to the Jews* (University of North Carolina Press), edited by Joel Shatzky, is a gripping account by survivor Norbert Troller, complete with his drawings and watercolours. Irmgard Hunt, the model of a blond German Aryan, grew up in Bavaria during the Third Reich. In her memoir, *On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood* (HarperCollins), she recalls that period with piercing clarity, integrity and honesty.

Two and a half years ago, the University of Toronto hosted an edifying conference on present-day anti-Semitism. The proceedings are found in *Contemporary Anti-Semitism: Canada and the World* (University of Toronto Press), edited by Derek Penslar, Michael Marrus and Janice Gross Stein, three of the participants.

Sir Martin Gilbert, the prolific British historian, is at it again. In *Dearest Auntie Fori: The Story of the Jewish People* (HarperCollins), he deftly traces the history of Jews from biblical times right up to the modern age. *The Jewish Century* (Princeton University Press), by Yuri Slezkine, probes the course of Jewish history in our times with originality and verve. *Walking the Bible: An Illustrated Journey for Kids through the Greatest Stories Ever Told* (HarperCollins), by Bruce Feiler, is a spinoff of the original adult edition, *Walking the Bible*. Budding Toronto novelist Anna Morgan has written *Daughters of the Ark* (Second Story Press), an engrossing children's book turning on Ethiopian Jews fleeing the ravages of famine and persecution in the hope of reaching Israel. The audio version of Michael Chabon's terrific novel, *The Final Solution* (HarperCollins), has been released. *Words on Fire: The Unfinished Story of Yiddish* (Perseus Books), by Dovid Katz, is a lively, comprehensive examination of a language whose demise has been repeatedly predicted. The 13th edition of David Harduff's *Transliterated English-Hebrew Dictionary* (Monoline Press), a labour of love, has been published.

Our cousins in the United States have thrived. Five books attest to that fact. *The Jews of the United States* (University of California Press), by Hasia Diner, is first rate. In *Jews and the American Soul* (Princeton University Press), Andrew Heinze marshals a grand array of evidence to argue that Jewish values have helped shape American society. Lee Shai Weissbach, in *Jewish Life in Small-Town America* (Yale University Press), looks at 490 communities through the prism of migration patterns, education, marriage and occupations. A tour de force. Arthur Miller, the playwright, is the subject of Martin Gottfried's fine biography, *Arthur Miller: His Life and Work* (HarperCollins). Raphael Soyer (1899-1987) was a Russian American painter whose representations of workers and urban landscapes established his reputation. Samantha Baskind's *Raphael Soyer & the Search for Modern Jewish Art* (University of North Carolina Press) is a sharp, empathetic portrait of an acclaimed artist.

The Complete International Jewish Cookbook (Raincoast Books), by Evelyn Rose, is filled with wonderful recipes. A companion volume by Matthew Goodman, *The World At Table: Jewish Food* (HarperCollins), which contains solid essays, will certainly whet your appetite. *Food and Judaism* (University of Nebraska Press), edited by Leonard Greenspoon, Ronald Simkins and Gerald Shapiro, is thought-provoking. *Classic Italian Jewish Cooking* (HarperCollins), by Edda Servi Machlin, dishes up easy-to-follow recipes and advice.

In general: Firefly Books has published two beautifully crafted calendars for 2006 – "The Canadian Landscape" and "Tom Thomson." David Campbell's *A Land of Ghosts* (Thomas Allen & Son) evokes the magnificence of the Amazon wilderness with amazing grace. *The Canadian Traveller's Diary* (Raincoast Books) dispenses important information and leaves plenty of room for recording trip details. An ideal gift. *New York City* (Raincoast) is a superb guide to the Big Apple. *Guide to the State of the World* (Firefly) is a concise but authoritative overview of our universe. *23 Days in July* (Perseus), by John Wilcockson, is a blow-by-blow account of legendary cyclist Lance Armstrong's sixth consecutive Tour de France victory. *The Great Mortality* (HarperCollins), by John Kelly, is a gripping tale of the Black Death, Europe's worst natural disaster. *Repression and Resistance: Canadian Human Rights Activists 1930-1960* (University of Toronto Press), by Ross Lambertson, is scholarly yet hard-hitting.

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Greater Toronto Area

Day of Peace

About 320 teenagers and their counsellors from eight Jewish camps were involved in CAMP-8, a "day of peace" held at Camp Northland-B'nai Brith last week. The event, co-sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, culminated in presentations on environmental or peace issues. Other participating camps were George, Gesher, Ramah, Shomria and Solelim. Moshava and Shalom were unable to attend, but will be included in a September follow-up. At top left, Adam Stecher dunks the ball; at left, middle, pictured from left are Dorit Shank, Natalie Ifergan, Aaron Neishlos, Natalie Abecassis and Leat Zeraviv; at left bottom, campers take part in a game of "mega hackysack." Above, at right, are, from left, Hanna Levy, Marlie Smith, Adam Newman, Eric Silver, Jordana Skurka, Sari Kichler, Elliot Klug, Ariella Yedwab and Emil Horvath. Below, right, from left, Leor Gibli, Talia Gordon, Eric Redinger and Sarah Diamond MacRitchie took part in raft-building.

[Benji Feldman photos]

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Prime minister, premier congratulate Toronto centenarian

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Torontonian Rose Friedman, who arrived in Canada from the Russian province of White Russia (Belarus) in 1908, celebrated her 100th birthday at two parties in mid-July, one at the home of a granddaughter and the other at the Apotex Centre where she is a resident.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty sent congratulatory letters to her.

Rose is the only surviving child of eight children born to Shmuel Chaim and Sara Basha Rubinoff. Her father delivered bread by horse and wagon for a Toronto bakery.

Rose was long active in the Canadian Cancer Society and was a founder of the Sinai service group at the original Mount Sinai Hospital on Yorkville Avenue, where she and her mother used to prepare bandages.

"My mother's life was based on helping others – she was always doing for others," said her daughter, Lorraine Levene. "Her life was dedicated to service. It was what she believed in."

Rose grew up in a poor family and had to be kept home from school one winter because she lacked shoes; the city eventually provided her with a pair.

She took various factory jobs from about the age of 10. After her marriage, she worked in a family dry-goods business and later as a saleslady in a ladies-wear store at King and Roncesvalles. She retired only when the store closed; she was by then in her early 80s.

Rose Friedman celebrated her 100th birthday on July 11th with many friends and relatives, including Noa Popper, who celebrated her first birthday a few days earlier.

Rose and her late husband Max Friedman were early members of the Pride of Israel Society. They were also founding members of the Agudas Hamispoche, a family organization founded in 1928 to keep members of the Rubinoff and Naftolin families from drifting apart. The organization still conducts monthly family breakfasts and recently marked its 77th anniversary.

She met Max about 1924 and although she initially wasn't keen on him, he was crazy about her. What ultimately brought them together was their mutual love of dancing. They won two silver loving cups as first prize in a city waltz contest in 1925 and were married in 1926.

In the first year of marriage, they were given a free room in a home whose owners owed a large debt to her father for bread. She would call it one of the happiest years of her life. Their daughter Lorraine was born in 1929, their son Edward in 1940.

"My parents had an extremely loving relationship," Levene said. "Even when my father was 92 years old and she was 89, she would say, 'Tell him to take his hands off me – he won't leave me alone!' It was a love story."

Max ran an Imperial Oil gas station at College and Major streets for 30 years, in partnership with his brother-in-law Ben Rubinoff. He died in 1995, two months short of the couple's 69th wedding anniversary.

Rose was a great knitter of sweaters, skirts and other items for her two children and others. Considered a marvelous cook, she was famous for her strudel and cakes.

"She still helps me make the gefilte fish," Levene said. "She chops it up in the wooden bowl that was my grandmother's, using the hockmesser, the chopping knife. We still do that. She's the only one who knows the right texture."

Rose Friedman with her children Edward and Lorraine.

Rose's family party was attended by her children and their spouses, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and about 60 nieces and nephews, each of whom posed for an individual photograph with her. After the singing of *Happy Birthday* she made a brief speech in which she thanked everyone and told them how special the day was to her.

Her daughter Lorraine is married to Stan Levene and is executive director of Na'amat Canada in Toronto. Her son Edward Friedman is married to Barbara and is president of Moda at Home Inc. of Toronto.

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Greater Toronto Area

Green family reunion planned to maintain strong bond

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

The descendants of Ethel and Sandor Gruen have a familial bond so strong that they'd be willing to travel from all over North America to meet for a weekend.

On the weekend of August 18 to 22, about 150 family members will gather at the Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood, Ont., for a family reunion.

The family, ranging in age from 2 to 89, will be meeting for the first time since their last reunion, which took place in Florida in December 1997.

Ages range from 2 to 89

"This day and age, people are so busy, but we have such a strong bond and we always make great attempts to keep in touch," said Rita Hoffman, the great-granddaughter of the Gruens, whose descendants are now known as Greens.

Hoffman is excited to reconnect with her family that comes from cities all over North America, including Ottawa, California, Philadelphia, Florida, Chicago and elsewhere.

"I feel isolated in Canada. I only have a few cousins here," she said. "My children are so excited to meet cousins their age."

There are a number of activities planned, including dinners with the whole group, performances by professional musicians in the family, a play, "the not-so-newlywed game and lively discussions," Hoffman said.

Victoria Fisher from Florida, who planned this with the intention of reconnecting her grandfather with his cousins, promised that there would be many organized activities the whole family can enjoy, such as bike rides, tennis matches, bonfires, talent shows and spa treatments.

They are also coming together to record family recipes to publish a cookbook, and to be part of a family portrait.

Hoffman said she expects the reunion to be as fun and light-hearted as the last one, but also very touching as some of the members of the older generation will share their stories about escaping Europe before World War II.

The Gruens lived in Tuterbesh, Hungary, a border town that once belonged to Romania in the early 1900s.

"They owned a bit of land, which was used for growing grapes to make wine, and they owned a tavern," said Hoffman of her great grandparents. She said they had many gypsies living on their land in exchange for their labour, performances at the tavern, and other household duties.

Her great-grandfather Sandor, eventually moved to the United States with three of his sons. Finding it hard to adjust to life there, he returned home, but his sons remained and developed businesses there, always remembering to send money home to the rest of the family, Hoffman said.

Of the Gruens' 11 children, seven eventually made the decision to migrate to North America before the war. The four that remained were sent to concentration or labour camps where they perished.

"This is something everyone always takes interest in. There is a connection there," she said.

"We have a lot of pride in this family and we want to pass that down to our children."

Post-disengagement future debated

Continued from page 6

But if Israel's withdrawal is not accompanied by concrete concessions to the Palestinians, Hamas and other extreme organizations will proclaim it as a victory under fire and make gains at the expense of the Palestinian Authority, he added.

For disengagement to yield positive results, Israel must take a series of key steps, advised Shikaki, whose brother was assassinated by Israel about a decade ago when he was leader of Islamic Jihad.

Israel should co-ordinate its withdrawal with the Palestinian Authority, permit the Palestinians to re-open their airport and seaport in Gaza so as to bolster their anemic economy, stop settlement activity in the West Bank, agree to permanent status talks and allow all Palestinian police to be armed, he said.

Under such circumstances, the Palestinian Authority could consolidate the truce, collect illegal arms, disband militias and end all violence. But Sharon will not carry out these measures and Gaza will become little more than a "big prison" for the Palestinians, Shikaki commented.

A leading authority on Palestinian popular attitudes toward Israel, Shikaki said that upward of 85 per cent of Palestinians want the current and much-violated ceasefire to continue.

In a sharp critique of the Palestinian Authority, he said it has failed to provide good governance and delivery of social services and is riddled with corruption.

Abbas must confront and arrest corrupt officials, Shikaki said, but he is beholden to many of these figures, who helped him attain power after Arafat's death last November.

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Bringing the community together

Friends and colleagues extol the legacy of Rabbi Yitzak Witty z'l

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

The legacy of Rabbi Yitzak Witty *z'l*, who passed away on July 30, is rich and far reaching, according to his friends and former colleagues. It will long be celebrated, they say, by all those who came in contact with his generous spirit and quick mind. He is remembered as one of the community's greatest educational leaders and as a role model for his unique character and exceptional achievements.

Rabbi Witty, a graduate of Yeshiva University, was born in Brooklyn in 1932. Before settling in Toronto in 1969 to become the Executive Director of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE), he worked as a teacher and principal in Philadelphia and Winnipeg, where he was also a pulpit rabbi for seven years. Rabbi Witty was to remain at the helm of BJE for 28 years, retiring from that post in 1997.

"Rabbi Witty was a community man; he paid attention to all segments of the community," said Dr. Aaron Nussbaum, a former Principal of United Synagogue Day School. "He would work with everyone, all the different ideological groups. He cared about everyone."

Dr. Nussbaum's sentiments were echoed by all the educational professionals who had the pleasure of working with Rabbi Witty in various capacities.

"Rabbi Witty made a place for everyone," remembered Bernie Shoub, the former Director of Finance for BJE. "He made tremendous efforts to maintain pluralism, bringing right and left together. He was also extremely driven and made things happen."

The evidence of his driving passion in making Jewish education a priority for Jewish children in Toronto is everywhere. It is in the legacy he left at BJE where Rabbi Witty guided the Board from a small supervisory body to a major source of tuition subsidies, funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto annual campaigns. It was in his advocacy efforts to lobby the government for financial assistance to Jewish schools, and in the significant role he played in the creation of the Dr. Abraham Shore Academy She'arim Hebrew Day School for Jewish children with learning disabilities. His devotion and enthusiasm were palpable in all that he worked for. His love of learning and teaching was infectious to those around him.

"Rabbi Witty was a man skilled in the languages and literature of his people, a man of many accents, a man of remarkable eloquence, a man of much music and a man of rich humour," noted Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's Senior Vice President for Jewish Education and Identity. "With his many international contacts, he placed Toronto on the world stage of Jewish education."

"Rabbi Witty was frequently called upon to give lectures all over North America and Israel and he traveled the world," noted Rabbi Marvin Pachino, the retired Head Master of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT). "He even traveled to Australia to develop programs there and lend moral support to their communities."

Even when Rabbi Witty retired from his post at BJE, he continued to work in the Jewish community, becoming the Executive Director of the Albert and Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library in 2002.

"He was an intellectual man, as well versed in Judaica as he was in secular matters," said Stuart Razin, the Executive Director of Friends of Yeshiva University in Toronto.

"Rabbi Witty was an excellent Hebraist and Yiddishist," Dr. Nussbaum concurred. He was a phenomenal speaker – a great scholar."

"He was my teacher in the early 1970s when I took a course at the BJE," explained Zita Gardner, retired director of Leo Baeck Day School. "He was so wonderful and exciting because he was excited about his subject matter, about what he was teaching us. Over the course of my 30 years in Jewish education he has been a true colleague, friend and teacher."

Those who were fortunate enough to have worked alongside Rabbi Witty take comfort in the knowledge that his rich legacy will live on through all those he influenced and the spirit of his life will continue to touch the community for years to come.

"It is what we do that makes a difference. It is how we decide vis-a-vis Jewish learning and, from that, not merely Jewish study but Jewish action that really makes the difference."

Rabbi Yitzak Witty, September 21, 1997

"Rabbi Witty has been and continues to be a warrier in the struggle against Jewish ignorance."

Joseph Steiner, former President of BJE and UJA Federation speaking at a community tribute September 21, 1997.

"There is no other community I can think of where once a month, heads of day schools of all denominations - from the secular to the Orthodox- come together to discuss matters of interest. That was Rabbi Witty, that was his doing, that was his accomplishment, and what will continue forever."

Yael Seliger, Associate Director of the BJE

"He was respected by the entire spectrum of the Jewish community and he respected all community members no matter what their religious affiliation."

Ted Sokolsky,
President UJA Federation

"Under his stewardship and with his foresight, abba has made Toronto's Jewish educational system the envy of Diaspora Jewish communities."

Rabbi Avraham Witty, speaking about his father at a community tribute, September 21, 1997.

"Rabbi Witty was a very caring individual. He convinced me to come back and teach at Talmud Torah even though I was hesitant. He was so supportive to the extent that he even helped me find someone to look after my children while I was teaching. He was that kind of person."

Gyta Nepom, teacher at the Talmud Torah in Winnipeg. Rabbi Witty was the Principal until 1969.

"He was a full personality, a real renaissance man, so capable of expressing himself. He was an exceptional person."

Allan Reitzes,
Past President, UJA Federation

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on this page should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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For Israel, a balance: pragmatism and romanticism

By DORIT PERLMUTTER

Guest Voice

The young poet Chanah Senesh once wrote in her diary: "A voice called out and I went, I went – because a voice called out." When she immigrated to Palestine from Hungary in 1939, she was 18 years old, merely a teenager, yet she followed a dream and acted upon her vision of settling in and cultivating the land of Israel.

Senesh's experiences speak of the courage of a generation of young people who overcame numerous obstacles to establish the Jewish state.

It is important to remember her story today, as many young Jews living outside of Israel become disillusioned by the booming anti-Zionist rhetoric heard and felt in North America and other parts of the world. It is essential to look at past stories and recent experiences in and around Israel to restore a vision of Zionism for North American Jews. This would also help us reconcile the competing sets of values that ground us in Canada but also tie us to Israel.

Last year, I stood among a group of 27 young adults in the picturesque Kinneret Cemetery, listening to the tragic stories of Israel's earliest pioneers, some of whom are buried at this site. I was overcome with emotion.

My experiences as a North American Jew seem to pale in comparison to the experiences of the Jews from eastern Europe who dreamed of a return to Zion and journeyed long and hard to develop the land of Israel. They do not involve personal hardship, struggle or rejection. Rather, they begin with a sponsored trip to Budapest, Vienna and Israel, travelling on an 11-day leadership mission to "trace the roots of Zionism." This group venture, organized by the Hagshama Department of the World Zionist Organization, raised many questions about Jewish identity and Zionist beliefs.

The Kinneret burial grounds are shaded by palm trees that overlook the serene blue of the Sea of Galilee, a peaceful place with a number of heartbreaking legacies. A metaphor for Israel itself, the cemetery is home to Zionist pioneers from the first and second aliyot to Palestine, a handful of whom took their own lives as a result of the unexpected hardships they faced in trying to settle the land. Our tour guide told us that these "anti-hero" stories are not commonly told. Visitors are more likely to hear inspirational stories like those of the poet Rachel and the songwriter Naomi Shemer.

However, our guide's choice of stories reaffirmed my belief that it is a privilege to consider Israel our own.

When I was younger, I celebrated many of Israel's birthdays naively imagining it as a place that had always and will always exist. In all my years, Israel has been a reality. I have been fortunate to spend three summers there with family and friends. But it was only about five years ago, after the start of the second intifadah, that I truly understood Israel's infancy and vulnerability, when several groups cancelled their summer tours because of the outbreak of violence.

Our trip began in Budapest and Vienna in memory of Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement. He was born in Budapest and lived most of his life in Vienna. Our experience of the cities, though brief, was an emotional paradox. On one hand, we met a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who stood with us as our group held a memorial ceremony beside the Danube, tossing roses into the river as a flute played a Hebrew song. We learned about Herzl's unpopular call to action and of the underground youth groups that subsequently formed in the name of Zionism. We also visited Herzl Square in Vienna, where our group sang *Im Tirzu, Eyn Zo Agada* (If you will it, it is no dream).

On the other hand, we felt detached and somewhat out of place too because of the lack of any Jewish presence in the cities and a sense that Holocaust remembrance there seemed all too obligatory.

At one point as our tour guide whisked us around Vienna, my attention was drawn to a courtyard where Hitler once rallied thousands of Nazis. Another moment, I saw a popular café that Jews had once owned. And even Herzl Square seemed overshadowed by the neighbouring Marriott Hotel.

I didn't sleep on the plane ride from Budapest to Israel and we landed early enough to watch the sunrise from the Yaffa shoreline. My feelings were similar to those of most Jews who express their overwhelming sense of "coming home" when the El Al doors open and brusque staff propel you on your way. There is no better way to experience Israel than coming directly from a country where Jewish life is practically non-existent and you question whether to wear a Magen David over your shirt, or even underneath it.

The emotional elation of my arrival in Israel, however, was somewhat tempered by journey's end. The photographs from the trip helped provide some clearer insight into the hardships of life in Israel. The first emerged from a picture I took at the Gan Hashoshanim (Park of Roses) in Jerusalem.

The photograph did not come out as I had intended. I recall seizing the photo opportunity, secretly trying to capture a vision of a happy Israeli family, mother and baby, enjoying an end-of-the-summer morning at a park. The mother, watching her son giggle and crawl on the picnic blanket littered with toys, was just as carefree as her infant. I had not intended to capture our 22-year-old Israeli medic, standing directly behind them on the paved path, an oversized Uzi strapped to his body. How had I not seen him when I took the picture? Was the young man, whom I grew to know on my trip, that inconspicuous, despite his wearing a gun while dressed in a T-shirt and cargos?

This picture made me doubt my love of a country in which it is normal to see teenagers with guns, fields cordoned off for mines, people passing through security gates to enter popular shopping areas like Ben Yehuda Street and communities segregated by religious affiliation. Other photos, however, helped allay my doubts.

What other nation is so technologically advanced yet also so steeped in religious and cultural history? What other place offers the warmth of a kibbutz experience, or the feeling that a kiosk vendor selling me a pita overflowing with falafel is as concerned about my satisfaction as he is with making his money, or the excitement of a random reunion, while standing by the Western Wall, with a guy from Washington D.C. who happened to be on my Israel teen tour eight years ago ?

One of our group's tasks was to conduct a survey of Israelis in Jerusalem about what it means to be Israeli. Our informal survey showed that Israelis feel strongly about their sense of Jewishness, speaking Hebrew, serving in the IDF, and they have a vision that Israel will not only survive but thrive. While Israelis will admit to feelings of grief or even numbness at the inexhaustible turmoil, it was astonishing to see and hear first hand their hopes and unwavering love for their "controversial" country.

It is months since I took that journey, yet I continually find myself trying to resolve my beliefs about Zionism while living out my hectic life as a teacher in Toronto. As I reflect, I do not see in myself the same fearless, courageous and unselfish qualities that so many Israelis possess. I would not have delayed my university education to serve my country, nor could I give up my safe home to live in Israel. However, since the trip, my new aspiration is to serve Israel for one year in its schools, to teach and immerse myself in Israeli communities.

There is a discrepancy for most of us between belief and practice. There are many Jewish Zionists living outside of Israel who share similar values and respect for Jewish ideals yet fail to follow through with the vital legwork needed to express them.

The goals we set with regard to our own activism and Israel's place in our lives should be a blend of realism and idealism. It is so difficult to compromise our practical needs and desires with larger hopes and dreams. The struggle lies in taking the leap from faith to action, and reconciling that action with a balance of pragmatism and romanticism.

Dorit Perlmutter lives in Toronto.

Jewish Life

An honest account of a childhood

***Omaha Blues: A Memory Loop* by Joseph Lelyveld; Farrar, Straus and Giroux.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Arthur J. Lelyveld – brilliant, articulate, hard-working and idealistic – had a long and distinguished career. He was, for 38 years, rabbi and rabbi emeritus of a large and prestigious Reform temple in Cleveland. He served as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and shared his unbounded energy and enthusiasm with a spectrum of Jewish organizations.

In his early years, he worked unceasingly for the Zionist cause and was director of the Hillel Foundation. When he was 23, he joined an impressive delegation to the Oval Office to plead with a wavering Harry Truman for the establishment of a Jewish state.

Undoubtedly, Rabbi Lelyveld is best known for his foray into Mississippi to participate in a voter registration project for black citizens. He was beaten with a tire iron and narrowly escaped severe brain injury. This occurred in the wake of the abduction, disappearance and presumed murder of three young civil rights workers in 1964 – James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

Joseph Lelyveld, formerly the executive editor of the *New York Times*, in this chronicle of his childhood and adolescence, prefers to call his story a "memory loop," rather than a memoir or autobiography. It is an attempt to untangle the knots of his own past by exploring "things I half understood or never grasped at all while they were happening in my boyhood."

Young Joseph had a difficult and unhappy time. His mother, Toby, beautiful and talented, was emotionally unstable and found the role of a rabbi's wife burdensome and unpalatable. She found Omaha, the city of her husband's first congregation, provincial and deadening to the spirit. She was eager to live in exciting New York, to study at Columbia University and to work on her book about Shakespeare, eventually published as *Shylock on the Stage*.

Between the frequent travels of his father and the irresponsibility of his mother, Joseph felt neglected and unloved. He found a close, understanding and warm surrogate in Rabbi Ben Lowell, a friend of his father's, who took the reticent and troubled youth under his wing. "Dad" always had his son's respect, but it is Ben whom the son recalls with unabashed filial love.

Rabbi Lowell, whose story occupies a considerable portion of the book, was a liberal who had been fired from his congregation in Montgomery, Ala., for publicly taking the side of the Scottsboro boys, nine young black men falsely accused of raping two white women. The men were on death row in a Montgomery jail.

Increasingly involved in a variety of communist front organizations, Lowell became the object of widespread criticism. Rabbi Lelyveld, in a painful decision, was forced to dismiss him from his Hillel University position.

After a number of separations, punctuated by Toby Lelyveld's several suicide attempts, the Lelyvelds' 30-year-old marriage was dissolved.

In a recent interview, the author, 67, confided: "I have never had any trouble feeling Jewish. I did drift away. I moved away from any participation in religious observance. I came to have issues with the whole notion of worship, and a lot of the prayers, beautiful as they are – despite the fact that I've heard them all my life – ceased to ring true to me. Basically, my attendance in synagogue as an adult was largely limited to where my father was preaching."

At his father's funeral in the Cleveland temple, the large congregation of mourners sang *We Shall Overcome*. As the eulogies lengthened, the author writes, "I imagined a little boy with curly blond hair… running up a slight slope, through high grass, on a summery day. The little boy was calling, 'Daddy, Daddy…'"

This is an honest, unflinching account of a childhood, disturbed by the tormented marriage of two gifted individuals. Brilliantly written, it is an affecting family history as well as a mirror held up to a troubled period in American social history.

Blogs on the disengagement

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The clock is ticking down for the Jewish residents of Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank. With the disengagement story changing hourly, any news organization would be hard-pressed to be able to keep tabs on everything that is happening. That is why bloggers play such an important role. You can follow stories as they unfold while gaining insights into deeply held passions on both sides of the issue.

A good place to start is Technorati. Technorati is a search engine that indexes more than 13 million blogs on a huge variety of topics. Its disengagement section points you to excerpts from blogs, each with a one or two sentence summary. (I should point out that I came across far more blogs opposing disengagement than supporting it.) **[http://technorati.com/tag/disengagement]**

A sampling of the blogs follows:

"The thousands of supporters who encamped at Kfar Maimon on the road to Gush Katif are the true Zionists of our times… They are not just standing for the 10,000 Jews who will be expelled from their homes, but they are protesting to protect the entire nation." **[www.dis-engage.org/]**

"Dear Mr. Prime Minister, 'Thank you for the royal treatment we received over the past few days. Although the treatment is rough, you have helped our cause immensely… People are beginning to awake, to see how their leaders have lost touch with democracy and are trying to stifle dissent in any way, and are trampling democratic rights in the process. Thanks for all the help you have given us in our battle to save Gush Katif.'" **[www.israelreporter.com/]**

"Demonstrations and political activism are a waste of time. You can't fight a physically stronger adversary on physical terms. The struggle to rescind an evil edict – especially one that calls for the expulsion of thousands of Jews from their homes – should be a spiritual one, especially if we're the ones with the superior spiritual strength. Government instigators can't infiltrate our prayers." **[http://tinyurl.com/a22gu]**

Nahum Barnea has an interesting article at the Americans for Peace Now site. He talks about how the conflict over disengagement has manifested itself throughout Israel as a kind of colour war. The "anti" forces have adopted orange, while the "pro" side has opted for blue and white or just plain blue. He points out that although opinion polls indicated that most Israelis have supported disengagement, you'd never know from all the orange ribbons flapping from car antennas. **[http://tinyurl.com/bc8w3]**

You'll find no orange ribbon on this blogger's car. "I have seen the enemy, and it is orange. It must be the most successful marketing campaign in history. The colour orange is so strongly identified with the settler/anti-disengagement movement that I automatically become suspicious of anyone and anything with the color orange… I feel funny getting in taxis that have an orange ribbon… as if I'm actually contributing money directly to the anti-disengagement movement." **[www.somethingsomething.blogspot.com/]**

"My heart is with the security forces – army, police, out there for two days now in this terrible humidity and heat. Instead of fighting terrorism, fighting crime, they have to run after people opposed to the disengagement, who appear bent on forcibly preventing government policy from being carried out. They will not succeed." **[http://imshin.net/]**

After you've read through some blogs, you may want to take a look at the latest pictures from Gaza. Try Flickr.com. You may have read about Flickr after the recent bombings in London where witnesses with digital cameras and camera phones were able to take photos of the carnage and upload them to the web within hours. At Flickr, you can see both amateur and wire service photos about the disengagement. Just go to the home page **[www.flickr.com]** and type in a search term such as "gaza" or "disengagement." You'll find hundreds of photos, including shots of protesters and soldiers.

For the latest public opinion surveys, check out the Independent Media Review Analysis, which also has a daily summary of stories in the news. **[http://imra.org.il/]** And for more voices in the debate, visit these sites: the New Israel Fund **[www.nif.org]**, Katif.net **[http://english.katif.net/]**, Ti'ud **[http://tiud.org]** and **Ariga [www.ariga.com]**.

And as for the disengagement countdown, you can watch the seconds tick away at IsraelReporter.com. **[www.israelreporter.com/]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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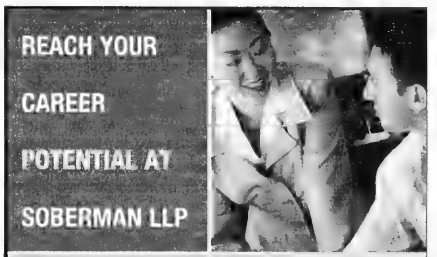

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Greater Toronto Area

Toronto journalist receives fellowship

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

One of only 10 2005-2006 recipients of the nine-month Knight Science Journalism Fellowship, Toronto *Star* technology reporter Rachel Ross is on her way to Cambridge, Mass.

"I have always had a real love for and interest in science – it even dates back to kindergarten when I competed in a science fair, even though I was actually too young.

"When I applied for the fellowship, I didn't think I had a chance, and a lot of others thought it was a long shot too," said Ross, who builds robots in her spare time.

For the *Star*, Ross has written articles on subjects ranging from biotechnology to the chemistry of cosmetics. She has also written regular columns, one on the history of invention and another explaining the science behind household objects and materials.

Rachel Ross

She sees her participation in the fellowship as an opportunity for her to become "reinvigorated about science" without the worry of normal deadlines, since, according to the rules, fellows may not write professionally for the duration of the fellowship.

The goal of the fellowship is to have the journalists put aside their normally narrow focus on getting "the story," and enable them to explore science more broadly.

Ross also notes that she is always looking for the next big challenge that will help to further her career and this fellowship is another of those challenges.

Run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, the fellowship is designed for experienced journalists who cover science, technology, medicine or the environment. They must have at least three years of experience covering those areas. Other journalists who wish to gain expertise in these fields are also eligible but must have at least five years of experience.

There are no educational prerequisites. Fellows choose their own subjects, provided that they are in the fields of medicine, science and/or technology.

Ross has chosen to study tissue engineering, nanotechnology and environmental health science.

To cover her study tuition, she will receive $55,000, divided into nine instalments over the academic year. "They're actually paying me to study," she said.

Fellows are encouraged to study their subjects in depth, to learn the history of a field and to understand how scientists and engineers pursue their work.

Aside from the individually chosen areas of study, each fellow must attend twice-weekly seminars, laboratory visits and field trips arranged by the director. These are meant to bring the fellows up-to-date on current research and broaden their exposure to various fields of science. A number of seminars are devoted to the craft of science writing and issues involving interactions between science and society.

Ross, who has taken leave from the *Star* from September to the end of May, is the second Canadian to have been honoured with the fellowship since its inception more than 20 years ago.

Journalists from all countries compete on an equal basis. This year, Ross will be taking part along with six people from the United States, one from Poland, one from Australia and one from China.

Before joining the *Star*, Ross, who has a degree in journalism from Ryerson University where she now teaches online journalism, was an online editor and producer.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me," she said. "I am looking forward to finishing the fellowship with a better appreciation for the scientific challenges surrounding biotechnology. The more I understand about science, the better questions I'll be able to ask for my stories."

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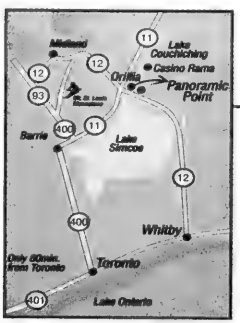

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Postcards, diary add detail to story of *Hana's Suitcase*

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

George Brady isn't a particularly religious man, but as he sees it, there's got to be a higher power directing the unlikely series of events that are bringing to light his and his sister's wartime experiences in Theresienstadt.

Brady, of course, is the native of Czechoslovakia whose sister was Hana, the subject of a best-selling children's book, *Hana's Suitcase*, that has taken the world by storm. The book traces the siblings' childhood, Hana's last years in the Theresienstadt (Terezin) concentration camp, and her death in Auschwitz at age 13.

A few years ago, a replica of the suitcase she took with her to the Nazi death camp was found at the Auschwitz museum and forwarded to a Japanese Holocaust education centre. Brady was told of its existence and it sparked the writing of the book that has catapulted Hana's story to the consciousness of thousands of young people around the world.

Last May the series of incredible coincidences connected to the Bradys' story continued. It was Brady's birthday and just before going out to celebrate, he decided to check his e-mail. To his surprise, he found someone in the Czech Republic had sent him copies of the diary he had kept as a teenager in the barracks at Theresienstadt. He had long thought the diary and other wartime memorabilia gone, but almost miraculously, it had turned up again.

The tale of the missing diaries goes something like this: during December 2004, Tom Pavlovski, a student of history, was walking through the city of Brno in the Czech Republic when he came upon a dumpster. A family was clearing out their basement and at the top of the detritus some children's books caught his eye. Knowing his mother was a professor of drama and children's literature, he thought she might be interested in the books.

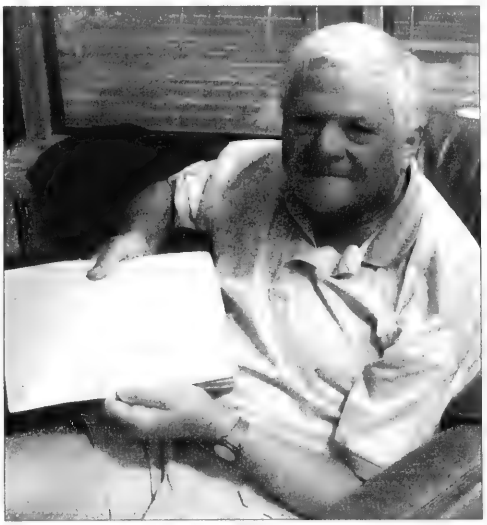
When he examined the pile, he found something even more interesting beneath. Just below the children's titles, were yellowed and worn books, papers and postcards. He rescued the material and delivered them to his mother.

A few weeks later, his mother happened to be reading a review of *Hana's Suitcase*, which had just been translated into Czech, when it occurred to her that the material retrieved from the dumpster might be connected to the unfortunate Czech girl. As it turned out, "many, many things were from Hana," Brady said.

The woman contacted the Jewish museum in Prague, which in turn asked a Roman Catholic priest to look into the case. The priest, Father Daniel Herman, had previously interviewed Brady for a publication printed by a Jewish/Christian friendship group and what's more, they are distantly related. Herman immediately made the connection to George Brady and arranged for copies of the material to be sent by e-mail to him in Toronto.

Among the papers found in the dumpster were a number of postcards sent by Hana, including at least one to her mother (though addressed to her aunt) in Auschwitz. That card was returned because it was eight lines long, more than the maximum six permitted by the Nazis, Brady said.

One of the more noteworthy items was a vintage family photograph, 90 years old, in which George recognized his grandparents and his mother, Marketta, as a young woman.



George Brady shows off the diary he completed while a prisoner at the Theresienstadt concentration camp. [Paul Lungen photo]

Also retrieved were George's diary "from the first day to the last day at Therezin." Brady, a native of the small Czech town of Nove Mesto, was deported to the the camp on May 18, 1942. The diary's last entry was in September 1944, five days before he was sent to Auschwitz.

Much of the contents are rather mundane. "My diary was mostly about food and soccer, because they were playing in the yard," Brady said.

But it also notes that in 1944, the boys were ordered to clean the pavement in Theresienstadt and were not allowed to walk on it until after visiting Red Cross officials had left. Another Nazi subterfuge recorded in the book was that children's swings and slides were brought out for the younger children to play on but were removed as soon as the Red Cross departed.

An original copy of the magazine, *Forward*, published by the girls in Hana's room at Theresienstadt, was also found. Twice it refers to Hana in passing.

Also in the pile was a diary entry that recorded the casualty toll at the camp. By June 1944, Brady wrote that 32,000 had died and 100,000 had been deported. Most of the dead were the elderly who succumbed to hunger or disease or who committed suicide, he said.

"What we found in the heap was some incredible stuff," he said.

Learning of the material on his birthday stirred deep feelings. "I had so many emotions...it was already in the garbage and it survived 60 years later. It is strange."

The fact that the first photo sent to him was of his mother "just showed me there was something guarding it and trying to tell me a message."

The coincidences continue. The house from which the material was being removed belonged to Brady's aunt's family. They were able to save much of the family memorabilia because his aunt's husband was gentile and was not deported. After the war, their daughter sent Brady most of the family documents that had been stored in the attic. Unbeknownst to her, other documents connected to the Bradys had been kept in the basement. It didn't occur to her son-in-law, who was cleaning out the basement, that valuable personal papers might be present.

Brady shakes his head at the coincidences. Speaking on the day the shuttle Discovery launched into space, he recalled that Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon was killed when the Columbia disintegrated on re-entry. Ramon, son of Holocaust survivors, carried with him a drawing of the moon's landscape imagining what the earth might look like from the moon. The drawing was penned by Petr Ginz, one of the 42 boys who shared the same room in Theresienstadt with Brady and who, like Brady was deported to Auschwitz. Frailer than Brady, Ginz, 16, was sent directly to the gas chambers on arrival while Brady was dispatched to a satellite camp where he worked cleaning railway cars.

Ramon, as it turned out, was killed on Ginz's birthday.

Brady has met Ramon's widow, brother and father along with Ginz's sister in Israel. Their story, along with that of the boys in the room in Theresienstadt, may be made into a film while the story of Hana's suitcase is being prepared for the stage by the Young People's Theatre in Toronto. It is set to premiere in March 2006.

When he first came to *The CJN* in 2000, he hoped his story would keep his sister's memory alive. At the time, he was in awe of the coincidence that had brought the suitcase to light. Karen Levine's award-winning book subsequently brought the story to thousands of children in the English-speaking world and it has been published in Japan, Germany, Holland, Italy, France, China, Korea, Thailand, Hungary, Poland, Finland, Spain, Iceland, Belgium, Norway, Israel, Mexico, Romania, Portugal and Turkey, among others.

"So many things are happening in my life," Brady said. "I cannot believe it is a coincidence."

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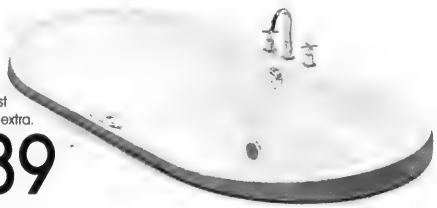

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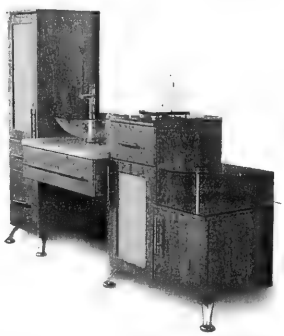

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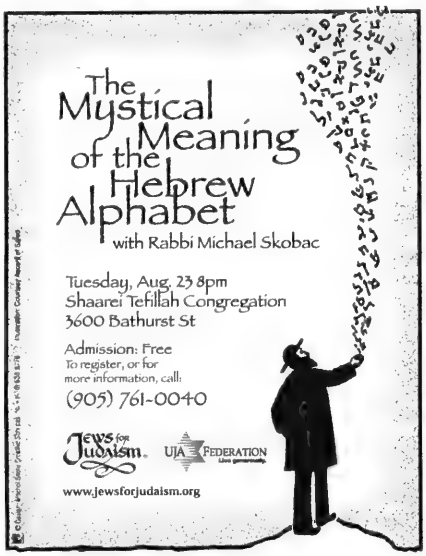

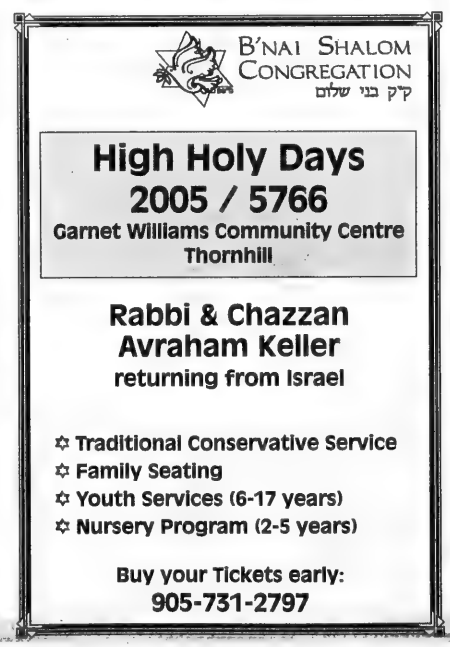

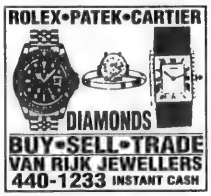

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Enjoy the fruits of summer while they're fresh

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Recently, I was at Machane Yehuda (Jerusalem's "farmer's market"), and the gorgeous and succulent array of summer fruits was a wonderful sight to behold. And the best thing about these fruits is that they not only taste delicious, they are so very good for you! There is so much to choose from at this time of year that we should take advantage of the fabulous fruit that's in season now.

Fruit in general, although high in natural sugars, is good for health in many ways. The benefits just go on and on. So fill your grocery cart with an array of them and try to make sure that you include as many different fruits in your weekly and daily diet as you can to obtain maximum health benefits.

EVELYN ROSE'S FRESH APRICOT COMPOTE

This compote is delicious served plain or with ice cream for a cool and easy summer dessert. The dessert freezes well, but there will be some change in texture.

½ cup sugar
1½ cups water
1½ pounds fresh or frozen apricots
juice of ½ lemon

In a wide, shallow, lidded pan dissolve the sugar in the water over gentle heat, then bring to a boil and simmer until syrupy – about 5 minutes. Put in the fruit in one layer, cover and simmer very, very gently until almost fork tender – about 10 minutes. Add the lemon juice and leave covered to complete the cooking. Chill well. Makes 6 servings.

COLD MANGO SOUP WITH BERRY PUREE

This gorgeous, scrumptious soup is such a showstopper it's hard to believe how easy it is to make. Don't tell your guests that all it took was a bit of cutting and a few whirls of the blender!

4 medium mangos, peeled, seeded and cut into chunks
½ cup pineapple or orange juice
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tsp. honey
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground ginger
1 pinch ground cloves
1½ cups buttermilk*
1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries or blueberries
1 tsp. fresh lemon juice

*To make this soup pareve, add 1½ tbsp. of vinegar or lemon juice to 1½ cups soy milk or pareve creamer.

Combine the mangos in a blender or food processor with the pineapple juice, lemon juice, honey, cinnamon, ginger and cloves. Process until smooth.

Scrape the mixture into a 2-qt. container and stir in the buttermilk. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, until thoroughly chilled.

To make the puree, process the berries and lemon juice in a blender or food processor until smooth. Strain to remove seeds. Pour into a plastic squeeze bottle with a small tip or into a small plastic zip-top bag, then refrigerate.

To serve, taste the soup for seasoning and check it for consistency: if you'd prefer it thinner, stir in up to 1 cup of milk or milk substitute. Divide the soup among 4 or 5 bowls. If using a bottle, squeeze the berry puree over each serving in a decorative pattern. If using a plastic bag, cut a tiny triangle from one corner and do the same. Makes 4-5 servings.

Note: the perfect tool for making stylish squiggles of puree on top of the soup is a plastic squeeze bottle with a thin tip. You can also use it for a similar restaurant-style presentation of chocolate syrup or almost any dish with a smooth sauce.

FROZEN FRUIT DELIGHT

Adapted from *MMMMiami* by C. Kotkin and K. Martin

Any fruit you prefer may be substituted.

1½ cups water
2 cups sugar
dash salt
2 lb. strawberries (may be frozen)
2 mashed bananas
10-12 oz. fresh or frozen raspberries
1 6-oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate
3 tbsp. lemon juice
4 egg whites, beaten stiff

In a large saucepan, boil ½ cup water with sugar and salt for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add rest of water, fruit and juices. Pour into metal container and freeze until slush.

Remove from freezer and beat thoroughly in mixer or food processor. Fold in egg whites and freeze. For a very smooth and creamy ice mixture, beat mixture once or twice more. Makes 12 servings.

On Campus

Argos cheerleader dancing her way to the top of the sports marketing world

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Michelle Garber's ambition is to become one of a small number of women in the field of sports marketing.

But for now, she keeps herself occupied as a Toronto Argonaut cheerleader, a member of the York University dance team, a receptionist at Jewish Family & Child Service, and vice-president of Delta Pi, a Jewish sorority at York.

Michelle Garber

The third-year marketing student is, and always has been, a very busy girl who will do whatever it takes to get what she wants.

"I love sports," said Garber, 20, explaining why only sports marketing will do for a career.

"Now, it's becoming a really big field, very competitive. It's not the same as other boring types of marketing.

"Not many people know what it is. You can become a sports agent, represent a sports star, or market for any company that sponsors a sports organization," she added, listing her job options.

Garber decided that if she was going to eventually reach her goal of working for a sports company, she would probably have to start at the bottom and work her way up.

Then, in March 2004, Garber, who has been "dancing all her life," saw an ad in the paper for cheerleading auditions with the Argos.

She figured it would be a great way to get a foot in the door, and much more exciting than finding a human resources job, which she considered at one point.

As a cheerleader, Garber does a lot of promotional work, such as appearing at golf tournaments and dancing on a float in the Caribana parade last month.

She said she is not the only one on the Argo squad with ambitions to break into sports marketing through cheerleading. Many of her teammates, who are generally a few years older than she is, have the same goals and act as her mentors, giving her advice about the steps she should take.

Garber, who has been with the football team for about a year, added that Argo owners Howard Sokolowski and David Cynamon are also "really great, really supportive, and they're always willing to talk to people for us to get us internships."

Her goals aside, Garber loves being part of the cheerleading squad for other reasons.

"I love Toronto and it helps me get up close and personal with the fans. It also lets me get involved with event management and event marketing, and it gives me the opportunity to be out there with the public. I've met a lot of new friends on the team, and also a lot of celebrities."

As part of her obligation to do promotions for the team, Garber has been to celebrity golf tournaments where she has met hockey legend Wayne Gretzky's father, Walter, as well as sports stars and rock bands the Barenaked Ladies and the Tragically Hip.

While she hopes that being part of the team will one day help her get a job with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd., which owns the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Toronto Raptors, she realizes that some people may not take her seriously because she is a cheerleader.

"They think I'm a blond bimbo. That's what I hate about it."

Those who doubt how serious she is about her goals may not know that cheerleading is not the only extra-curricular activity Garber has on her plate.

When all her friends went away for university and she remained in Toronto, Garber was eager to make new friends.

After seeing a flyer for a Jewish sorority event, she got involved with Delta Pi.

By her second year at York, she had become the sorority's social director, responsible for planning events and recruiting new members. This year, she was voted vice-president of her chapter, and one of her many responsibilities is planning an annual auction for breast cancer research.

"I try to get a lot of different companies to help us, and all the proceeds go to charity. We do a lot of charity events."

One of those events is a Valentine's Day party called the Sweetest Sin that draws 400 to 500 people and all profits go to charity.

With all her responsibilities, Garber still finds time to work at JF&CS as a receptionist – the same job she's had since Grade 11.

"I love the organization so much. I love the people there. They're like a second family to me. And [the job] looks really good on my resume."

Garber shows no signs of slowing down in the near future.

"In the next five years, I'd like to be working for Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment as an event co-ordinator – and be married," she said with a laugh.

"Later, I'd like to open my own sports marketing company."

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

The CJN extends mazel tov wishes to fellow colleague Jose De Freitas, on his recent marriage to Theresa Mendes. The ceremony took place in Cayo Coco, Cuba.

Tobi & Stuart Bassin and big sister Addie announce the arrival of Jonah Harley. Proud grandparents Morley & Liz Potash, Bob & Shirley Bassin.

Eli Chaim was born at 10:00 a.m. on May 26th at Women's College Hospital. Proud parents of the future Maple Leaf star are Dan & Elana Horowitz.

Happy first birthday Aidan Hugh. Parents, Lesley & Gavin Abrams Schwartz, grandparents Marvin & Bayla Abrams of Houston, Tex. With love, Great-Auntie Lily Abrams, Toronto.

George and Esther Daniel are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Michelle to Daniel Newman, son of Dennis Newman of Colchester, England.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: Monday, Aug. 15, is the deadline for the Aug. 25 issue, Monday, Aug. 22, is the deadline for the Sept. 1 issue and Wednesday, Aug. 31, is the deadline for the Sept. 8 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Aug. 11

MEMORIAL EVENING

The Yiddish Council of Toronto, the committee for Yiddish/UJA Federation and the Beth Tzedec Congregation present the 53rd annual memorial evening for the murdered members of the Jewish anti-fascist committee in the former USSR. The murders took place on Aug. 12, 1952. The evening includes Yiddish and English, with readings by **Ruth Borchiver**, songs by **Miriam Eskin**, and **David Abramowitz** speaking on "The Victims' Identities," and **Simcha Simchovitch** speaking on "The Legacy of the Martyrs." 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

Saturday, Aug. 13

SHABBAT SERVICES

Join Kol Yisroel Congregation for weekly Shabbat services at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 9:30 a.m. 416-630-9444.

Sunday, Aug. 14

TISHA B'AV PROGRAM

An opportunity to spend the fast day of Tisha b'Av in thoughtful discussion. Shacharit followed by an in-depth analysis of selected Kinnot, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Yeshivat Or Chaim. Followed by an afternoon program at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue beginning at 12:25 p.m. with a video presentation by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, 2 p.m. Minchah followed by a series of speakers, including **Rabbi Moshe Stern, Rabbi Moshe Yeres, Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz, Rabbi Yechiel Goldreich** and **Dr. Marty Lockshin**. The program ends with a video presentation by the Orthodox Union.

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women will sell new and used items, many for $1, at a large garage sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4700 Bathurst St. Free parking and admission.

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh group meets at 7 p.m. for videos and discussion on Jewish life. 109 Kenilworth Ave. For information, call 416-694-7942.

Monday, Aug. 15

VE'AHAVTA VAUGHAN

Ve'ahavta Chaverim, Vaughan chapter, invites the community to come and learn how you can make a difference in the lives of others through community awareness and fundraising. Guest speaker **Susan Kadis**, MP for Thornhill. 7 p.m. For information, contact **Marleine** at 416-964-7698, ext. 19, or visit www.veahavta.org.

Tuesday, Aug. 16

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada sponsors a women's support group at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., today and Tuesday, Aug. 30, 10-11 a.m. Network, share, address concerns and have fun in an informal and friendly environment. Free parking available. For information and registration, call **Rachel** at 416-633-5100.

Wednesday, Aug. 17

TEEN BEACH VOLLEYBALL

B'nai Brith Youth, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Jewish Immigrant Aid invite teens to "Beach Volleyball Night" at the BJCC, 6-9 p.m. $3. To register, call the BBYO office at 416-398-2004 or e-mail info@bbyo.on.ca.

MELTON SAMPLE CLASS

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is holding an information night and sample class tonight at

Continued on page 25

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What's New

Continued from page 24

Adath Israel Synagogue. The Mini School meets in three locations in Toronto, once a week for 30 weeks for text study and discussion. For information, call **Loretta Tanenbaum** at 416-667-1717 or 416-789-7400.

Other news

SHABBAT POTLUCK PICNIC

Join Temple Har Zion for "Shabbat Potluck Picnic Dinner" Friday, Aug. 19, after 6:30 p.m. Shabbat services. Bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share, lawn chairs and blankets. To RSVP, call **Rhona** at 905-889-2252, ext. 7.

MOMS & TOTS OPEN HOUSE

Drop in to Shaarei Shomayim Congregation Sunday, Aug. 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., to find out about the new moms and tots program that begins in September. For information, contact **Robin** at 416-789-3213, ext. 217.

LEARN HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for fall session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 6. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

Temple Har Zion offers a "Hebrew Reading Marathon," an opportunity to start reading Hebrew before Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. This is an adult program for beginning prereaders and those who want to familiarize themselves with basic Hebrew. Members $20, nonmembers $30. Pre-registration required. Call 905-889-2252, ext. 5.

BOOK AND FILM CLUB

Beth Tzedec Book and Film Club will meet on six Mondays from September through May. Works to be discussed include *Leaving Earth* by **Helen Humphries** (Sept. 19); *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by **Azar Nafisi** (Nov. 14); *The Plot Against America* by **Phillip Roth** (Nov. 28); *The Dark Room* by **Rachel Seiffert** (Feb. 27); *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by **Amos Oz** (March 27); and the film *Walk on Water* (May 1). 1:30 p.m. Cost for the six sessions is $55.00 or $14 at the door. To register, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25, or 416-781-3511.

DEMENTIA EXAMINED

Baycrest Centre presents the premiere public screening of *Memory, for Max, Claire, Ida and company*, a documentary by **Allan King**, Thursday, Sept. 22, 6:30-9 p.m. The following day Baycrest presents a Social Work Clinic Day, "Talking Person to Person: Dementia Reconsidered," 8 a.m.-4 p.m., with keynote speakers **Anne Bastings**, **Maura McIntyre** and **Ardra Cole**. For information and registration, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2358.

LIFE DRAWING CLASSES

Fall registration has begun for figure and portrait drawing, Thursdays at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. For information, call **Shelley**, 416-663-6309, or **Maya**, 416-736-6709.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

OSTEOPOROSIS GROUP

Seniors living with osteoporosis can register for "Power," a seven-week wellness program of exercise, nutrition and education. It's never too late to look after your bones. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes begin Oct. 17. $70. Call Baycrest Centre, 416-785-2500, ext. 2588.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Concerned Kids is looking for volunteers who are interested in being trained as puppeteers in order to help educate young people about bereavement, drug awareness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, violence, gangs and prejudice and multiculturalism. Volunteers must be available one or two days a week from September 2005 to June 2006. Call **Heather** at 416-636-1656 or e-mail heather@theconcernedkids.com.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. 416-630-6481.

Information sessions for new immigrants with JIAS and Jewish Vocational Service staff are held every Tuesday morning 9 a.m. Registration required.

Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. For time and location, call **Joanna** at ext. 30

"Summer Fun" for newcomer families. Register now for summer outings through the end of August. Call **Joanna** at ext. 30.

JIAS is seeking host families to help welcome three recently arrived singles and young families. To volunteer, call **Joanna** at ext. 30.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Aug. 11, bingo; Aug. 18, Israeli movie; Aug. 25, picnic at Earl Bales. 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Niagara/Fallsview, Wednesday, Sept. 21. Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino in Michigan, Nov. 8-11, members $435, non-members $455. Conversational Hebrew classes, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. Bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

The Association of Jewish Seniors installation brunch with entertainment by **Michael Siskind** and **Nina Shapilsky** takes place Thursday, Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Reserve by Aug. 11, call **Debbie Bernstein** at 416-635-2860.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Trip to the Agawa Canyon, Sault Ste. Marie, Sept. 7 and 8. Members $185, non-members $225. Call **Irina** for information at ext. 123.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

"ABC's of Fraud: Identity Theft," a skit and presentation, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1:30-2:30 p.m., in the Fireside Lounge. Members free, guests $2.

"Lunch and Learn," Tuesday, Aug. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring in a one- or two-page story that you would like to share with the group. Members $5, guests $7. To register, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Current Events" Thursdays through Aug. 25, 1-2:30 p.m., with **Shura Verona** facilitating. Member $1, guests $2. For information, call ext. 259.

"Incognito," new and recent works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter**, are on display through Oct. 2 in the Koffler Gallery.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Each course is 16 hours, with two classes per week for four weeks. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

The Family Resource Centre, located in the Promenade Mall, is taking registration for fall parent and tot programs and parenting workshops. New drop-in hours begin Sept. 1. For information, visit www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca or call 905-882-8509.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting registration for fall babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Registration is now open for September 2005 for the morning preschool and full-day day care programs.

CLUB BEERSHEBA TURNS 50: Club Beersheba of Na'amat Toronto, formerly Pioneer Women, celebrated its 50th anniversary recently at the Borochov Centre. From left are founding members Debbie Cowitz, Malka Mirsky, Fran Mann, Bernice Pasternac, Ruth Brooks, Sue Goldfarb, Shirley Margel, Edie Franklin and Mollie Rothman. [Terri Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

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Bargman, Gerald	July 23/05	3560 Bathurst St
Weinberg, Louis	July 25/05	Private
Vamos, Margaret	July 24/05	Private
Thomas, Sarah	July 26/05	193 Wilson Ave
(Rosenblum), Leff, Sharon	July26/05	30 South Adelaide Av
Hammer, Fiszel	July 28/05	131 Torresdale Ave
Freifeld, Adelyne	July 28/05	Private
Mittelman, Herta	July 28/05	Private
Chikofsky, Sidney	July 29/05	131 Torresdale Ave
Brothman, Sara	July 30/05	83 Fisherville Rd
Charendoff, Nathan	July 30/05	Private
Witty, Rabbi Yitzchak	July 30/05	144 Clanton Park Rd
Jacobs, Belle	July 31/05	541 Finch Ave W
Stern, Joseph	July 31/05	1101 Steeles Ave W

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Evelyn Solomon	Jul 24/05	27 Crimson Millway
Sylvia Antflek	Jul 26/05	100 Antibes Drive
William Greenspoon	Jul 28/05	7 Bolingbroke Road
David List	Jul 28/05	125 Stafford Road
Dr. Sidney Teplitz	Jul 29/05	44 Tamarack Drive
Sarah Landau	Jul 27/05	3560 Bathurst Street

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
Sunday, Aug. 21st, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDDY BACHNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 21, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Holy Blossom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Rachel (Rae) Lewis, of London, England and Toronto, Canada, died peacefully on July 27 at age 95. An artist, designer and everyone's "Auntie", she will be missed by nieces Georgina in Toronto and Pip in Israel, her family in England and Israel, and her many friends of all ages. Grateful thanks to Dr. Warren McIsaac at Mt. Sinai, friends and staff at Habayit Shelanu and the caring nurses and staff at the Rekai Centre. Donations to Circle of Care Foundation 530 Wilson Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3H 1T6.

EDELSON, Howard - On Wed., July 27, 2005, peacefully at Sunnybrook Hospital. Howard Edelson, beloved husband of Jacqueline Singer Edelson of Cummer Lodge. Loving father and father-in-law of Tom Edelson, Rachel Loden and Jussi Ketonen, Dr. Jeff Edelson and Lynne Watson, Miriam Edelson and Andy King, and Abbe Edelson. Devoted grandfather of Skye, Kaitlyn, Sarah, Claire, Emma, and Jake. Thanks to the caring staff of North York General and Sunnybrook Hospitals. A private family service was held. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care 416-785-2875.

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Coast to Coast

Israeli Arab 'planting seeds' of understanding

By ANNA MORGAN
Special to The CJN

Hanna Shaheen hopes that when he's ready to retire to his farming village in the Galilee, peace will have arrived in Israel. In the meantime, he is planting seeds to help promote understanding between Israeli Arabs and Jews.

Shaheen recently donated money to Tel Hai College, a university in the Galilee that he believes promotes dialogue and an understanding of the multicultural nature of Israeli society. His donation makes him one of the first Israeli Arabs to have donated to an Israeli educational institution.

In 1979, Shaheen moved to Canada and settled comfortably in Toronto with his wife, Ibtissam. Yet, like many immigrants, he often thinks about his home and youth growing up in a small Christian village of 8,800 people called Mi'ilya, in the northern Israeli countryside about 15 kilometres east of Naharia. He goes back every year to visit his family, sometimes taking his three children, Ramsey, Omar and Kendar, with him. It's important for him that they remember their heritage.

In Israel's early days of statehood, he recalls, most families in his village sent their boys to boarding schools where the spoken language was Arabic. But his parents, who were farmers, barely scraped together bus fare and tuition to send him to the public high school in Naharia. Out of 1,200 students, Shaheen remembers only one other Arab student. Being part of just a few Israeli Arabs in the predominantly Jewish public school was an experience he will never forget.

"In those early days, there was very little contact between Israeli Jewish and Arab kids. And then all of a sudden, I was thrown into this big school… a tiny guy who looks a little bit different and speaks a little bit different. It wasn't easy," Shaheen said in his Toronto office where the engineer now designs, manufactures and markets office furniture.

"In that Naharia high school, I learned everything the Jewish students studied, including Tanach, Talmud, Mishnah and Pirkei Avot. I think I know more about Judaism than 90 per cent of the Jews I meet," Shaheen said with a chuckle.

"That education enriched my knowledge and my background. Some of those families and students in Naharia really opened their arms to me. They used to invite this little guy from the village to their homes. I still have some of them as my friends," he said.

In fact, Shaheen recalls that his math teacher, Mr. Grossman, recognized how frightened he was and mentored him during school breaks. When Grossman was killed in the Yom Kippur War, Shaheen was devastated.

"Going to his funeral was one of the hardest things I ever had to do," he said.

After graduating from high school, Shaheen worked for four years to help his parents before he went on to complete a degree in engineering at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. While studying there, he once again faced the challenge of being a minority in an educational environment.

The young student was among eight or nine other Arab students at the Technion at the time. "I survived. But there were many who didn't," Shaheen said. That memory is what prompted him to support Tel Hai College.

"Tel Hai seems to recognize that Israeli society is diversified – in culture, religion, food and clothing. They recognize that promoting peaceful coexistence means recognizing the multi-layered nature of the fabric of Israeli society and they take an educated approach to dealing with it."

Today, there are just over one million Israeli Muslim and Christian Arabs living within Israel. Over the years, relations between Israel's Jews and Arabs have been relatively calm. However, conflicts with the Arab world have sometimes led to violent altercations between the two communities within Israel.

When asked about Israel and the discrimination Israeli Arabs claim to face, Shaheen said, "I'm Israeli and I respect my government. I love the State of Israel, but we all make mistakes."

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Coast to Coast

Mississauga MP lashes Israel

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

An independent member of Parliament who was kicked out of the Liberal caucus for her anti-American tirades has levelled a stinging attack against Israel.

In a recent summer mailing to her Mississauga constituents and in a PowerPoint slide show posted on her website, Carolyn Parrish lays the blame for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict squarely on the Jewish state.

Parrish, who is negotiating with senior party officials to return to the Liberal fold after being ousted last year for calling Americans "bastards" and stomping on a doll bearing the likeness of U.S. President George W. Bush, hammers Israel as a brutal occupier that has systematically victimized Palestinians, especially children.

"The occupation of one people by another is the root cause of Israeli-Palestinian violence and the suffering of both peoples," the outspoken MP states on her website, recounting her fourth trip to the area this past April. "That conflict cannot be resolved without significant steps being taken to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and associated settlement activity."

Parrish accuses Israel of seeking to "colonize" the Jordan Valley and says it "wants to expropriate as much land as possible prior to final status talks with the Palestinian Authority."

Israel has already seized "vast amounts of Bedouin land." She also says Israel's security barrier "de facto annexes 9.5 per cent of the West Bank."

Parrish visited refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and said she found Palestinians there are generally well-treated.

That's in stark contrast to Palestinians in the West Bank town of Nablus, where Israelis in 2002 "used Apache helicopters and F-16 fighter jets to destroy buildings," and where "officials" reported 180 "direct attacks on ambulances and the killing of six medical workers."

In "The Carolyn Parrish Report," mailed this summer to voters in her Mississauga Erindale riding, the MP recounts her fourth visit to "Palestine."

She refers to the security barrier as "more horrendous" than the Berlin Wall, and that it "completely imprisons" more than 400,000 Palestinians and "enables Israeli control of 46 per cent of the Occupied West Bank.".

One of her "saddest" discoveries, she says, was that access to the Dead Sea "is now barred to Arabs and all other visitors unless they stay at a four or five star luxury Israeli hotel."

The mailing disturbed Mississauga Jewish residents Helen and John Fischer.

In a letter to *The CJN*, John Fischer, a Holocaust survivor, said he found the report "appalling, one-sided [and] outright anti-Israel, if not anti-Semitic.

"I am very upset and I very much regret that I have voted for [Parrish] in previous elections as a Liberal candidate," he added.

Helen Fischer told *The CJN* the couple was "outraged" because Parrish's facts "are completely wrong. I've been a Liberal all my life, but this doesn't give me much confidence."

Rabbi Lawrence Englander of Mississauga's Solel Congregation wrote to Parrish, saying that her approach, "it seems to me, is more devoted to levelling criticism and laying blame. If this is so, I think it is reasonable to ask you to look for blame on both sides of the conflict and to present a more fair and balanced approach to your constituents."

Rabbi Englander refuted Parrish's allegations point by point, and said the MP's "inflammatory remarks have caused a rift among Canadian citizens living within your riding. I see no wisdom in bringing to our neighbourhood the prejudices and hatreds of a dispute halfway around the world. Surely this is a disservice to our community, unworthy of a public representative."

In a response to Rabbi Englander sent Aug. 4, Parrish notes that a part of the rabbi's letter "set my teeth on edge, but I soldiered on. It is very condescending to suggest my approach is 'devoted to levelling criticism and laying blame.' While you cheerfully insult me, you also claim to be 'an optimistic person.' So too am I – but not on issues surrounding Palestine and its people.

"I returned from this trip truly dismayed by the stifling presence of the Wall and the overwhelming construction of settlements around Jerusalem. This trip really tested my ability to hope."

Rabbi Englander, Parrish points out, "euphemistically refer[s] to the Wall as a 'security fence.' Would that were so! Good fences make good neighbours, but this fence has been condemned by the highest court in the world."

She goes on to defend her positions on the barrier, the plight of Bedouins and her own policy of discussing Palestinian rights despite the "campaign" by the rabbi and others "to somehow justify your continuing campaign against discussion of the human rights abuses occurring in the occupied territories. You don't like what is being said. You do not want to appear undemocratic. You therefore manufacture dire consequences!"

Ultimately, Parrish concedes that her arguments are not going to sway the rabbi.

"On this instance, further back and forth debate is fruitless. I respect your position in your community, as I hope you do mine. Our positions are essentially irreconcilable."

The Canada-Israel Committee has prepared a 2,900-word rebuttal to Parrish's remarks, calling them mischievous, fallacious and unbalanced.

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Ahenakew appeals conviction

SASKATOON — Former First Nations leader David Ahenakew is appealing his conviction for promoting hatred against Jews.

Doug Christie, Ahenakew's lawyer, told Canadian Press that appeal documents have been filed and the case could be heard in the spring of 2006.

Christie said he will argue that comments Ahenakew made to a newspaper reporter in 2002, referring to Jews as "a disease" and justifying the Holocaust, were made in private conversation and don't come under the terms of the Criminal Code's anti-hate law.

Christie said Ahenakew didn't know the reporter was tape-recording their conversation, and he was expecting to be interviewed on a different topic and, therefore, didn't expect that his comments on Jews were part of the interview.

The interview came after Ahenakew, 71, addressed a meeting of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in December 2002. In the speech, Ahenakew claimed Jews had started World War II.

When asked afterwards by a reporter from the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* to clarify his remarks. Ahenakew called Jews "a disease" and said, "That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure the Jews didn't take over Germany and Europe. That's why he fried six million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the goddamned world."

Last month, Ahenakew was convicted of promoting hatred of Jews and fined $1,000.

A few days later, he was stripped of his membership in the Order of Canada.

Ahenakew has said he would not appeal his removal from the Order of Canada, but he said he would not give up his pins and medals and that officials would have to take them.

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) announced last week that it will seek intervener status in the appeal.

"We are confident that the conviction will be upheld, and we will work with the Crown in this case to ensure that David Ahenakew is held legally responsible for his actions," said CJC national president Ed Morgan.

"An appeal will give the courts a further chance to define and condemn hateful speech," he added.

YIDDISH CORNER
Edited by: ALEK SILVER
ייִדיש־ווינקל
רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דאָס איבערגעריסענע געזאַנג
פון פּרץ מאַרקיש
פון משה שולשטיין ע״ה

(סוף פון פריערדיקן „ווינקל")

דער מענטש האָט דערפילט אַ קאָפּויערגייענדיקן איבל פאַר דעם נאַרוואָס פאַרגאָסענעם בלוט־מבול, אַן אַוורסיע, אַ קערן צו דער גאַל פון דעם קעגנזייטיקן אויסשעכטן זיך. אַ ווילן האָט באַהערשט אַלע געמיטער איבערצורייסן אויף שטענדיק די אומזיניקע הריגה, פאַרהאַמעווען און אָפּשטעלן דעם בלוט־שטראָם צווישן מענטש און מענטש. (...)

אונדזער נסיעה אין פּרץ מאַרקישעס רחבֿותן און ברייטקייטן האָט זיך פאַרענדיקט. אונדזער צוג האָט זיך ראַפּטעם אָפּגעשטעלט ערגעץ אין אַ פינצטערער נאַכט אין אַ וויסט און אָפּגעשטאָרבן פעלד. ווּ געפינען מיר זיך דאָ? ווּ זיינען מיר שטיין געבליבן? אומזיסט דאָס קוקן דורך דער שויב און דאָס זוכן. מיר וועלן דאָס קיין מאָל נישט וויסן. מיר וועלן קיין מאָל דאָס אָרט נישט קענען. פון דער פינצטערניש שיילן זיך אויס און צײ־כענען זיך אָן קוים־קוים סילועטן, שינעלן, ביקסן. דאָס גייט ער צווישן זיי, דער איינגעשטילטער זינגער, אַ באַרויִקטער שטורעם, אַ צעקלאַפּטער האָגל, וואָס איז שוין צעגאַנגען. ער גייט אַן אַרומגערינגלטער פון די שינעלן, ביקסן, שאָטנס. עס גייט אים נאָך אַ גאַנצע ליטעראַטור, זיין אייגענע ליטעראַטור פון אָנגעהויפּטע ביכער, און ביכער נאָך נישט פאַרענדיקטע און ביכער נאָך נישט אָנגעהויבענע.

נישטאָ לעבן אים קיין פריינד, קיין קרובֿ און קיין גואל. נישטאָ קיינער, וואָס זאָל אים באַגלייטן צום גרוב, ווי דער שמש אלישע דעם אַלטן פלאָצקער רבֿ, און רייסן קריעה און בלאָזן שופר, דעם שופר של משיח. זיינע הענט וועלן זיך שוין מער נישט פאַרהייבן אין פּאַטאָס, ווייל זיי זיינע געבונדן מיט קייטן. זיינע הענט זיינען שוין נישט פריי, בלויז דאָס ליד אין זיין מויל איז נאָך פריי. דאָס ליד איז נאָך זיינס, דאָס געזאַנג, וואָס האָט זיך ערגעץ איבערגעריסן צווישן טויבע מויערן. מורמלען אפשר איצטער זיינע ליפּן שורות פון אַ ליד, אַ ליד, וואָס קלינגט דאָ אָפּ ווי אַ ווידוי, זיין ווידוי:

אַצינד, ווען ס'קערט די ראיה מיר זיך אום אַליין.
איז מיר אַ ריס די אויגן עפענען און זען מיט
יעדן גליד דאָ,
אַז ס'איז מיין האַרץ אַראָפּגעפאַלן ווי אַ שפּיגל
אויף אַ שטיין,
און מיט אַ קלונג פון בראָך אויף שטיקער זיך
צעשפּליטערט. (...)

באַגלייטנדיק פּרץ מאַרקישן אין זיין לעצטן גאַנג און אַריינקוקנדיק אין דעם צעבראָכענעם שפּיגל — זיין האַרץ — וואָס איז אַראָפּגעשליידערט געוואָרן אויף אַ שטיין. הער איך דורך אַלע מיינע טעג און נעכט זיין קלאַנג און אָפּקלאַנג פון בראָך, וואָס שטילט זיך נישט איין. און כאָטש מיר ווייסן נישט, און מיר וועלן שוין אפשר קיין מאָל נישט וויסן, ווּ עס געפינען זיך זיינע לעצטע פיר באַשערטע איילן — זאָלן די טענער פון זיין איבערגעריסן געזאַנג זיך לאָזן דאָרט הערן איבער זיי, ווי דער שאַל פונעם שופר של משיח.

צוזאַמען מיט פּרץ מאַרקישן זיינען אויך אומגעקומען: דוד בערגעלסאָן, זרח גרינבערג, דוד האָפשטיין, יחזקאל דאָברושין, נחום לעווין, יצחק נוסינאָוו, דער נסתר, אנא סטעלמאַך, דוד בער סלוצקי, אליהו ספּיוואַק, משה פּינטשעווסקי, איציק פעפער, לייב קוויטקאָ, הערץ ריווקין און אַנד. דער ערשטער איז געווען שלמה מיכאָעלס. זאָלן זייערע נעמען שטענדיק דערמאָנט ווערן מיט כּבֿוד!

Journalists should be allowed to report accurately

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Is there anything left to say about CBC's "policy" on using the words "terrorism" and "terrorist" (hereafter referred to as the "T-words")? Apparently so.

In his July 25 *Globe and Mail* column, "Lessons from London: How not to cover terror attacks," Norman Spector referred to extensive criticism directed at the British Broadcasting Corporation for its coverage of the July 7 London bombings.

Immediately after the tragic events, the BBC used the T-word, especially in its online reports. But in the following days, it altered its own copy to eliminate any trace of the term (using the word "bomber" in place of "terrorist").

Reaction was outspoken. The BBC was charged with censorship and taking political correctness to new depths of absurdity. BBC chair Sir Michael Grade admitted that he disagreed with the edits and would examine the issue closely. He also admitted that the BBC had been describing the perpetrators of the London attacks as "terrorists." The BBC, Spector said, subsequently issued a statement saying that it had not banned the use of the term.

Although Spector did not cite it, the BBC does indeed have a policy on the issue, apparently modified in light of the criticism. In an article titled "Accuracy and Honesty" (*The Guardian*, July 13), Roger Mosey, BBC's head of television news, clearly stated: "There is no ban. It's true, the word is contentious in some contexts on our international services, hence the recommendation that it be employed with care. But we have used, and will continue to use the words "terror," "terrorism" and "terrorist" – as we did in all our flagship bulletins from [July 7]."

That is, the BBC would continue to use the T-word when appropriate, even if unattributed to a second source. As Mosey put it: "Journalism is a vital part of our national response to terrorism: reporting honestly and accurately what happened, and I believe the BBC did that [during the London attacks] and we will continue to do it."

Spector then turned to the CBC. "Here at home, the CBC… argues that to use the T-word would be to 'take sides.' However, only one side – the side looking to recruit new suicide bombers – has an interest in terminological confusion."

Spector noted that according to a *Le Devoir* report, CBC's francophone Radio-Canada "refused to go along, choosing to employ the terrorist term, leaving the CBC English-speaking reporters increasingly isolated – in Canada and around the world."

On June 28, Tony Burman, editor-in-chief of *CBC News*, replied to Spector in a letter to the *Globe and Mail*. He charged that Spector had misrepresented CBC policy, and explained that the CBC does not ban or avoid using the T-words.

"In fact," he wrote, "our longstanding practice is that we have frequently used these terms in our coverage of the tragedies in London, Madrid, the Middle East, etc., but only when attributed to others, such as public officials or police forces."

This explanation is inaccurate. CBC reporters frequently used the T-word without attribution when describing terrorist attacks in New York, Bali, Madrid and other places (except in Israel). Burman has now written a memo to CBC staff explaining that the T-word should be used only when attributed. (This means that CBC policy will finally be applied uniformly, if absurdly.)

What Burman really means is that CBC reporters will be allowed to attribute the T-words when uttered by others, but cannot use them themselves when describing events.

The point Spector has illuminated – the one that Burman has avoided – is that the BBC, unlike CBC news, allows its reporters to use the T-words directly, without citing the source.

CBC cannot ban the use of the term outright because, as its ombudsman has admitted, the T-words are listed in CBC's guidebook, *Journalistic Standards and Practices*. The subject of terrorism is even listed in its index! This shows how convoluted CBC's "policy" is.

Certainly the T-words should not be overworked. But when they do apply, as in New York, London, Madrid and Tel Aviv, journalists cannot pretend otherwise. As the BBC and a growing number of news organizations have come to recognize, journalists should be allowed to report with unfettered accuracy.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Correction

In the *CJN* Aug. 4 article "Jews for Jesus plans fall blitz on Montreal," the deception mentioned by Julius Ciss was incorrectly explained. It should have indicated that he was referring to the policies used by Jews for Jesus. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Feature

Shivah protocol: Take your cue from the mourner

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When Gloria Clamen sat shivah for her mother 12 years ago, she was very moved by the visit of one of her mother's former customers.

"I had not seen this person since I was a teenager," Clamen recalled. "I loved that she took the risk of coming to a strange house, of maybe not being remembered. It made the experience so much more profound. It's another layer of respect and love."

Since then, the *CJN* advertising representative, an active volunteer with two grown children and a young grandson, has stopped wondering about the appropriateness of making a shivah visit if she's been out of contact for an extended period of time.

Clamen has sat shivah for both her parents and visited many friends and relatives observing the traditional seven days of mourning following a Jewish funeral. But she still has questions about protocol for shivah visitors.

Even rabbis, however, admit that the answers – those not governed by Jewish law or custom – may vary from one shivah to the next.

The bottom line, according to all the rabbis interviewed for this article, is to take your cue from the mourner.

"The goal of a shivah visit is to meet the needs of the mourners," said Rabbi Philip Scheim of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation. "If they're tired, encourage them to lie down and get some rest. If you come in and they're sleeping, don't ask that they be awakened.

"If they have a need to talk, you should be there to listen, and that may be a longer visit."

Even doing laundry can be appropriate if mourners have young children and there is no one else to do that, Rabbi Scheim noted.

Three years ago, Mara Koven and her two young children, then age 3 and 6, sat shivah together with her in-laws, brother-in-law and sister-in-law after the sudden death of her husband Jonathan at age 39. "Everyone knew [the children] were the priority," she said.

Koven, who subsequently co-edited the book *Mourning has Broken – A Collection of Creative Writing about Grief and Healing*, set the tone by letting the children know that they would each get at least half an hour of her time every day during the shivah. Also, she said, "their room was theirs. They decided who could go in there. [Kids] need to feel empowered."

Balancing her own grief with the needs of her children, she found it "lifted" her up to hear stories about her husband and learn things about him she hadn't known. But just by visiting a shivah, one is saying, "You matter to me," she said.

Koven found herself touched by observant Jewish visitors who took her hands, looked her in the eyes, and said traditional Hebrew words of comfort as they left.

"[Those people] were there for a reason," said Koven, whose background is Conservative.

She also appreciated that a friend brought her a coffee from Starbucks every morning. "It was her way of giving me a nice little treat, of saying, 'I'm here for you,'" Koven recalls.

Other friends – "I called them my shivah ladies" – would make lunch for her children to take to school. They also co-ordinated play dates for the children, and oversaw the list of meals that people provided during the shivah.

"I had a whole team of friends that just kicked in. I don't have family here, and the Jewish community put us in a really warm hug."

Like many people, Koven found evenings difficult because of the number of visitors. She found mornings were the best time to have a meaningful conversation, if people were able to come then.

Photos can spark conversation if it's hard to talk about the person who died, she noted.

Still, sometimes exhaustion set in, Koven recalls. "If we wanted a few hours alone, we would leave out a pad of paper on the steps, and people would jot down their thoughts. That was an amazing thing. That was really helpful."

A team of friends "just kicked in" for Mara Koven, centre, and her children Maya and Noah when her husband died three years ago. [Frances Kraft photo]

One of the comments Koven found beneficial was, "Time will be your friend."

But support is still welcome – and needed – once shivah is over. A woman Koven called her "lifeline" told her she would call "every night until you tell me not to."

Koven's father called long-distance every night for months to read from the classic *Hardy Boys* series before his grandson went to bed, and her mother-in-law gave them e-mails she had saved that were written by Koven's husband about the children. "I think it's just important to reach out."

Rick, a Torontonian whose father died last year, said he's bothered by a "party atmosphere" at some shivah houses. He requested that his name not be used so that friends and family wouldn't think he was being critical of them.

Rabbi Lawrence Englander of Solel Congregation in Mississauga advises mourners to enlist close friends and relatives to avert such situations. They can request, for example, that everyone take part in services.

Rick, in fact, enlisted the help of a friend to request that visitors socializing near the mourners move to a different area of the house.

At a recent shivah – newly sensitized – he ran into an old friend he hadn't seen in years, and quietly suggested that they catch up elsewhere.

"People mean well," said Rick. "But they just don't understand the depth of what the mourners are going through. I think people forget that it's a place of mourning and remembrance."

The fact that his father's death was expected did not mitigate his grief, he said, although others note that when a death is preceded by a lengthy illness, some mourning has already taken place.

Rick also recommended that visitors express their condolences to all the mourners, introducing themselves to those they don't know. He recalls one afternoon when he and another mourner were sitting together and a visitor began a conversation with the other person. "It was like I wasn't even there," said Rick.

In addition, he appreciated when visitors limited the time they spent with him when others were waiting to express their sympathy.

According to the Talmud, visitors are not supposed to speak until the mourner starts to speak, said Rabbi Reuven Tradburks of Kehillat Shaarei Torah.

A less literal interpretation might be, "I [the visitor] am here to talk about what you [as a mourner] want to talk about, even if it's nothing at all," according to Rabbi Tradburks.

Discussions with the mourners should revolve around the person who passed away, in accordance with Jewish tradition, Rick believes.

What often happens, though, is that people assume the mourners do not want to talk about the death, said Rabbi Tradburks.

"It's important to allow the *aveilim* [mourners] to lead the topics of conversation," said Rabbi Amram Assayag of the Sephardic Kehila Centre. "Each one is different… and there are times, even on the same day, that they don't want to speak about the same things, so they themselves change the conversation.

"We tell people to be careful not to have any idle talk that is not within the spirit of the shivah."

On the other hand, sometimes visitors find that mourners want to know what's happening in the world, said Rabbi Scheim. "You have to take the cue from them."

The most comforting thing is to talk about the kind of person the deceased was, he said. Even laughter isn't necessarily inappropriate. "A lot of memories are funny," said Rabbi Scheim. "The bottom line is what is comforting to the mourner.

"You never question any decision [mourners have] made," stressed Rabbi Scheim, referring in large part to health-care choices prior to the death. "You don't want to cause them pain because you're curious, or criticize their decisions."

A criticism Jewish mourners often hear is that they're not supposed to thank people for coming. Mourners have no social responsibilities, explained Rabbi Scheim. "But [they're] not committing a sin by saying thank you."

Clamen said that when someone thanks her, she usually says, "I'm glad I could be of comfort."

Rabbi Assayag notes that at Sephardi shivahs, it is more common to express emotion freely.

"In a very quiet and noble way you could sit with the family and get quite emotional with whatever you have to tell them. Part of the idea is to allow them to grieve. It's easier for them when they don't have to watch what they're doing when there are people around."

Also, he noted, in many Sephardi shivah houses, visitors are offered fruit and asked to make a blessing over it before eating. "It's not something you decline," he said, explaining that the blessing over the food is "for the merit of the neshamah [soul]" of the person who has died.

"It's not a meal," he said. "It's symbolic."

Mealtimes at a shivah provide an opportunity for the mourners to have a quiet break together and unwind, said Rick.

Those who want to provide a meal should put their name on a list early in the week.

"People should know not to visit during meals, unless they are very close and are helping to serve the meal," said Rabbi Englander.

Breakfast after the morning minyan is an exception. Because many people go straight to work from a shivah minyan, it's considered "a courtesy" to offer a simple breakfast, said Rabbi Scheim.

Rabbi Tradburks has found that in some communities people assume that shivah visits mean participating in the minyan. "[But] that's not the sum total of comfort." Sometimes, he said, there's nobody there the rest of the day.

"If you know the person well, go early, go often and stay as long as you can if your presence is needed," said Rabbi Englander. "I think the idea of being surrounded by people who matter most to you and having that sense of community is very therapeutic."

Dos and don'ts for shivah visitors

More than anything else, a shivah visit is supposed to address the needs of the mourners. Below are some dos and don'ts suggested by rabbis and others, based on their personal experience.

- Do take your cue from the mourners regarding the topic of conversation and how much they feel like talking.
- If you are going for prayer services, arrive on time. Men should bring a tallit and tfillin for traditional morning services.
- Don't arrive too early in the morning, or stay too late at night. Don't arrive at meal times, unless you are helping to serve a meal and clean up. This may be the only time mourners have with each other, without visitors.
- If you run into other visitors you know, limit your small talk in front of the mourners. It's better to catch up in another room or after the shivah visit.
- As a rule, unless you are a close friend or family member of the mourners, shivah visits should be fairly short.
- Do offer to help if you are staying longer, even if it's just to bring a cup of coffee to the mourners.
- Do not join the family at the table unless you are invited.
- Offer your condolences to all the mourners who are nearby.
- Remember that mourners often find it comforting to hear stories about the person who has died.
- If you are providing a meal, be sensitive to kashrut needs, and also keep in mind that Sephardi mourners do not eat meat during the shivah week.
- Donations to charities that were specified by the mourners are appreciated, as are personal notes.
- Call when shivah is over. Another visit may be welcome, particularly if a mourner is older or doesn't feel like going out.
- For information about halachic aspects of shivah and shivah visits, consult a book such as *To Comfort the Bereaved*, by Rabbi Aaron Levine, or *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*, by Rabbi Maurice Lamm.

— F.K.

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Netanyahu's resignation creates havoc

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has thrown Israeli politics into disarray with an 11th-hour resignation in protest at the upcoming Gaza Strip withdrawal.

After long denying pundits' speculation that his days alongside Prime Minister Ariel Sharon were numbered, Netanyahu tendered his resignation Sunday, just as the cabinet approved the first phase of settlement evacuations, which are slated to begin next week.

"I am all torn up inside," Netanyahu told reporters. "Like anyone, I aspire to leave Gaza. I aspire to peace," he said. "But the disengagement plan endangers Israel and is polarizing its people."

Sharon had no immediate comment on the surprise move by his top Likud Party rival, which was hailed as a heroic act of conscience by many Israelis who see the unilateral withdrawals from Gaza and the northern West Bank as a recipe for renewed Palestinian terrorism.

But on the left, Netanyahu was accused of cynically staking out a claim on a second term as prime minister at the cost of government stability. Labor Party ministers were quick to recall how he handed over most of the West Bank city of Hebron to the Palestinian Authority while he was prime minister in 1997, despite having earlier lambasted the land-for-peace principle before he headed the government.

Benjamin Netanyahu

"Netanyahu is, once again, coming out as a schemer at a historic juncture, preferring his own interests over those of the nation's," Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said.

Barring copycat resignations by other Likud ministers who have voiced misgivings about the Gaza plan, Sharon's most important policy is expected to stay on track.

Sharon wasted no time in naming Trade Minister Ehud Olmert to be Netanyahu's interim replacement.

But all agreed that, in today's global economy, Netanyahu's shoes as finance minister would be hard to fill.

During 2½ years at the Treasury, he made a major impact with belt-tightening reforms that many economists credited with pulling the Jewish state out of recession.

The Israeli markets panicked at Netanyahu's resignation, which came an hour before trading ended. The MAOF Index plummeted 5.25 per cent, and there were similar drops across the board.

Netanyahu appealed for calm, extolling the skills of his finance ministry aides and recommending that his successor keep them on.

"He will receive an economy that has gone from collapse to growth," Netanyahu said. "As long as the same course is maintained at the helm, this trend should continue."

According to media reports, Netanyahu's decision to quit the government was so quick as to have caught his closest advisers off-guard. Some political analysts suggested that, with the removal of 25 Jewish settlements to formally begin on Aug. 15, Netanyahu seeks to inherit as the next prime minister an Israel devoid of the security burden of Gaza, while remaining unassociated with its evacuation.

The walkout could help restore Netanyahu's credibility among hard-line supporters.

Just last week, one of his long-standing foreign funders, the Australian diamond billionaire Joseph Gutnick, said in an Israeli-television interview that Netanyahu had disappointed many of those who voted for him as prime minister in 1996.

In his remarks to reporters, Netanyahu did not detail his political aspirations, saying only that he did not want to be remembered as having taken part in a withdrawal that could turn Gaza into a "base for Islamic terror."

"You know, I'm the son of a historian," he said. "In 10, 50, 100 years, I want them to be able to say, 'He did not take part in it.'"

Disengagement by the numbers

By DAN BARON
JTA

JERUSALEM — In addition to the human dimensions, this summer's disengagement plan can be measured by the numbers:

- 100 – per cent of the Gaza Strip to be evacuated and handed over to the Palestinian Authority;
- 300 – square miles of the West Bank to be evacuated;
- 21 – Israeli settlements to be uprooted in the Gaza Strip;
- 4 – Israeli settlements to be uprooted in the West Bank;
- 9,000 – approximate number of Israelis to be evacuated;
- 45,000 – Israeli soldiers and police expected to participate in the Gaza withdrawal;
- $1.74 billion – approximate cost of the withdrawal to the Israeli government;
- $360,000 – average compensation the Israeli government expects to pay each relocated family;
- $870 million – approximate cost to resettle former West Bank and Gaza residents elsewhere in the country; and
- $2.2 billion – amount of special assistance Israel plans to request from the United States.

Figures provided by the Israel Project, culled from various sources, with some modifications.

Congress condemns death curse

Continued from page 1

Morgan and Rabbi Bulka said that lively debate about Israel's planned disengagement from Gaza, set to begin on Aug. 17, is natural, but that the position adopted by Dayan and his cohorts falls "outside the boundary of all acceptable debate."

In an interview, Morgan, a law professor at the University of Toronto, declared: "It's important for the Jewish community's leadership, and especially its religious leaders, to condemn violent extremism expressed in the name of religion."

Alluding to Muslim radicalism, he noted, "That phenomenon seems to be an epidemic plaguing many religions today."

Rabbi Bulka, in an interview, said Rabin's murder was "a black mark on Jewish history."

Jewish leaders in Canada should work against a climate that encourages the resolution of political disputes through violence, said the spiritual leader of Machzikei Hadas, an Orthodox synagogue in Ottawa.

"We can't let this happen again.

"We hope our message gets across to the rabbinate and ripples back to Israel. This is not the Jewish way, and is simply out of bounds. This is not the Jewish way."

POSITION AVAILABLE

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Ohel Leah Synagogue is a Modern Orthodox Synagogue which serves a diverse Jewish community in Hong Kong.

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Sharon faces many challenges

Continued from page 1

In the Israeli view, the key to future progress lies in the emergence of a credible Palestinian peace partner. Israel's post-withdrawal strategy, therefore, will be to urge the international community to focus on creating a Palestinian leadership strong enough to run Gaza, prevent terror and conduct meaningful peace negotiations with Israel.

The best way to do this, the Israelis say, is to boost the Palestinian economy.

Instead of rushing into an ill-timed peace conference, the international community should turn its energy to raising funds for investment in Gaza, Israeli officials argue. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev told JTA that Israel is fully supportive of the efforts by former World Bank president James Wolfensohn to put together an international investment package and of the pledge by the world's richest nations at the recent G-8 conference in Scotland to raise $3 billion a year for Gaza for each of the next three years.

"It is in our interest that Gaza be a success story," Regev says, "because if there is a 'disengagement dividend' and ordinary Gazans feel tangible economic benefits after our withdrawal, that could help create the climate for the emergence of a genuine peace partner for Israel."

Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Jerusalem during her last visit. [Isranet photo]

For Israel, Regev says, "partner" is the key word. "If we see that we have a partner, we will need no conferences or prodding to move ahead."

But there is a dilemma for Israel: how to enable Palestinian Authority (PA) forces to become strong enough to exercise control over Gaza without constituting a security threat to Israel itself?

In her recent visit to the area, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was adamant about supplying the Palestinian Authority with armoured personnel carriers and light weapons to keep the peace or win a possible showdown with terrorist groups such as Hamas.

Israel, however, wants strict controls on the Palestinian buildup, fearing that the guns could be turned on Jerusalem or Tel Aviv – or used to carry out terrorist attacks, given the PA security forces' deep involvement in terrorism during the intifadah. Since he took office in January, one of PA President Mahmoud Abbas' main strategies for dealing with terrorist groups has been to offer their members uniforms in the official PA forces.

On the Palestinian front, the Israelis see two scenarios: Gaza succeeding and becoming the basis for negotiations over Palestinian statehood or Gaza failing and becoming part of a new intifadah against Israel, focused mainly on the West Bank.

In the first case, Regev says, Israel will be ready for further withdrawals; in the latter, the international community will understand why Israel cannot be expected to hand over more land.

Regev says Israel will seek international endorsement for the fact that it has withdrawn fully from Gaza, just as it did after its May 2000 withdrawal from southern Lebanon. That would deny the Palestinians any pretext for continuing to wage war from Gaza.

On the domestic front, the big question is Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's future in the Likud party, where he can't count on a majority in key institutions such as the party's central committee or Knesset faction.

Even if Sharon were to beat off a leadership challenge from Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he would be unlikely to enter the next Knesset with a more supportive faction.

The answer for Sharon could be to engineer what is often referred to as the "big bang" of Israeli politics, in which the Likud's more moderate wing joins with the Shinui party and moderate parts of the Labor party to form a strong centrist alliance, with Sharon at its head.

Sharon denies that he has anything like this in mind. But shrewd observers of the Israeli political scene point out that he did nothing to bring back ex-Likudniks during a recent party-membership drive. Since the party leader is elected in a primary that is open to all Likud members, these observers conclude that Sharon has already decided not to run against Netanyahu within the Likud and instead to find a leadership spot for himself outside the party.

Either way, politicians and pundits predict early elections in the first half of 2006, and the key issue will be Israel's next move after the Gaza withdrawal.

Hawks such as Netanyahu will advocate digging in behind the new lines. Sharon's people will say it depends on what happens in Gaza. Labour leaders will push for further withdrawals from the West Bank. And further to the left, the Yachad leader Yossi Beilin will revive the so-called Geneva initiative as a model for a final peace deal with the Palestinians.

The domestic debate in Israel could influence moves by the international community: whether the call is to proceed step-by-step according to the internationally approved "road map" peace plan; to attempt a major leap based on something like the Geneva initiative, which points to possible solutions on core issues like borders, Jerusalem and refugees; or to leave the way open for more unilateral moves by Israel.

But the most pressing issue on Israel's domestic agenda after the withdrawal is likely to be the rift between national religious Jews and the state. Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the spiritual father of religious Zionism, saw the state as the beginning of redemption, a necessary step leading toward the coming of the Messiah.

Pullout shakes roots of Zionism

Last week we published an article by Uri Dromi arguing in favour of the disengagement from Gaza. This week we publish the opposite view.

By ASHER KEREN
JTA

Opinion

The Jewish people of Kedumim in the West Bank are in the grasp of a powerful catalyst called the disengagement plan, which envisions the unilateral withdrawal from Israel's settlements in the Gaza Strip and parts of Samaria.

Whatever the result of the plan, Israelis must come to grips with its implications on Judaism, Zionism and even democracy. Disengagement forces upon us decisions that can no longer be postponed and the effects of which will be present for decades.

For many, including myself, the anti-disengagement protest last month at Kfar Maimon was the first real statement regarding these issues. There was a sense of unity that is impossible to describe in words, a sense of harmony and purpose that came from within each of the tens of thousands of people who attended. What I witnessed gives me hope and even confidence for a reaffirmation of the Jewish roots of the State of Israel.

If disengagement happens, it will be the first step in the endeavor to empty the rest of Judea and Samaria, including half of Jerusalem, of its Jewish presence. The sociological and political ramifications of this attempt already are shaking the foundations of the Jewish return to Israel. Whatever happens will produce an earthquake.

The danger of disengagement is so great precisely because it has nothing to do with peace. Peace will not come because of disengagement, nor will terrorism cease. Quite the contrary, disengagement is the greatest reward that Palestinian terrorists could have hoped for, and it will further whet their appetite. Everybody knows this, from the supporters of the plan to its most vociferous opponents.

Rather, the disengagement is the changing of the guard: the tired and morally bankrupt secular elite is trying to halt the growing and ideologically charged religious settler movement.

To those who support disengagement, the excuse given is that leaving the Gaza Strip and northern Samaria behind means taking Jewish soldiers and citizens out of the heart of a hostile Arab populace. The deeper truth is that it's a declaration of divorce from the Jewish settlers. Economic wealth and corrupted values are the sole interests today, and that is the true motivation for disengagement.

To those who oppose disengagement, uprooting thousand of Jews from their homes signals the loss of Jewish claims over all parts of the Land of Israel. It is a painful recognition that the ruling minority wishes to crush the remnants of early Zionism and Jewish revival in the Land of Israel.

Disengagement can really be described as a cultural civil war. It is a symptom rather then an imagined cure, the catalyst that will bring deeper processes occurring in Israel today to the forefront of national redefinition.

Secular Jewry is slowly abandoning the most rudimentary vestiges of Judaism and political Zionism, while religious Jewry is becoming more and more fundamentalist and suspicious of the secular state, from the court system to the media and government.

In fact, the disengagement plan is the expression of an exhausted and ideologically bereft left-wing populace no longer willing to come to terms with a hostile external reality. By willingly sacrificing what many see as their "problematic" and "fanatical" Jewish brethren, they are pleading for recognition by the world of their non-Jewish tendencies. It is an excuse for moral breakdown and ideological surrender. The settlers bring to the surface that old Jewish malady of exhaustion, corruption and fear of the gentile expressed through anger toward those who are "too aggressively Jewish."

The chiefly religious settler movement is saying that even if hard and costly, it's a divine right and privilege to reassert our Jewish presence in all parts of the Land of Israel. Their view may be termed biblical Zionism, which means a much bolder and primal Jewish response to the world than has existed since Zionism took root and, really, since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE.

The issues have been delineated: how is the Zionist claim diminished or strengthened by disengagement? What is Jewish or even Zionist about secular post-Zionism? How is religious Jewry to relate to the state after it uproots thousands of predominantly religious settlers? What is the cost to Israeli democracy of a plan that goes against the government's mandate, especially in light of the prime minister's refusal to conduct a national referendum? Is the State of Israel primarily a secular democracy or a Jewish state with Jewish values ensconced in its institutions? What is the impression on Diaspora Jewry of the current cultural war in Israel?

Disengagement may happen, but it is without seed. It cannot produce an ideological framework for the left because in truth it is ultimately no more then an excuse for corruption. Jewish businessmen, including those with contacts at the highest levels of the Sharon government, want to open a casino where today a settlement stands. It is an attempt by the exhausted and empty secular elite to try to bring peace through capitulation and economy through corruption. In the long run, it will fail.

At Kfar Maimon, the proper response was provided. There can be no stopping the Jewish resurgence. This understanding is not solely cerebral: at Kfar Maimon the tents of Israel were firmly rooted in the ground of the Land of Israel. It is something that is felt from within; a truth that can only spread to all corners of the Jewish world.

Asher Keren has lived in Samaria since 1993. His book, A Time For Change *(Gefen Publishing), will be published soon.*

Suicide threatened

Some settler youths are reportedly considering mass suicide to protest the upcoming Gaza withdrawal. *Ha'aretz* reported that 10 to 12 youths from Gaza settlements, all of them surfers, have discussed drowning themselves at sea after the evacuations begin later this month. A Yesha official said the *Ha'aretz* report was being investigated.

Mofaz updates Abdullah

Israel must proceed with the peace plan for an independent Palestinian state after its withdrawal from Gaza later this month, the Jordanian king stressed in a meeting with Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, according to a Royal Palace statement. King Abdullah II met Mofaz in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, where they discussed Israel's plans for the disengagement. It was Mofaz's first visit to Jordan as defence minister. The statement said Mofaz told the king: "Israel is committed to carrying out the withdrawal within the framework it has devised."

Palestinian rocket kills Palestinian boy

A Palestinian rocket fired at Israeli settlers protesting the upcoming Gaza withdrawal killed a Palestinian boy. Nine other Palestinians were wounded when the rocket fell in Gaza instead of hitting the Israeli town Sderot, where anti-withdrawal protesters were rallying. Some local Palestinians called on the Palestinian Authority to take measures to stop the attacks.

Israel not so calm after all

Israel's internal security service said the ceasefire declared by Palestinian terrorists has been flouted regularly. According to a Shin Bet report published last week, 33 Israelis have died in Palestinian attacks in the first half of the year, most after the accord was declared Jan. 22. Another 286 Israelis were wounded in the period. The Shin Bet said it had foiled several Palestinian plots to carry out suicide bombings and kidnap Israeli soldiers. Islamic Jihad, which was not part of the agreement, has carried out most attacks in recent months, prompting Israel to resume its policy of "targeted killings" of the group's leaders.

Calm in Mauritania

Israel's ambassador to Mauritania said all is well despite a military coup there. "The embassy is open and operating, but we are staying inside the embassy. We are avoiding going out," Boaz Bismuth told Israel's *Yediot/Ynet news* site in an interview from Nouakchott, where troops staged a coup last week while the president, Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, was attending the funeral of Saudi King Fahd. Taya has been heavily criticized in Mauritania for opening diplomatic relations with Israel six years ago.

Aussies fire Israeli missile

The Australian air force test fired an Israeli-made missile. Israel's Rafael arms manufacturer said last week that an Australian warplane had carried out two firing trials of its AGM-142E air-to-ground missile and was expected to incorporate it in operational missions. The missile, known by its code name Popeye, is already being used by the air forces of Israel, the United States, Turkey and South Korea.

Record poverty levels

In 2004, an all-time high of 1.534 million Israelis lived below the poverty line, according to a National Insurance Institution (NII) poverty report released Monday. The figure attests to a substantial rise in poverty rates, with 100,000 more poor Israelis in 2004 than in 2003. The report also shows that the number of poor families make up 20.3 per cent of Israel's population. The number of children living in poor families has reached 700,000. Cutbacks in child and income allowances over the last two years by Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who resigned Sunday to protest the upcoming Gaza pullout, are being blamed for the increases.

After Shfaram, analysts wonder about Gaza

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

Analysis

Israeli security officials long have warned that as the Gaza withdrawal approached, a Jewish extremist might try to stage a spectacular attack, shocking the nation and leading the government to call off the evacuation plan.

Primarily, they were braced for an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon or an attack on army and police units called in to empty Gaza settlements. But after an AWOL Israeli soldier went berserk last Thursday, opening fire and killing four Israeli Arabs on a bus in the Galilee town Shfaram – raising the prospect of Arab riots or revenge attacks on Jews – pundits are asking what effect, if any, the attack will have on the withdrawal, which is scheduled to begin in mid-August.

The soldier, a 19-year-old army deserter named Eden Natan Zada, who also used the name Tzuberi, boarded a bus bound for Shfaram, an Israeli Arab town in northern Israel on the main road between Haifa and Nazareth. As the bus pulled into Shfaram, Zada sprang to his feet and sprayed automatic fire in all directions, killing four people and wounding about a dozen.

According to one account, people in the bus overpowered and killed Zada as he tried to change magazines in his gun. Another version has an incensed mob storming the bus and lynching the soldier after police had disarmed him.

The terror attack occurred as large contingents of police were in the south of the country to prevent demonstrations against the Gaza withdrawal from getting out of hand. Many of the police were flown by helicopter to Shfaram to reinforce units already at the scene.

They arrived to find the bus surrounded by a mob that refused to allow Zada's corpse to be removed or the bus to be towed away. The police's immediate task was to prevent the crowd from becoming unruly or moving on to Jewish towns to wreak vengeance; they also wanted to remove the bus and the soldier's body. Police Chief Moshe Karadi took personal charge of the operation.

Israeli Arab political leaders also rushed to the scene. Some blamed the army and the Shin Bet security service for failing to pre-empt the outrage. One leader, Issam Makhoul of the Communist Hadash Party, declared that Israeli Arabs would know how to protect their honour and dignity, which some Israeli pundits saw as a veiled threat.

Israeli Arabs' relations with the state are volatile, with a number of major clashes leaving deep scars. In May 1976, six Israeli Arabs were killed during demonstrations against land expropriation on what came to be known as "Land Day."

In autumn 2000, at the start of the Palestinian intifadah, 12 Israeli Arabs were killed in clashes with police during riots in the Galilee.

Those were defining moments in Israeli Arab attitudes toward the state and Israeli Jews' attitudes toward the Arab minority, fuelling mutual suspicions. But the lesson of those bitter experiences could lead Arab leaders to steer a more moderate course this time.

The act that the soldier's shooting spree most resembles is the February 1994 killing of 29 Muslim worshippers in a Hebron mosque by Baruch Goldstein, a fanatic from the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba.

Like Goldstein, Zada is associated with an extremist West Bank settlement, Tapuah, where he had lived for the past few months. Also like Goldstein, he is said to have been an activist in the anti-Arab Kach movement, which has been officially banned as racist.

Zada's action raises several questions: Will it lead to acts of vengeance or clashes between Israeli Arabs and police? Most analysts don't believe Zada's killing spree will spark violence in the Palestinian territories. The Palestinian leadership wants to see Israel's Gaza withdrawal go through, and it wouldn't want a new wave of Arab terrorism to get in the way.

Nevertheless, rogue groups could open fire, citing the Shfaram killings as the reason. Indeed, on Sunday, the Al-Aksa Brigade said a shooting attack in the West Bank in which a 10-year-old Israeli boy was critically wounded came in response to Zada's attack.

Will settler protesters in the south exploit the redeployment of police to the north to burst into the Gush Katif settlement bloc, which the large police contingent had prevented them from reaching? That, too, appears unlikely, since the protesters wouldn't want it to appear as if they had anything to do with Zada's actions.

But a small number of Israelis appear to have no such reservations.

Amid shouts of support from the 100 or so people in attendance, Zada was buried Sunday in Rishon le-Zion. Local residents, fearing his grave could become a shrine for Jewish extremists, had originally balked at allowing him to be buried in the town. The ceremony took place only after Rishon's mayor, Meir Nitzan, was convinced to hold the burial there.

The most serious question, though, is whether the soldier acted alone or was part of a wider extremist group planning further violent acts in a last-gasp attempt to subvert the withdrawal. If anyone knows at this point, they're not saying. The Yesha settler council denounced the attack, as did Sharon and Israeli politicians from across the political spectrum.

There are other disturbing questions. For example, why wasn't Zada picked up by the army or the Shin Bet? If Zada's attack was an isolated incident that he hoped would ignite a fire across Israel and in the Palestinian areas, stopping the withdrawal, it probably will fail. At every opportunity, Sharon emphasizes his determination to stick to the withdrawal timetable.

But if last week's attack is the beginning of a new wave of Jewish terrorism, there could be serious trouble ahead.

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Seniors' jubilee offers great exposure for ageless talent

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

The RBC Seniors' Jubilee, a variety show that showcases the talents of 1,300 performers in their 50s and beyond, will continue to send the message that talent is ageless.

"These are senior people, not youngsters," said Renee Barda, an opera-singing performer in the jubilee, which will include three hours of singing, dancing, comedy and cabaret.

The stage show begins at 1 p.m., but the audience can be entertained in the lobby from 11 a.m. by bands, choirs, magicians and buskers – performers come from 75 Ontario communities – while they wait for the stage show to begin.

"I've never done anything like this before," said Barda, who made her debut concert just last March at Hart House on the University of Toronto campus.

While Barda and all those around her recognized she had musical talent from a young age, she hasn't pursued her dream career until now.

Renee Barda

More than 30 years ago, Barda, born and raised in Toronto, met the man of her dreams, Dino Barda, an Italian aristocrat who was visiting the country.

She said that her husband's father, who had been knighted by the Italian king before World War II, pushed her to give up her dream if she was to marry his son and raise a traditional, Jewish family.

Choosing love, she did just that, gave birth to three boys and never looked back.

Five years ago, her husband, who had suffered from many illnesses throughout his short life, died.

After being encouraged by her three sons to take up her passion once more, Barda released a CD titled *Posterity: Timeless World Music* two years ago, dedicated to her late husband.

Since then, she has been making strides in turning her dream into reality by sharing her gift with the world.

"The exposure is fantastic. I want to get into the mainstream," said Barda, who insists that her performances are much more personal than other concerts because she talks to her audience in between songs.

"I want to get out of the community. It's my big chance out there."

The auditions for this year's jubilee ran from April to May and Barda said that Wayne Burnett and Glenda Richards, the creators and producers of the jubilee, auditioned more seniors than they ever have in the 17 years since the show began.

This is very encouraging considering the skepticism that the producers faced years ago when they came up with the idea for the show and the Canadian Organization of Senior Artists and Performers.

According to the COSAP website, the mission of this organization is to illustrate to a society that worships youth that "talent is ageless."

Since it began in 1989, the jubilee has become the largest seniors' performance of its kind in North America.

"This is a good venue for me because of the generation," Barda said, referring to the audience at the jubilee as "perky seniors."

The show will run from August 15 to 19 at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto, but Barda will only be performing on the 15th and the 17th.

She said that the producers don't want to repeat the same show five times because they anticipate many of the audience members will see more than one show. "He wants to spread [the talent] out," Barda said.

Over the two days that she performs, Barda estimates that 7,000 people will hear her sing.

"The name of the game is to get as much exposure as possible," she said.

"Hopefully, people will hear me and they'll want to use me for corporate events."

This classical mezzo soprano sings in six languages – English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Italian, Spanish and French, but said people shouldn't assume that she's just a one-trick pony.

"It's not just a classical repertoire. I do broadway songs as well."

Aside from her goal of doing whatever it takes to get her voice out there, Barda said she has another purpose.

"I feel I have a mission in life," said Barda. "[I want] to get my story across. I was out of something that I loved for so many years. My message is don't be afraid to take that chance and be positive."

For tickets for the RBC Seniors' Jubilee, which range from $17 to $37, call 416-872-4255.

For more information about Barda, visit www.reneebarda.com.

Sasson *magazine fills a 'stark' void*

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Brian Wein and Reva Kaiser have set out to fill a "stark" void in the wedding market.

The husband and wife team are publishers of *Sasson Magazine: The Complete Jewish Wedding and Celebration Sourcebook*, a 260-page glossy magazine that came out in January.

Wein, a native of New York City, said that although every niche market has a magazine, the couple, both 29, parents of a 2½-year-old son, realized that there was no Jewish wedding or bar mitzvah magazine.

"People in the wedding industry needed a magazine that would provide a forum on the meaning of a Jewish wedding or bar mitzvah," he said.

"We saw a need for a publication that could speak to an audience who is intelligent, well educated and accomplished. Our research told us that the time was right to provide [the Toronto Jewish community] with information specifically targeted to its needs.

"We wanted to bring people together through the relevance of the topic," he said.

They chose the name *Sasson*, said Wein, because "it is ancient Hebrew for the 'unique degree of joy one experiences when feeling complete and fulfilled.' That is an appropriate name for a wedding magazine."

Reva Kaiser, left, and Brian Wein

In addition to providing tips, guides, resources and directories, *Sasson* includes articles on health, art, politics, social issues and relationships.

In the premiere edition, some 55 contributors wrote articles about such subjects as genetic diseases and compatibility, a history of Jewish wedding customs, a history of klezmer music, recognizing what your bar/bat mitzvah child is experiencing, and several articles on financial management.

"We've had tremendous feedback," said Kaiser. "People have shared articles with their children, and they've said that they have learned things about their heritage. We've even heard from non-Jews who have read our magazine.

"*Sasson* is about a lot more than planning a wedding or bar mitzvah. It covers that, but it also focuses on the celebration from an intrinsic Jewish level. It has a link to history. [Interestingly], half of our readers are not planning a celebration. People are thirsty for meaningful content."

Putting out the magazine from the time of its conception took seven months "of working around the clock," said Wein.

"It is an ideal situation. I'm the creative one, and Reva makes things happen; she is the rational voice."

The magazine is "kind of like" a second child, said Kaiser. "It takes a tremendous amount of work, but millions of women [work hard] and raise a family. You have to be organized and manage your time well. It is a challenge to separate both lives, but we are empowering each other to reach our potential."

Wein says they are well into planning their second edition. "We aim to surpass what we did last year. The subject is so rich and diverse that we can keep putting out stories."

They also plan editions in California and Montreal, and they are in the early stages of starting up in New York.

The couple has added a charitable component to their work by donating five per cent of their profits to a charity that assists brides. "We want to feel like we're making a difference," Wein says.

Sasson is in retail outlets across the GTA.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART II: THE ORIGIN OF "REBECCA" IN *IVANHOE*

Scottish novelist **Walter Scott**'s portraits of the Jew Isaac of York and his daughter Rebecca in his medieval romance *Ivanhoe* (1819) provides English literature with its strongest positive counterbalance to the stereotypical conception of the Jew as a dark misanthropic being such as **Shakespeare**'s Shylock.

The author **William Thackeray**, who read *Ivanhoe* as a child, considered Rebecca "the sweetest character in the whole range of fiction," and published a fantastical sequel, *Rebecca and Rowena* (1850), in which she and not the "icy, faultless, prim" Rowena marries the knightly hero Ivanhoe.

A century later, **Elizabeth Taylor** gave a memorable portrayal of Rebecca in the popular screen version of the classic adventure tale.

As a fair, kindhearted and eloquent daughter of Israel, Rebecca shines as a model of "true Jewish womanhood, faithful in the defence of her people, her religion and her honour," writes **Montagu Frank Modder** in *The Jew in the Literature of England*. Rebecca "endures the hardships of her lot with calm resignation and extraordinary religious faith," Modder notes. "As she moves through the story, we admire her dark beauty of raven hair and flashing eye, her modesty, dignity and courage."

Scott, like Shakespeare, may not have known any Jews except through legend or hearsay. It was a German friend of his wife's who suggested that some Jewish characters would lend atmosphere to one of his plots. But it was the American writer **Washington Irving** who, during a visit to Scott in Scotland in 1817, specifically inspired the character of Rebecca by telling him about his lovely and charming friend, **Rebecca Gratz** of Philadelphia.

Seeing that the author of the Waverley novels was intrigued, Irving gave a full description. Rebecca, he said, was the beautiful unmarried daughter of a prominent deceased merchant. Besides running her family's large household, she helped the poor, visited the sick and performed many other charitable deeds; she also ran a school for Jewish children. Those close to her knew that she had been in love with a Gentile man but had sacrificed the romance out of loyalty to her faith. (Irving, too, had lost a young love; his fiancée **Matilda Hoffman** had died at 18 and had been Rebecca's best friend. He had been a frequent guest to the Gratz mansion, so much so that a room had been named in his honour.)

"I will make something of your Rebecca yet," Scott reportedly told Irving. Two years later, Scott mailed him a freshly minted copy of *Ivanhoe* with a note: "How do you like your Rebecca? Does the Rebecca I have pictured here compare well with the pattern given?"

Rebecca of Philadelphia must have been immensely flattered by the portrait in Ivanhoe but preferred out of modesty to avoid discussing the connection between herself and Rebecca of York. However, one Saturday in synagogue a prominent visitor asked her, "Is it true, Miss Gratz, that you are the Rebecca of *Ivanhoe*?" Seeing no way to avoid answering, the stately figure gently smiled and said, "They say so, my dear."

When her sister Rachel died, Rebecca took in her six children and delighted in becoming a second mother to them. She was also a soothing and comforting presence in countless sick rooms, including her grandfather's. Day after day she sat with him, nursed him, read to him; now, as the end drew nigh, he asked what he might do for her. "Forgive Aunt Shinah, grandfather – please," she replied, referring to her mother's sister who had married a Gentile surgeon. With a sigh the old man consented; according to legend, he died in the arms of his once-exiled daughter as Rebecca sat silently weeping in a corner.

Rebecca Gratz

Rebecca's fame as "an intelligent, gracious hostess, the central figure in a circle of charm and wit and beauty," only intensified over the years. She died in 1869 at the age of 88. Her story has been told many times; a pleasing account of her life is presented in *Rebecca Gratz: A Study in Charm* by **Rollin G. Osterweis.**

It was Rebecca's brother, **Hyman**, who established Philadelphia's well-known Gratz College with a bequest in his will. And it was her niece, **Sara,** who, through marriage to **Jacob Henry Joseph** of Montreal, established a connection between the famous Gratz family and the distinguished Joseph family of Canada.

Rebecca was a voluminous correspondent to many notable figures and left a large and important collection of papers to Sara Gratz Moses Joseph, her Montreal niece. In 1995, Montreal genealogist **Anne Joseph** published the genealogical work *Heritage of a Patriarch*, which contains a detailed study of the Gratz-Joseph connection. As Joseph documented, the Rebecca Gratz papers remained in Montreal until 1954, when the family donated them to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. The elegant portrait of Rebecca Gratz by American artist **Thomas Sully** (reproduced here) is also a Joseph family heirloom.

* * *

Note: Through a slip of the fingers I managed to mangle the name of the father in **Abraham Cahan**'s story *The Imported Bridegroom* in last week's column. The correct name is **Asriel Stroon**.

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Lost Embrace follows the lives of Argentine Jews

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Daniel Burman's gentle Argentine film, *Lost Embrace*, revolves around a quest for a Polish passport and a son's reunion with his long-estranged father.

Scheduled to open in Toronto on Aug. 12, this appealing drama is set in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires during Argentina's recent economic meltdown.

Leavened by comedic touches, it is grounded by a cast of diverse personalities ranging from a restless 20-something ex-student to a solicitous Jewish grandmother with a yen for humming sentimental Yiddish songs.

Ariel Makaroff (Daniel Hendler), the central character, is a college dropout and the grandson of Holocaust survivors from Poland.

Tired of working in his mother's lingerie shop in a mall, Ariel's passion is to obtain a Polish passport and leave Argentina for supposedly greener pastures in Europe. He enlists the aid of his grandmother (Rosita Londner) to facilitate the lengthy process.

Ariel is not the only person whose thoughts are on emigration. The local rabbi has landed a job in Florida and will soon be on his way.

To impress a diplomat at Poland's embassy and thereby enhance his chances of getting the valued passport, Ariel steeps himself in Polish history and lore, sometimes with amusing results.

In the meantime, he continues his steamy affair with Rita (Silvina Bosco), a buxom blond who slips in and out of lacy lingerie, and whose relationship with a much older man piques Ariel's curiosity.

Ariel's entrepreneurial brother, Joseph (Sergio Boris), an importer/exporter who wants to sell Argentine honey in Canada to boost his bottom line, is content to remain in Argentina.

Lost Embrace, which largely takes place in Once, Buenos Aires' historic Jewish neighbourhood, reaches the core of its plot when Ariel's mother, Sonia (Adriana Aizenberg), informs him that Elias, his father, is returning to Argentina after many years in Israel.

Adriana Aizenberg, left, as Sonia and Daniel Hendler as Ariel

Ariel has heard many stories about Elias (Jorge D'Elia), and has no real desire to see him. Elias, who lost an arm during the Yom Kippur War, contacts Ariel through Saliganis, an Italian shopkeeper.

Ariel's brief encounter with Elias ends in a chase through the congested streets of Once. When Ariel learns why his father left Argentina in the first place, his attitude toward him softens.

Lost Embrace, whose title is most apt, unfolds with effortless ease due to Burman's deft direction and naturalistic performances from his actors.

It is not a great movie by any means, but it is heartfelt and genuine.

China through Jewish eyes

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

After attending a meditation retreat in northern China in 2000, Harriet Morton decided to stay in China and spend Rosh Hashanah with the tiny Jewish community in Beijing. She attended services in the Beijing Synagogue and became intrigued with the country's exotic Jewish communities.

Harriet Morton, right, with Jewish descendant at her home in Kaifeng.

The Toronto-based travel professional has been back four times, escorting tours of "China – A Journey Through Jewish Eyes." Offered by New Wave Travel, the next Jewish tour to China is scheduled for Oct. 19 to Nov. 5.

"China was a revelation," she declares "I don't know what it is about China. I'm comfortable there. Maybe it's the people themselves and learning about their history that I enjoy so much. When I go back now, they know me and it's such a warm and wonderful feeling."

Morton has made numerous friends within China's 600-strong Jewish community, which consists of about 200 Jews in Beijing, another 200 in Shanghai, and the rest disbursed in pockets over the rest of the country. "A lot of the Jews of Beijing married Chinese women, but they bring up their children as Jews. The Chinese women wear Magen Davids. You see them at the services."

She produces the unique copper medallion she received several years ago for her role in bringing the Gift of Friendship art project to Shanghai's Ohel Moshe Synagogue. The medallion features an image of Moses, based on a work by Michelangelo, with Shanghai's Jewish Refugee Memorial Hall in the background. She also shows off some brightly coloured yarmulkes adorned with Chinese symbols: they are souvenirs of Kaifeng, whose centuries-old Jewish community dwindled to almost nothing in the late 19th century.

Morton went into the travel business in 1979 after co-ordinating an Israeli conference for Canadian members of ORT, on which she later served as national president. Travel agent Emile Aufgang was so impressed with her that she ended up working for Aufgang Travel for eight years.

She used to specialize in Jewish tours to Budapest and Vienna before she discovered China. She claims to be the first in Canada to include the once-thriving Jewish community of Harbin on a specifically Jewish itinerary.

Her Chinese tour also takes in Beijing, Kaifeng, Xian, Chongquing, Suzhou, Shanghai and the Yangtze River. "October is a wonderful time to go – it's fall weather and not too hot. And this is really an historic opportunity because the Three Gorges [on the Yangtze] will be filled with water by 2009. If you go now, you can see it before it is flooded."

Although Morton declares Israel to be her "first love" – she has visited the Jewish state about 50 times – she continues to expand her Jewish interests in the Orient. This January she plans to escort her first "Voyage Through Jewish Eyes" cruise along the Asian coast, taking in Hong Kong, Canton, Hanoi, Saigon, Bangkok, Cambodia and Singapore. Travel dates are Jan. 6 to 21.

For details, call 416-928-3113, ext. 273, or toll-free 800-463-1512 or e-mail hmorton@ newwavetravel.net.

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Documentary chronicles Qassam attacks in Sderot

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Mourners after the September 2004 Qassam attack killed two children. [IPS]

In June 2004, four-year-old Afik Ohayon was walking to kindergarten with his mother in the Negev town of Sderot when a Qassam rocket launched from the nearby Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun exploded beside them.

Shrapnel ripped through Afik's body and killed him.

Since 2001, more than 600 Qassams – cheap, inaccurate missiles – have slammed into this low-income immigrant town. More than 80 fell in the first two weeks of January 2005.

Hamas launches these missiles early in the morning when people are shopping or children are going to school.

Igal Hecht's newest documentary, *Qassam*, chronicles the people of this town as they try to deal with these regular attacks, and their response to the government's failure to protect them.

It was only after two young children were killed in their sukkah on Sukkot in September 2004, that the government offered to help the town, promising 80 million shekels in aid.

The Israel Defence Forces also launched Operation Days of Penitence into the Gaza Strip, aimed primarily at hitting Qassam launch sites and production facilities. Inevitably, civilians and children were killed.

For the most part, director Hecht stays out of politics. He chooses instead to focus on the citizens of Sderot. One person interviewed was five-year-old Taçer Malka, a classmate of Afik's.

"When I am in kindergarten, I always think about a Qassam falling," the little girl says. "I pray to God and say, 'Enough of these Qassams already.'"

Sometimes it is easy to forget that for every missile attack and every casualty, many are left behind permanently scarred physically or emotionally.

Qassam will be shown on the specialty I-Channel on Aug. 15.

Laughing it up at the Antibes Community Centre

By PAM CLAVIR
Special to The CJN

Morris Grossberg, 76, of Toronto, doesn't mind being quoted – "for a dollar a word."

He's only kidding of course, but when asked how he first heard about the Jokers Wild and Humour Group, of which he is a loyal member, he replied that he "heard a loud thud."

Morris Grossberg

Grossberg is one of about 30 lovers of laughter who meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Antibes Community Centre in Toronto, and while we all know that laughter is the best medicine, this group prefers to think of laughter as "jogging for your internal organs," referring to the fact that our sides literally ache when we experience a good belly laugh.

It's been 5½ years since Irv Helpert of Toronto formed the Jokers Wild and Humour Group, which gives people of all backgrounds and ages a chance to enjoy some good, hearty laughs while helping charity at the same time.

The members take their laughs quite seriously, and sometimes study the art of joke telling. One member, Neil Berger, who used to be a stand-up comedian and joke writer for Jerry Seinfeld and Joan Rivers, occasionally gives instruction on how to tell a joke. Berger attends the monthly meetings by driving to Bathurst Street south of Steeles Avenue each month from Brampton. Others come from as far away as Oakville and Milton, but most are local residents.

During each meeting, moderator Marvin Brown clutches a microphone while timing each joke. "Tonight's jokes are running at between eight seconds and 422 seconds," he announced. "Try to keep your jokes under a minute." If a joke runs too long, he asks the tellers to take their seats.

Participants sit in a circle, passing a microphone from joke teller to joke teller. Most stand to perform their jokes. You don't have to tell a joke if you'd rather not, but if you do, the group prefers it if you tell it from memory rather than reading it. If you must read it, it's wise to add some inflection to your voice.

"You also need proper timing," advises Grossberg. "Otherwise, people will fall asleep." He adds that some introverts who joined the group awhile back were too timid to speak up at first. Now, he says, they have gained enough self-confidence to open up and tell their jokes to an audience hungry for a good laugh.

While there is no admission fee, Helpert asks for a donation of $3 for each session. The charities the donation money goes to include the United Way, University of Toronto, Canadian National Institute for the Blind and some Jewish causes. Helpert also uses a portion of the donation funds to purchase raffle prizes, which adds sparkle to each evening.

Are all the jokes that you hear at this group really that funny? "One person can be laughing like **** and the next person can wonder what the **** he's laughing at," Grossberg says.

For more information on the Jokers Wild and Humour Group, contact Helpert at 416-661-2541.

Tourism to Israel on the rise

Over 20 per cent increase in Canadian travellers

JERUSALEM — Tourism to Israel seems to be rebounding, and it's partly thanks to Canadians.

Statistics released by Israel's Ministry of Tourism and Central Bureau of Statistics show tourist arrivals to Israel jumped 29 per cent in June to 157,000.

In the first six months of the year 864,200 tourists entered the country, 27 per cent more than in the same period last year. In the months between January and May 2005, there was a 20 per cent increase in the number of Canadian passport holders visiting Israel. The month of May alone showed a significant 54 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

"We are witnessing enormous momentum in tourism," says Israeli Tourism Minister Avraham Hirchson. "The rise heralds a new era for the Israeli economy."

Director General Eli Cohen credits the ministry's efforts to bring additional cruise companies to Israel's shores for the rise in the number of tourists arriving by sea. Two thousand people arrived aboard cruise ships in June 2005 compared to none in June 2004.

The monthly report shows 159,000 visitors entered Israel in June, a 31 per cent rise over the same period last year. Out of 864,200 tourists arriving between January and June, 751,700 came by air (up 25 per cent), with 33,500 flying directly to the southern resort of Eilat (a 30 per cent rise); 110,700 arrived overland (up 48 per cent); 3,800 tourists arrived by cruise ship, compared to none last year.

"We are finally seeing the fruits of our labour," said Dani Shahal, director for Canada, Israel Government Tourist Office. "Canadians from all walks of life, Christians and Jews alike, are traveling to Israel in record numbers, whether for religious pilgrimage or simply to have the experience of a lifetime."

In other Israel news, seven new Israeli archeological sites were added to UNESCO's list of world heritage sites in July, bringing the total number to 10.

Three of the newly-designated sites are the archeological tells, prehistoric mounds that conceal layers of ancient settlement dating back to biblical times or earlier, in Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba.

Four historic desert cities, active in the time of the Nabatean spice trade, were also added to the UNESCO list. The cities of Ovdat, Shivta, Halutza and Mamsheet are all in the Negev desert.

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Books & Authors

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion examined

The Lie That Wouldn't Die **by Hadassa Ben-Itto, Vallentine Mitchell.**

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

On May 18, 1943, at the height of World War II, Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Germany's propaganda minister, entered this note in his diary: "I have devoted exhaustive study to *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. In the past the objection was always that they aren't suited to present-day propaganda. In reading them now, I find that we can use them very well. [They] are as modern today as they were when they were published for the first time."

Goebbels proceeded to discuss the *Protocols* with his boss, Adolf Hitler, who described the tract as "absolutely genuine," referred to Jews as the "Jewish peril" and darkly declared, "There is therefore no other recourse left for modern nations except to exterminate the Jew."

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, an early 20th-century Czarist forgery about an alleged Jewish plot to gain world domination, has been deployed time and time again by anti-Semites to defame Jews and legitimize incitement and violence against them.

Hadassa Ben-Itto's book, *The Lie That Wouldn't Die*, examines its origins and impact on Jews in the past century.

Although it is not the first, or last, account of this despicable tome, the volume under review is nevertheless well worth reading.

Ben-Itto, a former judge in Israel and twice a member of Israel's delegation to the United Nations' General Assembly, is familiar with the material and presents it cogently.

As she suggests, the *Protocols* are a mishmash of anti-Jewish myths drawn from disparate sources.

One of the most important, *Biarritz*, a chilling novel by Sir John Retcliff published in Germany in 1868, turns on the representatives of the tribes of Israel who meet secretly at a Jewish cemetery in Prague.

Clad in ominous long white robes, they discuss their vicious scheme to take over the universe by undermining Christianity, infiltrating governments, controlling the press and fostering revolution.

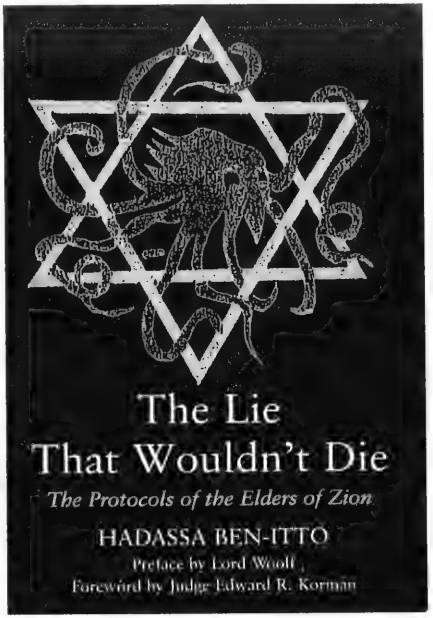
Anti-Semitic figures in Russia seized upon *Biarritz*, whose author's real name was Hermann Goedsche, a former German civil servant, and used its broad plot to fabricate a mendacious pamphlet titled *The Rabbi's Speech*.

The *Protocols*, concocted by Russian government agents who had read *The Rabbi's Speech* and other such nefarious publications, first appeared in 1903 in a series of articles in the anti-Semitic newspaper *Znamia* (*The Banner*), edited by an agitator named Pavel Krushevan.

Two years later, Sergei Nilus, a Russian reactionary of Swedish origin, published the full text of the *Protocols* in the appendix of the second edition of *The Great in the Small*, a book purporting to unmask political realities.

Cockeyed as it was, the *Protocols* was exploited by the Black Hundreds – a notorious anti-Semitic Russian movement – to inflame and incite pogromists.

The czar, Nicholas II, thought highly of its message. On the margin of the copy delivered to him, he wrote that "the directing and destroying hand of Judaism" was behind the troubles roiling the Russian empire.


The Lie
That Wouldn't Die
The Protocols of the Elders of Zion
HADASSA BEN-ITTO
Preface by Lord Wolff
Foreword by Judge Edward R. Korman

His wife, Alexandra Fedorovna, was also a fan. A magistrate who examined her room after she was murdered in 1918 found three books – the Bible, *War and Peace* and *The Great in the Small*.

The *Protocols* had a devastating effect outside Russia as well, as Ben-Itto observes.

On June 24, 1922, two disaffected Germans, Erwin Kern and Hermann Fischer, shot and killed Walter Rathenau, Germany's Jewish foreign minister, in the Berlin suburb of Grunewald.

At the trial, Ernst Techow, the driver of the get-away car, said they murdered Rathenau because they thought he was a member of the Council of the Elders of Zion, whose aim was to dominate the world.

Techow further argued they had performed a public service by eliminating a person who constituted a clear and present danger to Germany.

In the United States, Henry Ford, the automobile tycoon, single-handedly disseminated the *Protocols* through a brochure, *The International Jew*, he printed in a newspaper he owned in Dearborn, Mich.

Faced with a Jewish boycott of his cars, Ford recanted, issued a letter of apology and ordered five truckloads of *The International Jew* to be burned.

For good measure, he instructed his advertising agencies to spend about 12 per cent of the Model A's advertising budget on Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish newspapers.

Ford also demanded that overseas publishers cease publication of *The International Jew*. But Theodor Fritsch, who translated and published the German edition, refused to comply with his wish.

Ben-Itto's narrative of the unmasking of the *Protocols* makes for fascinating reading.

In the summer of 1921, the Istanbul correspondent of the *Times* of London, Philip Graves, who had been an intelligence officer in the Middle East during World War 1, received an unsolicited letter from a Russian named Mikhail Raslovlev.

He informed Graves he had irrefutable proof that the *Protocols* was a complete forgery. Graves investigated the allegation and found it to be true.

In his scoop, he wrote that they were designed to convey the impression that the prime cause of the discontent in pre-Bolshevik Russia had not been the czar's repressive policies but a global Jewish conspiracy.

Despite Graves' disclosure, the *Protocols* made headway in Britain.

Victor Mardsen, a former foreign correspondent based in Russia who claimed they had been issued at the first Zionist congress in Basel in 1897, promoted the *Protocols* tirelessly.

At trials in Switzerland and South Africa in the 1930s, the *Protocols* were also exposed as crass lies.

But such facts, of course, do not interest anti-Semites.

Numerous editions have been published and are widely available in countries ranging from Russia to Egypt.

Today, the *Protocols* poison minds and distort reality, all in the service of deepening what historian Robert Wistrich has described as "the longest hatred."

The Lie That Wouldn't Die should be compulsory reading for those whose knowledge of the subject is not yet up to speed.

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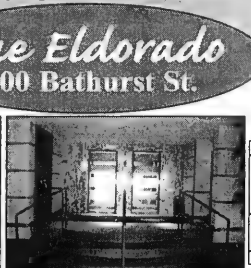

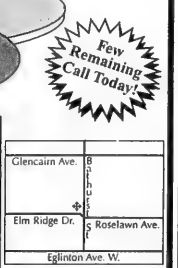

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FRIENDLY EXCHANGE: Israeli soldiers and police officers have become the object of vilification by some of the opponents to the upcoming disengagement. Some protesters curse and shout at the security officers, urging them to refuse orders, and some have even attacked them. In this photo, a member of "One Voice," a volunteeer group that supports Israel's security forces, brings flowers and other gifts – including candy, socks, earplugs, Books of Psalms and sunscreen – to two police officers on duty. [Israel Sun photo]

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Batting cleanup for Canisius College's Josh Matlow

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

When they hold masses at Canisius College, Josh Matlow politely declines to attend.

Not that he doesn't respect those who take part in the school's rich spiritual life. He's just grateful the religious component at the Buffalo Catholic school is optional.

As a proud Jew, Matlow acknowledges it's somewhat incongruous for him to attend a Jesuit school. "At first, you feel you won't fit in. I'm proud to be Jewish. I won't hold back," he said.

So far, however, he's found the Canisius experience rewarding. No one holds it against him that he doesn't pray on Sundays. He's only required to take one religion class and there's no religious indoctrination involved.

That leaves him able to focus on his real passion, baseball. Though he's studying phys ed with the idea of one day becoming a teacher, what he really wants to be is a professional ballplayer. Playing as a freshman for the Canisius Golden Griffs in the NCAA's Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), Matlow was broken in slowly, getting spot duty at first and batting in the seventh or eighth spot.

As the 53-game season wore on, he was given more time in the outfield and in the team's last 15 games, coach Mike McRae gave him the opportunity to bat fourth – cleanup – for the Griffs. He finished with a .292 average (it was .321 before a slump in the last nine games) and was second in team runs batted in (RBIs). The Griffs' leader had 60 more at-bats during the course of the season, he pointed out.

Matlow's first plate appearance for Canisius was somewhat inauspicious – he was struck by a pitch and walked. In his first official at-bat, he whacked a triple and drove in two runs. In his best game against Saint Peter's Peacocks, he hit four for five, including a grand slam, and drove in four runs.

Matlow, 20, is satisfied with his rookie performance, but he admits in his first few games he was somewhat awed by the pitching. "These pitchers definitely have more than I've seen," he said.

You'd expect that for an NCAA Division 1 team, not that Matlow's seen all that much pitching in his surprisingly brief baseball career.

It was less than four years ago that he first picked up a bat and glove and decided to give the game a chance.

Up to then, he was into soccer and football.

But about 3½ years ago, he joined some buddies at a baseball camp in Coco Beach, Fla. Before that, he'd never played competitive baseball, but he found he enjoyed the camp experience.

"It was fun. It wasn't just enjoyable – I was able to keep up with the kids who'd been playing for years and years," he said. "I'd never seen a pitch until I went to Florida."

Matlow isn't sure why he did so well with so little game exposure. "I've always loved baseball. I guess it just came to me," he said.

Josh Matlow

Back in Toronto, he signed up for his high school team at Vaughan Collegiate and played in the outfield. He batted .583 in his first year.

The next season he maintained his blistering hitting streak (around .500) and joined the Ontario Blue Jays.

In his third year of competitive baseball, he switched schools to Thornhill Secondary School, where they have a better program than Vaughan, and led the team in hitting with a .612 average.

All the while, he showed his bat could make the difference in any single game. In his first at-bat for Thornhill, he hit a home run off a lefty. In his first five games that year, he hit four home runs.

Matlow next joined the Hamilton Astros in the Connie Mack League and two years ago moved to the Ontario Maple Leafs. After a game against the Welland Renegades, in which he hit three doubles and a single, the opposition coach suggested he consider playing for Mike McRae at Niagara University. When McRae moved to Canisius, Matlow followed him.

Now the head coach at Canisius, McRae said, "Josh is like a lot of Canadian players in that he has tremendous abilities. It's always a work in progress in trying to teach him the nuances of the game.

"He swings the bat pretty well and he has some gap power, the ability to hit doubles.

"In the field, it's a work in progress. He needs to know what base he needs to throw to."

McRae, who is rebuilding the Golden Griffs, said Matlow will get a more prominent role on the team as he develops.

Like other freshmen, he has big days with the bat and others when he goes 0-3.

If he hopes to turn pro, McRae suggested Matlow needs to get bigger, stronger, faster and improve his foot speed.

Though the college season is over, Matlow, whose younger brother, Ely, is a star linebacker for Northern Secondary School, is not sitting on his laurels. He's signed with the Barrie Baycats of the Inter-County Baseball League, the best calibre competition he could find.

By the time his college career is over in three years, he hopes all the work will pay off. Being drafted by a Major League team would be the answer to his prayers.

Correction

Our coverage of 10-pin bowling at the 17th Maccabiah Games should have recorded the medal results as follows: open, Lisa Abush, gold medal; duos, Hirsh Schnayer, Howard Sculnick, gold medal; trios, Hirsh Schnayer, Howard Dinetz, Howard Sculnick, gold medal.

Sports doctor inducted into hall of fame

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After almost 50 years in Canada, Dr. Thomas Fried, recently inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame, is still thankful to live here.

"When I first came to Canada [from Hungary I thought it was] too quiet, but that's the beauty of it. I wouldn't live anywhere else."

As a physician who specializes in sports medicine, Fried, a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, was inducted into the hall of fame's builder category.

He was recognized for providing medical expertise, advice and attention at Olympic and Paralympic games since the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, and for treating Canadian Olympic and Pan American team members.

He was also an adviser to the organizing committees' medical commissions for the 1976 and 1980 Olympic games.

Fried has been team doctor to several Toronto soccer clubs, including teams in the now-defunct North American Soccer League, and he was the doctor for the Canadian national team for a number of years. In 2000, he was inducted into the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame.

A high school soccer player and referee in his native Budapest, Fried was 18 when he was sent to a forced labour camp in what was then Yugoslavia.

"I knew nothing about the fate of my parents and grandmother, [with whom] I lived, but when I was liberated, I made my way home and found my father standing in front of my house smoking a cigarette. He told me my mother and grandmother were inside cooking dinner. I knew then I was the luckiest guy in the world."

He then attended medical school, he says, so he could ultimately work with athletes.

After graduating from medical school in 1950, he joined Hungary's Sport Medicine Institute, and then the government-run Honved sports club, home of such soccer legends as Ferenc Puskas, Jozsef Bozsik, Zoltan Czibor, Sandor Kocsis and Gyula Grosics.

In 1956, however, after the government was overthrown, he left Hungary with his wife Georgina – they've now been married 53 years – and young daughter, by walking across the border.

After arriving in Canada, he interned in Nova Scotia, and eventually landed in Toronto, where for the next 32 years he worked at the Workers' Compensation Board as a physician. When he retired at 65, he was its director of rehabilitation.

Sports medicine is about a lot more than injuries, Fried says. "It is a [combined] science. It involves exercise, physiotherapy, treatment of injury, prevention and fitness."

He spent many years travelling to such countries as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to teach his specialty, but after contracting dengue fever in Dominica, he stopped travelling.

Fried continued working full-time in private practice until about three years ago, when a car accident sidelined him for a while. He now works part time in his daughter's medical practice, tending mostly to soft tissue injuries.

Life has been very good to him, he says. "I'm alive, I'm in Canada, and I'm doing what I want to do. Every morning I wake up, look around and think, 'He hasn't called me yet.'

"I wanted to be a doctor, and I made it with lots of luck. I don't know why I was spared [in the Holocaust], but I was."

There are no soccer players among his two daughters and five granddaughters, "but I'm very proud of all of them," he says.

Fried says he could write a book about all his experiences. "I've done a lot, and imagine, through it all I've had the same wife."

My friend Allan

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

I sadly shuffled into the Salvation Army building on Eglinton Avenue last Friday, clutching a pamphlet with a picture of a good-looking blond man sitting next to a black dog. Above them were the words, "A Celebration of the Life of Allan Kennedy."

On Sunday, July 17, my friend Allan passed away. He was 42.

Allan, one of the most courageous people I ever met, was kind, funny, caring, loving and always gracious. He lived an extremely tough life and dealt with issues I cannot begin to imagine. Until his last few months, he lived on the streets of Toronto for years. When we met two years ago, he was living in an underground parking garage.

Before we started talking and hanging out on a regular basis, I never thought we would become friends. I only intended to bring him food and see if he needed help. I had a mindset of what people living on the street were like. But Allan proved that the stereotypical "homeless person" does not exist. With time, I realized he was no different from you or me.

Allan, like myself, was a writer. Quite often when I walked to the subway I saw him sitting outside the Salvation Army, writing away, a pile of inspiring books beside him. He allowed me to read selections from his own book about life on the street.

His sensitive soul led him to watch over street kids as well as over his girlfriend. For the last few months of his life, he shared an apartment with her. But much of his time was still spent sitting outside the Salvation Army during the day. Sometimes when I walked by, he would be talking to someone about his love for animals. He actually introduced me to many individuals in my own neighbourhood. Dozens of people, including police officers, brought food for Sasha, Allan's beloved dog. Sasha adored him and never left his side. Allan once told me Sasha gave him a reason to live.

Allan bravely spent six weeks in a residential program at the end of last year attempting to overcome alcoholism – it was a milestone in his life. When he told me he was going into rehab he looked scared, but he was determined to turn his misfortune around. And for awhile, he did. Unfortunately, he never got the opportunity to try again, but I know he would have.

Soon after Allan's death, a collection of flowers and cards began to accumulate outside "his spot." He was definitely an icon in the neighbourhood.

Even in his death, he managed to bring people together in an extraordinary way. Friends and family attended the memorial – the large room was almost full. In front of me sat two well-dressed women, next to them a young man in a three-piece suit. To my left was someone I just saw on the street asking for spare change. A prayer book temporarily replaced his worn-out cardboard sign.

That day, materialism didn't matter. Neither did race, culture, ethnicity, background or religion. All that mattered was our shared love for Allan.

During the eulogy, Phil Shropshall, a Salvation Army co-ordinator, tearfully said, "I used to have little compassion for people in Allan's position, but Allan changed that. I could have easily been in his shoes. He helped me reconnect to humanity; he was like my brother."

Allan's sister described him as "the kindest man I ever knew. He was like a bird with a broken wing."

Walking to the subway is no longer the same. I miss Allan's smile and laughter and his inspiring determination to fight, struggle and persevere. But I am fortunate that he was in my life at all. I see the world differently because of him – especially the beauty. My memories of Allan Kennedy will live on forever.

E-mail Miriam@jtvproductions.net

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18 squares graham crackers, finely crushed (about 1-1/4 cups crumbs)
1/3 c margarine or butter, melted
1 qt. frozen vanilla yogurt, softened
1 can (6 oz.) frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
1/2 c thawed frozen Whipped Topping
Mint sprigs and lemon slices (optional)

Mix crumbs and margarine. Press firmly onto bottom of 9" square pan.

Beat yogurt and lemonade concentrate in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spread over crust.

Freeze 4 hours or until firm. Cut into squares. Serve each square topped with a dollop of whipped topping, mint sprigs and lemon slices, if desired.

Prep Time: 20 minutes. Total Time: 4 hours, 20 minutes.
Makes: 9 servings, 1 square each

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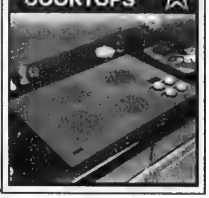


Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

While in Israel for a trip of some Board of Jewish Education business and some "re-creation" (I think Israel provides the original sense of that word!), I attended the opening ceremonies of the 17th Maccabiah in Ramat Gan. This quadrennial gathering of athletes from around the Jewish world is as good an occasion as any for reflecting on the bridge between Israel and Diaspora communities, and especially the nature of that relationship in the curricula of our various educational programs.

As I heard the names of countries called for their delegation to enter the stadium, many associations came to mind. The order was based on the Hebrew alphabet which put Australia first with an aleph and Canada near the end with a kuf. This, in itself, was instructive. The Aussies deserved to be first for many reasons: the "A", the aleph, theirs was the largest Diaspora contingent, and of course, they were the sad victims of the infamous bridge accident of 1997. But did the Canadian athletes know why kuf trumped "C"? How does their Jewish literacy compare to their Jewish/Zionist identity and to their talents in sport?

And then came countries like Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and Azerbaijan. Who would have imagined at Maccabiah 13 in 1989 that these countries would be sending delegations of Jewish athletes in 2005? Some would have denied the possibility of any Jewish remnant after decades of communism. Others would have predicted that perestroika and glasnost would have emptied these republics of any remnant that might have existed, and that no functioning communities would exist by 2005.

The audience was informed that the South African delegation was marching with its chief rabbi. One could only imagine the messianic potential of having both Israeli chief rabbis marching at the end with the host Israeli contingent!

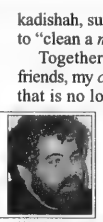
In Israel, educators are re-examining the school curricula to determine what can be done to reconnect Israeli children with Jewish communities worldwide, while here in Canada, we are probing ourselves to see what can be done to bring the reality of Israel and contemporary Zionism closer to our minds and hearts. This wonderful program of shared sport had some lessons of its own.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

A deed of truth

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



Three seconds. I have often pondered the meaning of this condensed period, since shortly after my father passed away – the second before one dies, the second one dies, and the second immediately following death. If I could slow that time down and watch body and soul through multi-dimensional goggles, what might I see? I suspect that within that tiny space of time might lie the face of truth.

Death. Most of us avoid it whenever possible. We shun its shadowy appearance and hovering smell. Yet, there are those who specialize in death, neither ignoring it nor shrouding it in protective symbolism. These people are members of the chevrah kadishah, men and women whose chosen mitzvah is to prepare a body according to Judaic laws prior to burial.

I have a close *chaver* (friend) who has taken calls morning, noon or night over the last 18 years as a member of a local chevrah kadishah, summoning him to a funeral home to "clean a *mait* [body] to meet his maker."

Together with a group of his childhood friends, my *chaver* participates in this process that is no longer daunting or eerie, and, in fact, has taught him "the raw and real meaning of humility."

The group of four arrive at the funeral home within minutes of one another. They enter a room you and I will likely never see, where a man or a child lies lifeless on a table – sometimes a person they once knew.

Quietly, with great respect, they wash the *mait* with nine measures of water (taharah), keeping the eyes and private areas covered until necessary. Instinctively aware of each other's role, they cleanse the *mait* thoroughly and wrap the body in white linen *tachrichim* (shrouds) while reciting special prayers.

Sand from Israel is placed on the *mait* reflecting a kabbalistic imperative that a part of the Holy Land should lie with them; pieces of bone china are placed over the eyes to protect them from glaring sunlight when *tchiyat hametim* (the Jewish belief in the resurrection of the dead after the coming of the Messiah) occurs; and wishbone-shaped twigs are placed in both hands to help the person stand up when that day arrives.

The *mait* is placed in a coffin and wrapped in an intentionally damaged prayer shawl. The tallit is made "unkosher" so that a full and complete holy item is not buried. Outer shrouds are added, and the team asks the body for *mechilah* (forgiveness) for the invasive act of uncovering it.

Forty minutes have passed, and the lifelong friends depart, speaking little about their partnership in their work, considered to be a *chesed shel emet* – a kindness of absolute truth – as no personal repayment will be received.

My friend says there is nothing extraordinary about what he does, but humbly says he has great respect for his partners, "for they are good people."

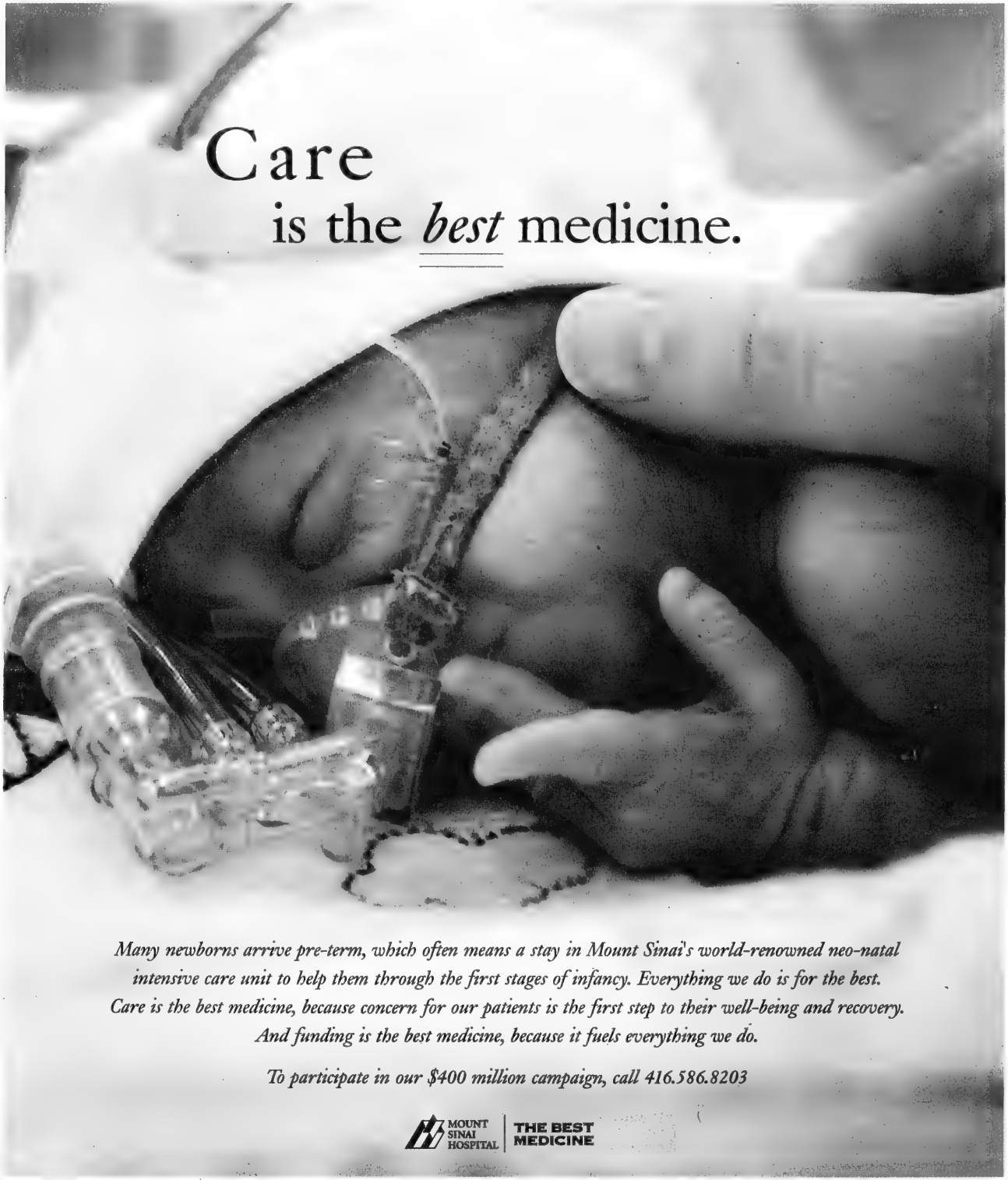
His wife adds, "What my husband and his friends do is an act of selfless chesed. It's the greatest thing anyone can do."

Whenever my friend arrives home after participation in taharah of a *mait*, he hugs his children. He does this, he says, because he is clear about the lesson: "Life is short and I know it will end one day.

"Being on the chevrah kadishah, I have come to understand there is no room for arrogance because we all leave this world the same way and I want to make the most of each day."

Death. To some it is a reason to hide. To others it is the consummate equalizer and an opportunity to perform a unique and honourable mitzvah. To me it is three seconds of utter mystery.

Contact Rosensweig at avrum@veahavta.orgSudan?



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This Week

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Ken Dryden defends government's record on Israel. *Page 6*

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SF writer makes his works available for free download. *Page 37*

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Erica Ehm gives advice on raising children. *Page 38*

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[Israel photo]

One era ends, another begins

These words were written in Jerusalem merely hours after it became illegal – Sunday night at midnight – for Israelis to continue living in the Gaza Strip, and only moments after the beginning of the 48-hour period during which soldiers of the Israel Defence Forces began going door-to-door in the Jewish communities of Gaza, asking the remaining settlers to leave their homes peacefully.

This two-day initiative by the IDF was called Operation Helping Hand to Our Brothers. On Tuesday at midnight, the 48-hour period of grace was to end, after which soldiers would again go door-to-door, no longer to ask the settlers to leave, but to ensure that they do.

Editorial
See stories pages 27-29

As of Monday morning, some 897 of Gaza's 1,486 Jewish families had agreed to leave. Most of the remaining families were expected to depart during the two-day interim period. A handful of families and their supporters from other parts of the country, it was expected, would need to be removed by force. The number of non-settlers in Gaza on Monday morning was said to be as high as 5,000.

Thousands of soldiers have been deployed in Gaza, about half for the evacuation operation, the rest to protect their fellow soldiers and the settlers from possible terrorist attack. In addition, some 12,000 police stood at the ready in Gaza to help execute the evacuation.

On Sunday night, IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz told the nation: "We're not going out to battle; there's no battle here and no war."

Speaking directly to his commanders, he said: "You'll be required to look settlers in the eyes, feel their pain, shed a tear and show them you love them."

In the early hours of this past Monday morning, most Israelis were glued to their television sets watching live telecasts from the Kissufim crossing to see the barricade fall for the first time on the newly established Israeli border barring entry into the Gaza Strip.

Continued on page 8

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Ex-Montreal Kach activist detained in Israel — please see page 45

The News In Brief

CANADA

Park Pulls Jewelry

TORONTO — After complaints from parents and criticism from Jewish groups, Paramount Canada's Wonderland has pulled some inexpensive children's jewelry with symbolism favoured by neo-Nazis from one of its stores. A spokesperson told the *York Region Era Banner* that the theme park north of Toronto does not agree the jewelry is anti-Semitic, but "we have no intention of offending our guests." One necklace showed an Iron Cross on the forehead of a skull and bones. Another was a triskele, three curved blades that each look like the number seven and are positioned in a circular pattern.

WORLD

Church Targets Firms

SEATTLE — The Presbyterian Church says it will press four U.S. firms to stop providing equipment and technology to Israel. The church said Aug. 5 it has selected Caterpillar, Motorola, ITT Industries and United Technologies for possible divestment if they keep doing business with Israel. Jewish groups criticized the move as unfairly singling out Israel without helping the Palestinians. The move is the latest by mainline Protestant churches regarding Israel divestment. The Presbyterians also said they would pressure the bank Citigroup because of its alleged connection to an Arab bank believed to have ties to suicide bombers.

Messianic Ad Goes Up

NEW YORK — A billboard calling the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson the messiah went up in Manhattan. Basha Oka Botnick, a spokesperson for the billboard's sponsor, Jewish Women United for the Redemption, told *Newsday* that the group believes that publicly acknowledging the deceased Chabad leader as the messiah will hasten the onset of the messianic era. Chabad has distanced itself from such groups.

Comments Defended

DENVER — An evangelical political leader is defending his comments comparing stem-cell research to Nazi medical experiments. James Dobson, who founded the Colorado Springs-based group Focus on the Family, said his "recent comments are being spun like a top by the ultraliberals who don't care about unborn life." The Anti-Defamation League and the Reform movement's Religious Action Center have urged Dobson to repudiate his Aug. 3 comments to a radio show that embryonic stem-cell research may have potential, but it should be condemned the way Nazi "experiments" on concentration-camp inmates were condemned.

Permanent Vacation?

LONDON — Britain wants to prevent a radical Islamic cleric, who has called for U.K. Muslims to wage jihad against Israel, from returning to the country. Syrian-born Abu Bakri Mohammed, 47, the former leader of the extremist Al-Muhajiroun group, came to Britain in 1985 after being expelled from Saudi Arabia and was granted indefinite leave to remain. He has described Israel as "a cancer in the heart of the Muslim world" that must be eradicated and blamed last month's London terror attacks on the British public. The government hopes to block his return from a visit to Lebanon under new legislation that would allow the exclusion or deportation of those who preach hate or justify violence.

School Vandalized

LOS ANGELES — A Jewish school in California was vandalized in what's being called a hate crime. Swastikas, cartoon characters and the word "trouble" were found on the Torah Academy in Southern California Aug. 8. Jewish officials said it's not the first vandalism attack on the school. Police are investigating.

Explosives Found in Mall Near Shul

TORONTO —Two small steel boxes with what looked like explosives were removed from a mall just down the street from Shaar Shalom Synagogue last Friday, but police don't believe they had anything to do with the Thornhill shul.

"It was the feeling of the investigators that this incident wasn't targeted to any group," Chief Armand La Barge of York Regional Police told *The CJN*'s Sheri Shefa.

Police evacuated the Shops on Steeles at Don Mills Road and Steeles Avenue after a suspicious package was spotted at 8:48 a.m. by staff cleaning out a vacant store on the mall's second floor. It reportedly contained grenades, dynamite, wiring used to make explosives and ammunition.

La Barge said police rushed to the scene and a bomb squad officer removed the two steel boxes from the complex. No threats were phoned in, no suspects have been apprehended and police don't know why the packages were left there. At *The CJN*'s deadline, police were "still determining whether they have active or inert explosives," La Barge said.

He guessed the former tenants of the space may have accidentally left the boxes behind.

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Kippah-clad student harrassed while driving

'Dirty Jew, we're going to kill you'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As a string of anti-Semitic incidents in southern Ontario has demonstrated, many are of the anonymous variety – graffiti left on homes or cars, synagogues vandalized, websites that spew hate.

But a couple of weeks ago, Jacob Kocsis saw the ugly face of anti-Jewish hate up close and personal.

Kocsis, a 21-year old student in health sciences, was driving north on Bayview Avenue near Highway 7 when the car ahead of him hit the brakes for no apparent reason. After slowing down and moving to the median lane alongside the car, Kocsis noticed the driver motion to him to lower his window. When he did so, the kippah-clad Kocsis was subject to a torrent of abuse.

"He was shouting, 'You mother[eff]ing Jew, dirty Jew, we're going to kill you,'" Kocsis related.

The fellow was in his early 20s or late teens, "looked Middle Eastern" and had "an Arabic accent."

Kocsis was shocked at the abuse.

However, his exposure to hate was not over. A few seconds later, a silver car ahead of him slowed down and moved to his left, driving parallel to him in a turning lane. The driver also motioned for him to lower his window and when he did so, "an Arabic-looking guy" started in with similar insults.

"I said, 'What did I do to you?' and I rolled up my window," Kocsis said.

Next, the two cars moved ahead of him and then came to a stop, facing to the left and blocking northbound traffic. They then both made U-turns and headed south on Bayview.

Stunned by what he had seen, Kocsis failed to take down either license plate. When he was interviewed later that night by a police officer at his home, he was unable to give anything more than a rudimentary description of the vehicles (one was a silver or white sedan, the other a black, sportier model).

"I was shocked, as I was born in Canada and I never experienced anything like that," he said. The closest, he added, was from pro-Palestinian activists on campus at McMaster University, where he is a student.

* * *

In a hearing room in Toronto last week, the atmosphere was more subdued as a tribunal of the Canadian Human Rights Commission heard a complaint that online hate messages posted by London resident Tomasz Winnicki, 30, attacked Jews, blacks and other minorities and exposed them to hatred or contempt.

Human rights lawyer Richard Warman, who brought the complaint, testified that "the hate propaganda is some of the most horrific I have ever seen."

Warman said he felt personal danger when in the spring, Winnicki posted his photo on a white supremacist website with a Star of David, like a target, on Warman's forehead under the heading, "my enemies," the *London Free Press* reported.

The tribunal also heard the content of the online messages, posted mainly on the Vanguard News Network. Some called on whites to get rid of blacks and non-white "muds," while other message called Asians "subhuman scum." Jews were described as extortionists who concocted the Holocaust to make money.

"We're coming for you, you Jewish bastards, and there will be hell to pay," said one message.

The CHRC is seeking a $10,000 fine and $70,000 damages.

Winnicki argued that the commission is merely trying to censor unpopular views and later he asked for an adjournment to find a lawyer, even though he had months to prepare a defence. The tribunal reluctantly gave Winnicki five days to find a lawyer, after commenting that he had known of the commission's case since February.

The *Free Press* also reported that the commission would oppose four of Winnicki's proposed witnesses – Jason Ouwendyk; Melissa Guille; Brad Love, who was convicted

Continued on page 25

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Disengagement: the Israeli viewpoint

From the editor's desk

The sun shone high in the deep blue sky above Rehovot, a small city/town, part of the heavily populated, multi-municipal megalopolis surrounding Tel Aviv in the central Sharon Plain of Israel, where I spent last Shabbat. I was in the home of family.

He is 68 years old, born in Mandatory Palestine of parents who immigrated from Lebanon in 1933. His wife, also born in pre-State Israel, is of Yemeni background. They live in a quiet neighbourhood shared by Jews of all backgrounds and types, observant and non-observant, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, Hebrew speakers, English speakers, Russian speakers, Amharic speakers, friendly and non-friendly, short and tall. Their home, semi-detached with three bedrooms and a small private garden, is modest by Canadian standards but exceptional in Israel for its roominess and private gardening possibilities.

Two of his sisters and a brother-in-law from Poland, who came to Israel in 1948 after surviving Hitler's maniacal efforts at killing him, drove from the Galilee to join us for lunch.

The table was set for a holiday. We feasted on more than a dozen typically Mediterranean, olive-oil-rich salads, six different kinds of cheeses, three different kinds of salty fish, three different kinds of bourekas, oven-baked hard-boiled eggs, *jachnoun* – the sweet, Yemenite layered dough cake eaten only on Shabbat – endless platefuls of parsley-topped hummus and challah.

We sat around the table and talked. The discussion, of course, was about the disengagement slated to begin some 48 hours later. But the terms "talked" and "discussion" hardly convey the nature of the interaction – I cannot call it a debate or conversation – that took place on that hot and sunny Shabbat.

Emotions were very close to the surface. There were as many opinions as there were people in the room, often expressed at the same time. And no one spoke below a shout.

"I will never trust [Prime Minister] Sharon again."

"He had no choice."

"No one pressured him. Even [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush said so yesterday [referring to an interview with an Israeli journalist that was broadcast on local television Friday]. It was Sharon's own decision. No one forced him."

"He had no choice. It is the only way to separate from the Arabs."

"How can we trust the Arabs? Who speaks for them? Who controls them?"

"[Palestinian Authority President] Abu Mazen [Mahmoud Abbas] must defeat Hamas and the extremists."

"Didn't you hear, didn't you read what Abu Mazen said? This is just the first step. Next is the West Bank and Jerusalem."

"He can speak all he wants. It is up to Israel to agree."

"Israel won't agree? Where have you been living these past 10 years?"

"What will happen after they build the road that joins Gaza to Yehuda and Shomron? The country will be cut in half. We are in mortal danger. There will surely be another war."

"We are already at war. That is why we must separate. We can't continue this way. We must try another way."

"Is this the correct other way?"

"Look how we are treating the settlers. We sent them there and now we are uprooting them from their homes and from their livelihoods."

"The government is compensating them for loss of livelihood, for their homes, for the cost of moving. The government is trying to do the right thing."

"This is the right thing? Jewish soldiers being trained to use force against other Jews?"

"They are training to remove individuals who refuse to be moved."

"[Former prime minister Menachem] Begin did it differently. He gave them three years' notice."

"And still there were resisters."

"I don't trust Sharon. I don't trust any of the ministers who submitted to his blackmail."

"It was not blackmail. It was according to the laws of the Knesset."

And so on… for hours the "discussion" ensued through lunch, dinner and snacks of salty peanuts, almonds, pumpkin seeds, watermelon seeds, chocolate cake, apple strudel and date-filled cookies. They shouted at each other even as they passed the salads and poured the drinks. There was hair-trigger emotion, but no anger. There was, however, sadness, bewilderment and a worried, uncertain hope for the future.

Throughout the day, friends dropped in to convey their Sabbath greetings and to join in the discussion that abated only with the going down of the sun at the end of the day. When the time came for his sisters and brother-in-law to leave, we all kissed and hugged and wished each other and the people of Israel well. I felt like crying.

Then he went to synagogue to sit on a low bench and recite the traditional Lamentations for Tisha b'Av that began with the end of the Shabbat.

— ***MBD***

SeeJN

TEEN SPIRIT: **Fourteen and 15-year-olds at Camp Solelim, a Zionist leadership camp affiliated with Canadian Young Judaea, held a walk-a-thon through the streets of Sudbury recently and raised close to $3,000 for the Hadassah Hospital Children's Ward in Jerusalem. The walk-a-thon was this year's tikkun olam (healing the world) project. Last year, campers raised money for Camp Cobi, a summer camp in Israel for children whose lives have been impacted by terror.**

[Shelby Spigelman photo]

Prominent family split over Gaza withdrawal

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It's said that this month's pullout from Gaza has split some Israeli families along political lines.

The same appears to be happening to one prominent Canadian Jewish family.

Several members of the Bronfman clan, children of the late Edward Bronfman, as well as his widow and daughter-in-law, have written a letter to Israeli Prime Minster Ariel Sharon, distancing themselves from a statement attributed to David Bronfman, another of Edward's children.

The letter, which is to be hand-delivered this week to the prime minister by their cousin Charles Bronfman, tells Sharon that "we totally disagree with [David's] statements and fully support your government's efforts to do what is needed to achieve peace in the region, including withdrawal of Gaza and the West Bank settlements."

The letter goes on to compliment the Sharon government for "making a peaceful and pragmatic effort," and it states the family are "strong supporters of Israel, peace in the Middle East and of a better world for all. May your government continue to be a greater leader in achieving these objectives."

The letter was prompted by a widely reported statement in Israel earlier this summer by David Bronfman that he made while visiting the Gaza Strip as part of a mission led by New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

During a tour of Neveh Dekalim, Bronfman announced a $100,000 (US) contribution to opponents of the disengagement plan. He said he hoped the funds would "help in the valiant effort of stopping this policy."

He then went on to say, "Ethnic cleansing is deplorable to the rest of the world, but here it seems acceptable, even commendable, to expel Jews from their homes."

David's brother, Paul, said, "I shuddered when I saw that. It left me cold."

Worried the public might perceive that David was speaking for the family, Paul said,"We wanted to set the record straight that David's views do not represent the family… He's entitled to believe what he wants to believe. We believe peace is the main destination, as tough as it is to achieve.

"Our father would roll over in his grave to see the family name used to support the settlements," he added.

Paul said the disagreement with David is strictly over politics, and the family gets along well on a personal level.

Rachelle Bronfman, David's wife, said the couple would not comment on the story.

Paul Bronfman said the letter will be sent by courier to their cousin Charles, who lives in Israel during the summer, and he will deliver it personally to Sharon.

Edward and his brother Peter Bronfman, cousins of Charles and Edgar Bronfman, created a business empire that at its peak held assets valued at $100 billion (Cdn). Their holdings ranged from London Life, Royal Lepage and MacMillan Bloedel to Labatt's Breweries and the Montreal Canadiens.

With files from Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Reunion for Southern Africans

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

In celebration of Habonim Dror's 75th anniversary, the Zionist youth movement is on a mission to reunite former members from Southern Africa.

On September 25, Toronto is holding a reunion, following hot on the heels of a well-attended reunion held in Israel at the end of June and two others that are planned for Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, at the beginning of September.

"This is a great opportunity for all former members to see one another and reconnect, while celebrating 75 years of a successful movement that we all loved," says Mark Skapinker, a former South African Habonim member who has been in Toronto for a number of years.

With reunion plans already well underway, e-mails have been sent out to try and track down all known former Habonim members now living in Canada to invite them to the function at Bialik Hebrew Day School.

Already, 140 families have responded, and Skapinker estimates there will be at least 300 to 500 people.

The day will be divided into two parts.

The actual reunion is reserved solely for former members and their families who have lost touch. They will be able to reconnect and "celebrate a movement with which they undoubtedly have special memories," said Skapinker.

The second part is an open event, in which guest speaker Prof. Gideon Shimoni, a former Habonim member and author of *Community and Consciousness,* a book about the South African Jewish community during apartheid, will address the participants.

"In Habonim we found like-minded people [with whom] we could identify, and most of us ended up taking on huge responsibilities, like running camp, doing fundraising drives, and other intense experiences.

"Most of all though, we had fun and made friends who most of us have kept up with. Many people even met their spouses in the movement," said Skapinker, who attended at least 10 end-of-year camps.

In contrast to the many North American camps that are held for two months in the summer, there are only four South African Jewish camps, which are held for three weeks in December.

The two biggest camps have around 1,000 people campers, and all participants sleep in tents.

Continued on page 19

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Dryden defends gov't record on Israel, day care

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Ken Dryden could stop a Bobby Hull slap shot with nonchalance, but when it comes to Israel, the onetime Montreal Canadiens goalie and Hockey Hall of Famer waxes positively rhapsodic.

"The names… the names," Dryden intoned in a near-whisper, recalling his trip to the Jewish state last spring as Canada's minister of social development.

"Certainly, for anybody who has grown up in western Europe or North America and is from the Christian tradition, the names… whether you're particularly religious or not, they're just part of your life," he continued. "And of a sudden, they're there: Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum. The names that all your life existed only in a book… there they are. And that was stunning."

It was Dryden's first visit to Israel, and it included a much-publicized tour of the Canada Centre in the northern town of Metulla, which houses an Olympic-sized hockey rink and sports facility where the Israeli national hockey team trains.

The legendary netminder was presented with an Israeli jersey, emblazoned with a blue-and-white Star of David.

Alas, he did not lace up the skates.

But his four-day working trip was busy enough with meetings with Israel's housing minister, Isaac Herzog, as well as visits to a day-care centre and a rehabilitation facility for disabled soldiers, an emotional stop at Yad Vashem (which prompted Dryden to write a piece on Holocaust education for several Canadian newspapers), and a tour of Metulla with the town's mayor, Koby Katz.

He also toured Jerusalem's Old City, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other popular attractions.

Dryden's visit also kicked off negotiations for an agreement on social security between Canada and Israel that would enable the collection of state pensions and benefits by Canadians living in Israel and Israelis living in Canada.

The CJN was invited to conduct an hour-long, wide-ranging interview with the minister and MP for York Centre – a sure sign that either the governing Liberals are slowly shifting into election mode or that they're trying to shore up public support in advance of Parliament's fall session, which is expected to be no less rancorous than the spring one.

(The opposition Conservatives seem to be of the same mindset: this month, Dryden's Tory opponent in York Centre, Michael Mostyn, appeared alongside his party's critic for social development, Carol Skelton, at the Menorah Nursery, where Skelton denounced the government's day-care strategy.)

Dryden, who's in charge of implementing the Liberals' national day-care program, defended the plan as a huge step forward.

In the last budget, the Liberals allocated $5 billion to create 250,000 child care spaces by 2009. Six provinces have signed on to the deal.

"There will be more spaces. The spaces will be better and they will be more affordable," Dryden said, noting that the government's allotment is a 48 per cent increase over what all governments in Canada currently spend on day care.

It's still far less than spending levels called for by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Late last year, the OECD urged Canada to commit at least one per cent of its gross domestic product – or about $10 billion – to child care.

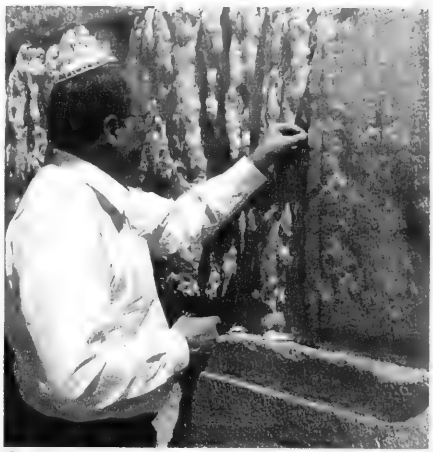
The minister noted that 70 per cent of parents with children under six both work. "It is up to us as parents to find the best answers that we can. So now is the time. Child care is part of the way we live in this country.

"There is public support for something that is good. There is no public support for something that is mediocre, so the quality has to get better."

It was the small touches that Dryden noticed at an Israeli day-care centre, including a plastic protector placed on the hinged part of doors to prevent small fingers from getting caught in the crack.

"Now they're trying to put them in child care centres all over Israel. It's the little answers and the ones that you make up as you're going along that may be the most important."

Dryden said he was surprised by the attitude that Israeli officials displayed when he brought up Canada's voting record on Mideast issues at the United Nations, an issue that angers many Canadian Jews.



Canada's minister of social development in Israel last spring.

"I did bring it up with Israeli officials and they were very dismissive. [They said] the Canada-Israel relationship is all about other things. [Canada's votes] did not upset Israelis. Not even close. The UN is not the central question, isn't the most important part of the relationship. That's what I kept getting told."

Dryden does, however, concede there is a "disconnect" between Canada's Middle East policy, which stresses neutrality, and its habit of abstaining or voting for anti-Israel measures at the UN.

"If we're serious about playing a role in the peace process, how can we best play it? [The] general policy is a very good one and very strong one. Why does it reflect itself in a different way in these resolutions?"

He argues that when it comes to the UN, "things have improved."

Dryden's wish list includes extending quality child care across Canada; helping seniors live "purposeful" lives, not just those based on health and income security; and achieving a "breakthrough" in the protection of people with disabilities on par with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms' protection of minorities.

It's nearly impossible to interview Dryden without touching on hockey, and a broad smile crosses his normally serious face when he spoke about the sport and the Jewish state.

"Hockey in Israel is directed by, driven by, and coached by Russians," he said. "There was something quite nice about that. Canada was the driving force behind the [Metulla] rink. The two most developed, best schools of hockey [are] finding their way together – in Israel."

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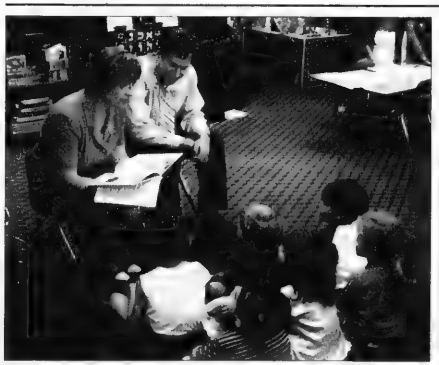

PRESCHOOL POLICY: Saskatchewan MP Carol Skelton, the Opposition critic for social development, reads to preschoolers at Menorah Nursery in Toronto. She was joined by Michael Mostyn, right, the Conservative candidate in York Centre riding. Skelton used the occasion earlier this month to criticize the government's national day care program, saying a Conservative government would make day care "family friendly" by channelling funds to families and not provinces. [Ron Csillag photo]

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Dry Bones
THE DISENGAGE-MENT FROM GAZA HAS MADE HIM SICK?
YES, AND THERE'S A LOT OF IT GOING AROUND.
HIS HEART SAYS NO
BUT HIS BRAIN SAYS GO!
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Out of Gaza

Continued from page 1

Hundreds of foreign correspondents, some even from Arab countries, were on hand, the many long-handled booms of their microphones smacking into the video cameras carried by their colleague technicians, all of whom were crammed and jammed into this tiny beachfront of unfolding history.

Halutz did not really need to instruct his officers to feel the settlers' pain. The pain of disengagement lies heavy in the country's heart. Even the majority of Israelis who support the initiative were conflicted at the possibility that their treasured soldiers, most of them barely more than teenagers, would have to forcibly evict other Israelis from their homes.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was scheduled to address the nation Monday night to try to salve the wound that disengagement has cut into the national body, if not into the psyche as well.

Last week, President Moshe Katsav, spoke poignantly to his countrymen and in the name of his countrymen about the disengagement. He acknowledged and paid tribute to the settlers for their staunch patriotism and sense of duty these past four decades.

"In the name of the State of Israel, I beg your forgiveness for the demand that you leave after decades of building and sacrifice… You have risked your lives and your families for your ideals and beliefs… You were not broken… You have attained historic achievements."

But he also urged them to now channel that same sense of duty and patriotism in a new direction for the sake of the country whose former frontiers they manned so proudly. "After a year of difficult struggles and sharp debates, the time has come. You must respect the decision of our national institutions, the government and the Knesset, which were even upheld by the High Court of Justice. Once the decision was made, it became the law of the land, which obligates us all."

The next few days will tell the rest of the story of Israel's final disengagement from Gaza. We pray that no one is harmed.

An era of history has now ended. After 38 years, Israel is leaving Gaza.

But a new era is beginning. After 38 years, Israel is advancing toward the new frontier of consolidating the Jewish majority in a sovereign Jewish state that will stand for all eternal time.

25 years ago in The CJN

- Charles Bronfman announced that he would be shifting his philanthropic and communal activities from the Canadian Jewish scene to Israel.
- *The CJN* quoted the *Financial Post* that oil-rich Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, had cancelled support for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund after both organizations voted to deny the PLO observer status.
- U.S. president Jimmy Carter presented Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal with a gold medal for his contributions to international justice.

Muslims in Europe

I find that *The CJN* makes a fascinating comparison with the *Jewish Chronicle*, the national Jewish newspaper in the United Kingdom.

In the U.K., the large, increasingly influential and rapidly growing Muslim community is now 10 times the size of the Jewish community and appears strongly anti-Israel with considerable anti-Semitic overtones. According to a report published last year by the Council of the European Economic Community, the majority of the many anti-Semitic attacks within the countries of the EEC are committed by Muslims.

I am concerned by what appears to be an innocent naiveté on the part of *CJN* journalists and those of other newspapers in Canada. There appears to be a lack of understanding of the fundamental aims of Islam – world domination and destruction of the Jewish entity, among others. I assume this lack of understanding exists because Canada, unlike Europe, is not yet affected by the problems of a large and growing Muslim community with a fundamental, anti-Israel, anti-Jewish and anti-western stance.

Let us hope that the Canadian Jewish community will never have to face the problems of Jewish communities in Europe, but the situation does not look promising.

Frank Miller
Brighton, England

* * *

Christians and Jews

Sally F. Zerker, in "Jews and the cross, an unhappy history," (*CJN*, Aug. 4) is right in everything she says.

However, the article breathes hopelessness, without any recognition of the Jewish and Christian attempts and successes at removing the crosses in Auschwitz, the repenting statements and actions of all major churches against all forms of anti-Semitism, the corrections in theological concepts about the Jewish people and new attempts at serious dialogue between Christians and Jews as equals.

I would suggest that the "end" of the story of the Christian-Jewish relationship is not symbolized by the crosses in Auschwitz, as Zerker suggests, but by their removal – by the positive encounters between Christians and Jews at the present time – and, hopefully, far into the future.

Fritz Voll
Toronto

* * *

Cordula Kappner's research

It was with great interest that I read the article "German woman preserves Jewish history," (*CJN*, July 14). I know Cordula Kappner well. She has researched my family's history and I have participated in her exhibits on two occasions – one in Knetzgau in 1987 and one in Lendershausen, my hometown, in 1992. She is totally committed to the task of researching, preserving and educating the public in the history of the Jews who once lived in Lower Franconia. I was born in Bamberg and lived in Lendershausen with my parents until 1939. My father's brother lived in Burgpreppach, which once had a thriving Jewish community.

Since my name appears in the article, I would like to make a correction in the reporting. I immigrated to the United States from Brussels in 1946 in the care of my uncle. He and his family immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1936. I married in New York in 1953, and my children were born in the United States. We immigrated to Canada in 1970, and my children now live in California.

Leni Hoffman
Calgary

* * *

Response to Gasner

I must take issue with Robert Gasner's unfair assessment of *Les Mers Rouges* ("Says play equates Israel with Nazis," letter, *CJN*, July 21). It is the classic example of shooting the messenger because one does not like the message.

The playwright Liliane Atlan never equates the Israeli army with the Nazis. She refers only to one particular soldier in that army, who takes pleasure in inflicting pain on his victims. Since all people, including Jewish people, are fallible, it is perfectly plausible that some soldiers act in a reprehensible way. Not once during the course of the play, however, did Atlan ever question Israel's right to exist or to defend itself from terrorist attacks. On the contrary, she emphasizes more than once that Jews are compelled to fight for their lives and are perfectly justified in so doing.

Gasner's problem, I feel, is that he was acting like the proverbial patient in the dentist's chair. Atlan hit a raw nerve in him, and so he took out his anger against the play, refusing to see that the play was reflecting the complex reality of a tragic situation and not in the least accusing the whole, or even a small part of the Israeli army, of acting like Hitler's brutes.

Leonard Rosmarin
Translator of *Les Mers Rouges*
St. Catharines, Ont.

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Perspectives

The science and medicine of suicide bombing

By DR. STEVEN MARC FRIEDMAN

The smouldering mass transit vehicle, once evocative primarily of terror in Israel, is now a phenomenon known to Europe – recently in Madrid, and now in London

Bomb plotters, security experts, and emergency response people are engaged in a cat-and-mouse chase as these horrific acts become a science unto themselves.

What are the logistics of planning and executing a bus bombing, and why are they such an effective means of inflicting casualties? What are engineers and civil defence planners doing to minimize the carnage? What have trauma surgeons learned?

The science of suicide bombs

The suicide bomber is a highly effective delivery system. Israeli experts have described suicide bombers as "the most accurate missile," as a bomber can choose exactly where to stand and when to detonate. There have been more than 100 suicide bombings in Israel, typically in buses and cafes, since the start of the second intifadah in September 2000. These attacks have been responsible for half of the more than 1,000 Israeli deaths from terror attacks during that period. The first suicide bombing in Israel occurred in Afula in 1994, and over the subsequent decade, Israelis suffered from an increasingly refined methodology in their execution.

Bus attacks by suicide bombers typically occur during the morning rush hour, when ridership is high. The bomber boards at a point along the route where a packed bus is likely. He boards at the middle doors in order to be centred in the midst of passengers and detonates shortly after boarding, lest he be discovered, restrained and prevented from carrying out the mission.

The scene of the carnage at the suicide bombings in Madrid last year [RNS/Reuters photo]

The explosives are usually activated by a hand-pulled detonator, rather than a button that might be triggered prematurely. Israeli security sources have also described explosive belts fitted with a cellphone-triggered detonator, so that a remote handler can determine when to detonate the bomber. The bomber typically stands when detonating in order to provide a direct path for shrapnel. Those closest to the blast are typically killed, and those at the ends of the bus may escape with less severe injury.

The primary mechanism of injury for those not killed outright by the blast is penetration by shrapnel. Ball bearings, screws and bolts that are often packed in with the bomb become bullet-like projectiles that remain lethal at ranges of 100 metres. Shrapnel is sometimes soaked in poison, such as organophosphate crop insecticides, to increase lethality.

The size and weight of the bomb is typically limited to what bombers can conceal under clothing or in a large purse or knapsack. However, suicide bombs have become more lethal. Earlier bombs were crude homemade devices, with explosives fashioned from fertilizer and sugar. Explosive power increased dramatically with increasing access to sophisticated explosives such as Semtex.

A high correlation exists between the number of fatalities and the modality of attack. Explosions in confined spaces are associated with a far higher incidence of severe injury and death than explosions in the open air. Explosions in buses or other crowded areas have a devastating effect regardless of the quantity and type of explosives employed. A bomb composed of a few hundred grams of explosive material can easily be carried by a terrorist into a crowd and can cause as much damage as a device carrying tens of kilograms that is concealed in a vehicle.

Café and bus bombings have particularly high casualty rates. Since a blast is best contained if the windows are closed, winter and summer, when heating or air-conditioning may be in use, are the best seasons to blow up a bus.

The science is well understood. During a closed space explosion, an extremely rapid combustion of explosive material occurs. A mechanical shock wave expands at six to eight kilometres per second. Gases formed by the explosion follow the shock, creating a blast wave of high pressure and temperature. The pressure wave reflects off doors, walls and ceiling. For several hundred milliseconds, the casing of the bus will contain the blast, allowing the intensity of the pressure wave to increase markedly. This "overpressure" is momentarily sustained. Air pressure rises dramatically and falls again over fractions of a second. The vehicle's casing then gives way, and the bus ruptures open, often momentarily lifting off the ground.

Car and truck bombs are typically far larger than those delivered by pedestrian bombers, and have predictably devastating effect. Israeli security officials and lay people are instructed to be on the alert for suspicious vehicles. For example, sagging rear ends suggest possible overloading with explosives. On June 5, 2002, an explosives-packed car pulled alongside Egged Bus 830 en route from Tel Aviv to Tiberias. At 7:15 a.m., the bombers detonated their vehicle near the fuel tank of the bus, causing it to burst into flames. In all, 17 passengers were killed. The explosion lifted the bus into the air and reduced the car carrying the bomb to charred metal.

The aftermath of a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem [RNS/Reuters photo]

The medicine of terror

Injuries caused by closed-space explosions are primarily classified into three categories.

Primary blast injuries are caused by the sudden increase in air pressure. Air-containing organs are most vulnerable. Eardrums perforate, lungs and intestines burst.

Secondary blast injuries occur when the intense energy released by the bomb propels fragments and debris. Airborne fragments commonly penetrate skull, chest and abdomen.

Tertiary blast injuries occur when the victims themselves are propelled into the air by the blast wave and collide with nearby objects. Blunt and penetrating trauma may ensue.

A fourth category of trauma is burns, caused by the heat and hot gases produced by the explosion, as well as by the ignition of clothing and other flammable material. The burns observed in closed-space victims, such as bus bombings, tend to be extensive and severe. This is thought to relate to containment of the fireball within the confined space of the bus for a long enough time to inflict more thermal injury.

Mass casualty response: loved ones

A bus or café bombing results in a sudden pulse of victims that can overwhelm emergency medical resources. Israeli hospitals equip themselves for onslaughts of casualties as well as panicked family members looking for missing loved ones. The social and administrative challenges are myriad. Communication personnel provide information to victims' families, assist with identification of known patients, and they gather data from, and supply data to, other hospitals, primary physicians and other qualified authorities. Data is pooled and distributed to other hospitals via the Internet. The information is then fed back to health care providers so that they can be better aware of the needs of their patients, and to families to help determine the whereabouts and status of the person they are seeking.

A large pool of social workers is always on call, ready to wade though panic and chaos. Staffing is structured to ensure a dedicated social worker for each individual or family group. Once attached to an individual or family, the social worker will try to focus primarily on that individual or group for the duration of the emergency.

Preventive measures

In January 2004, new measures to protect buses from suicide bombers were revealed to the Israeli public. Israeli Military Industries and the Transportation Ministry collaborated on the system, which consists of a locking turnstile and automatic gates at the back of the bus that can be instantly operated by the driver. A sheet of armour would be mounted on the exterior of the bus, below the window, to shield driver and passengers from exploding shrapnel if the bomber detonated outside. (The success of this system would depend on the driver making visual identification of a bomber.) Later versions would incorporate electronic explosives detectors that would trigger an alarm and prompt the driver to secure the vehicle.

Fundamental bus engineering is also being scrutinized. New designs will seek to minimize the amplification of a blast that occurs in the confined space of the bus. Buses may be divided into smaller sections, and seats constructed out of newer materials that are lightweight but strong enough to shield a passenger's body.

* * *

Western academics and politicians struggle over political and strategic approaches to responding to and averting the spread of terror, but that provides little immediate comfort to mainstream citizens who appreciate that a Pandora's box of explosives and suicidal madness has been opened and is not likely to be closed in the near future.

Israel again serves as the canary in the coal mine, a harbinger of things to come, and an example of rational coping in the face of the irrational. As life continues with vibrancy in Tel Aviv, so it will in New York and London, albeit with more security and tension, and a little less freedom, with every subsequent bombing.

Dr. Steven Marc Friedman is an emergency physician in downtown Toronto. He is also an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Toronto and acting editor-in-chief of the Israeli Journal of Emergency Medicine.

It's the future that matters

When asked if I am interested in genealogy, I usually cite the man who said that he doesn't come from a distinguished family but his children do. I, too, am much more interested in the future of my family than in its past.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

This makes me, of course, eccentric. For the current fashion in the Jewish world is ancestor spotting. The familiar game of "Jewish geography" has been augmented by "Jewish archeology." People turn to the past in an effort to find themselves in the present.

It smells of narcissism. Much of our culture is about "Me" (with a capital M). But the preoccupation with my family is a poor substitute for knowing the history of our people. The former is self-centred, the latter essential for Jewish self-understanding.

Most Jews are new to the countries they live in and, therefore, seem to have needs to prove their authenticity. I felt it especially in my early days in Toronto, when a favourite way of putting me down was to tell me, "My family has been here since the 19th century." To have had forbears born in Canada bestowed a kind of status on the descendants that, by implication, placed them above us greeners.

The same is the case in Israel. Old-timers claim precedence over new immigrants. Hence the adage that Israelis are totally committed to aliyah; it's only immigrants they can't stand.

Yichus, or "pedigree," is indeed important in Jewish tradition, and in our times as well – particularly in very Orthodox circles, where marriages are often arranged on the basis of family standing and connections. But there, the status is not determined by the length of time a family has lived in a particular country but by its learning and lifestyle, irrespective of location.

The intention is to make sure that future generations will follow in the footsteps of their ancestors and continue to affirm Judaism in all its manifestations. I am not persuaded that most of today's Jewish genealogists have the same interests.

Though I have never spent time or energy on researching my family history, I am deeply committed to family continuity. The way my children and grandchildren live as Jews matters to me greatly. But I don't base my hopes on what has been, only on what may be in the future. I don't look for role models in the distant past but, perhaps immodestly, I try to be one myself.

My simplistic slogan is not, "The Judaism that was good enough for my ancestors must be good enough for me," but rather, "The Judaism that must be good enough for my children and grandchildren is good enough for me." I call this Jewish continuity.

Getting ready to get back

The end of my summer vacation is fast approaching and my time in the centre of the universe – known outside of Vancouver as Toronto – is coming to an end. I'd be lying, and nobody who knows me would believe it, if I wrote that I've started to get ready for the logistics of this fall's move, but I have definitely started thinking about the emotional aspects of preparation.

Jessica Ayter in Vancouver

The adventures I had in Poland and Israel, and the time I spent with my brother, parents and friends in Toronto, were unforgettably good, and no matter how many times I see my grandparents, it's never enough. I spent a lot of time working at the Koffler Centre of the Arts at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, and I was blessed with having yet another awesome summer employer. This issue of *The CJN* also marks the end of my career as the paper's "Western Canadian campus opinions columnist."

Luckily, the pending goodbyes and my last paycheques find themselves battling for my attention with the excitement I have for my return to Vancouver and the promise of the coming year at Simon Fraser University (SFU).

As I wrote here a year ago, the wet weather is only one part of what I love about the West Coast. But much else has changed. I'm looking forward to the challenge of taking "Pre-modern Japan" and "Biological explanations for crime," the first history and science courses I've taken since not doing too well in those subjects in grades 10 and 11.

I've also been appointed to a new position on the national board of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students (CFJS). As a member-at-large, I've already worked with this year's promising incoming national executive to plan a retreat later this month for leaders of Jewish campus groups from across the country. And as the CFJS continues to gain momentum after last year's successes, there are several more national and regional projects in the works that I know I will learn and grow from.

I'm even more excited to see what happens at SFU Hillel this year. With a full-time shaliach and our new Hillel House, the opportunities for engagement and programming seem endless, and the incoming Jewish Students Association (JSA) and Israel advocacy committee presidents are talented, energetic and committed to sharing their positive Jewish campus experiences with other students. I can't wait to step back from my previous role as JSA president and let their creativity take Hillel at SFU in new and improved directions.

But perhaps the biggest change for me will be the move I'm making off campus to an apartment in the middle of the city with my good friend and new roommate. She practises Judaism more observantly than I do, so I'll be experimenting with my first kosher kitchen. We're already planning the parties and Shabbat dinners that we can't wait to host. While I'll miss waking up and rolling out of bed and into class on Burnaby Mountain, with my head literally above the clouds, the change of scenery and more central location of my new place, along with the independence of living off campus, will no doubt prove refreshing.

I've also promised myself that this year, I will finally work up the motivation to take sailing lessons and enrol in ballet classes – after a five-year break from dancing – and get back into snowboarding, too. With Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays off school this coming semester – nobody makes a course schedule like I can – I should also be able to finally take advantage of Vancouver's ocean and mountains for more than their aesthetic value. As well, the extra-long weekends will give me a lot of quality time to spend with my boyfriend and friends whom I've missed over the last four months.

But if just one thing stays the same about life in Vancouver, I hope it's those late-night visits to the 24-hour kosher-style "bagelry" for Montreal smoked meat sandwiches.

One inevitable aspect of my return that I'm not looking forward to: the tired West Coast ribbing about the self-absorption of my hometown.

Girl time at the cottage

I am a very lucky lady. In addition to having a wonderful immediate family, I am grateful for the close relationship I enjoy with my extended family. Recently, I was invited to spend a few days at my aunt's cottage with the girls – my mom's three sisters and my one female cousin. And while many might dread a weekend filled with family and nothing else, I am happy to report that the experience was anything but negative.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

My mom and her three sisters amaze me. Though they all grew up in the same home with the same parents, each has her own distinct personality and identity. I know that this is normal, but I can't help but be amazed at how each woman brings such a different perspective to the table.

About 15 years separate my mom and her older sister from their two younger sisters. Each has kids at a different stage of life, with the youngest sister planning for her son's bar mitzvah while the eldest sister is enjoying her first year as a grandparent. When you add my cousin – the new mother of the family's first great-grandchild – and me – the law school student – to the mix, you begin to get a sense of this amazing weekend of "girl time" at the cottage.

As I embark on my journey to law school, I am truly beginning to feel the end of adolescence and the beginning of independent adult life. Of course, I have lived on my own for the past four years, but with a law degree and employment much closer on the horizon, real "grown up" life seems more imminent than it did in my high school and undergraduate days.

And so this cottage weekend felt all the more special. In a way that's impossible during ordinary family functions and get-togethers, I enjoyed the company of my diverse family members and, from a more mature point of view, saw each one's distinct nature.

Throughout my undergraduate years, as I read feminist literature ranging from Simone de Beauvoir to modern radical eco-feminists, I found myself continually frustrated. I felt that in our day and age, women have the same freedoms as men, and thus the same opportunities, so where does that leave the feminist cause? What remains for women to fight for?

> Our choices are significant and difficult to make

While I have no intention of claiming that a girls weekend at the cottage has led me to see the feminist light, I can say that I am beginning to gain an appreciation for the choices that lie ahead of me.

While in school, it's very easy to develop a one-dimensional outlook. At school, you are directed to focus on your education as the path to a future career or profession and the success you strive to attain within it. And while family was never something that escaped my mind, it was easy, in theory, to make a space for everything – work, family, and everything else.

But what dawned on me during my weekend at the cottage was how significant all of these choices are, and how difficult they are to make. And looking at how my aunts and my cousins balance family and career led me to think a little harder about the future.

I'm in no rush – I want to enjoy my remaining student days and take advantage of all that comes with them. I will say, though, that I gained a profound sense of respect (on top of what was already there) for the amazing families and lives these great women have created, and for the diverse examples they offer me for my own future.

Send comments to jgrossma@dal.ca.

The Kirshner File

Gaza pullout marks a shift for Sharon

A year after being elected Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, spouting a hawkish line, likened Netzarim – the isolated settlement in the Gaza Strip with 496 inhabitants – to Tel Aviv.

"The fate of Netzarim is the fate of Tel Aviv," he declared in April 2002, leaving the unsettling impression that Netzarim, in his own mind at least, was as important as Tel Aviv.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

But last week, on the eve of Israel's phased unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank, Sharon's national unity cabinet, by a margin of 16 to 5, approved the first stage of the long-awaited pullout. And in an ironic turn of events, the first three outposts scheduled to be vacated in Gaza will be Kfar Darom, Morag and, wouldn't you know it, Netzarim, which was founded in 1972 when the Labor party governed Israel.

What a difference three years makes.

When Sharon issued his belligerent pronouncement on Netzarim, the second Palestinian uprising was boiling furiously, the Israeli army was reoccupying Palestinian towns in Operation Defensive Shield, Yasser Arafat was president of the Palestinian Authority and Sharon's government was composed exclusively of right-wing parties resistant to territorial compromise.

But today, the situation is different. The intifadah appears to be on the wane, a shaky six-month truce has reduced the incidence of violence against Israelis, Arafat is dead and has been replaced by the more conciliatory and flexible Mahmoud Abbas, and the somewhat dovish Labor party, led by that wily and seemingly indestructible octogenarian Shimon Peres, sits in the cabinet.

These factors, though important in understanding Sharon's rationale for abandoning such settlements as Netzarim, represent only the tip of the iceberg.

Sharon, the godfather of the post-1967 settlement movement but now the nemesis of the 10,000 Jews who will be forced to leave their 25 settlements after Aug. 17, has spoken about his motives on a number of occasions. But in a generally overlooked speech he delivered in Caesarea on June 30, he presented the most cogent explanation of his momentous decision to jettison Gaza.

Referring to Gaza as "an area where there is no chance of establishing a Jewish majority," Sharon said that Israel's national priorities lie elsewhere, in the Galilee, the Negev, greater Jerusalem and the settlement blocs and security zones in the West Bank. He did not dwell on the pivotal demographic factor, but it was implicit in his thinking.

Claiming that disengagement from Gaza will have "a positive and decisive influence" on Israel's security, economy and quality of life, Sharon declared that it will assist Israel in combating terrorism – which has dropped precipitously in the past two years – and in persuading the Palestinian leadership "to stop the terror offensive" and cultivate moderation.

Sharon expressed these views as the intifadah heated up again. Last month, as settlers desperately tried to thwart the withdrawal through protests, marches, speeches, prayers and road blockades, there was an upsurge of violence, capped by the July 12 Islamic Jihad suicide bombing in Netanya in which four Israelis were killed and more than 70 wounded. The second incident of its kind since the cease-fire, or "period of calm," went into effect on Feb. 8, the July bombing was followed by a Hamas onslaught during which it fired mortars and rockets into Gaza and Israel and killed several Israelis.

In response, Israel resumed targeted assassinations; stormed Nablus in a hunt for Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade militants associated with Hamas; temporarily re-occupied Tulkarm after previously relinquishing it in a goodwill gesture; stepped up arrests of Palestinians suspected of engaging in terrorism, and threatened to launch a full-scale invasion of Gaza.

In part, Israel carried out these operations to shatter the supposition, propagated by Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar and others, that Sharon is retreating from Gaza under fire. But it is a thesis worth pondering. The withdrawal is certainly in Israel's long-range interests, but would Sharon have considered disengagement had the Palestinians stoically accepted Israel's occupation and not initiated the second intifadah?

Despite the recent surge of violence (436 incidents in July alone) and the numerous attempts by Palestinian bombers to penetrate Israeli lines of late, the fact remains that suicide bombings have declined radically, from a high of 40 in 2002, the bloodiest year of the intifadah in terms of casualties, to six in 2004.

Israeli military measures, the security fence that snakes around Gaza and the still-incomplete West Bank separation barrier mainly account for the drastic decline in attacks.

But in a few key instances, on Abbas' direct orders, Palestinian police have arrested and clashed with militants. In an obvious reference to Abbas, whom he has met and who has long called for the demilitarization of the intifadah, Sharon said, "There exist in Palestinian society… moderate forces who want to make the right choice."

But what if the pullout fails, fuelling Islamic militancy in Gaza and leaving Israel vulnerable, as outgoing finance minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested in a gloomy but self-serving resignation speech last week?

Sharon believes that if the Palestinians choose "the path of war and terror" in the wake of the withdrawal, Israel will deal with it efficiently. Indeed, he told U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Jerusalem recently that Gaza-based terrorism would be met with a harsh response.

Ariel Sharon

In the meantime, Israel is preparing for the worst-case scenario. It is constructing two additional fences around Gaza and establishing a new defence line adjacent to Gaza, where troops will be redeployed once the withdrawal has been completed next month.

For Sharon, the disengagement is also designed to defuse international criticism of Israel, which has been building since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt in September 2000. As he put it: "The purpose of [Palestinian] terror is… to force the international community to actively intervene against Israel. Disengagement stopped this trend… Now it is clear to the world that Israel is ready to [make] genuinely painful concessions. Now, the nations of the world have directed their demands to the Palestinians – to dismantle the terror organizations, stop the incitement, introduce law and order, and focus on bolstering Palestinian society rather than destroying the State of Israel."

These assumptions, though plausible, could explode in Sharon's face if he seriously tries to strengthen Israel's hold on the remainder of the West Bank.

It has been said that he regards disengagement as a trade-off: Gaza and the four West Bank settlements in exchange for a relatively free hand in the rest of the West Bank.

Although Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert claims this is not the case, Sharon himself has fuelled such speculation. Shortly after assuming power, he said that he would cede only about 40 per cent of the West Bank to the Palestinians, which is what they presently possess thanks to the Oslo negotiations.

Recently, in a revealing interview with the French daily *Le Figaro*, he elaborated on his grand vision of the West Bank. In accordance with his oft-stated plan to retain settlement blocs, he plans to expand Ariel – which is deep inside the West Bank– and to create a contiguous territorial link between Ariel and the Green Line. On July 21, Sharon visited Ariel, saying it will remain in Israel's hands. As well, he wants to enlarge Maaleh Adumim, the West Bank's biggest Jewish settlement.

Israel's expansion of settlements, as documented by Peace Now's Settlement Watch, lends credence to the belief that Sharon is intent on controlling a good chunk of the West Bank. The continuing construction is a violation of Israel's obligation under the 2003 "road map" peace plan to freeze such activities.

Israel's separation barrier, which is supposed to be ready next year and may yet form Israel's permanent border, is also problematic. Much of the fence cuts through the West Bank rather than along the Green Line and is cited by critics as an example of Israeli unilateralism. Israel will finish the fence, but it will provoke sharp criticism from, among others, the United Nations, the European Union, Canada and the United States.

In his June 30 statement, Sharon also justified disengagement by claiming that it will fortify Israel's valued alliance with the United States. This could well be true. But in the year ahead, Israel's friendship with Washington may be sorely tested if Israel rejects proposals for further withdrawals from the West Bank to advance the prospect of a viable two-state solution.

Gaza is doubtless an important milestone, but it is merely the first step in a lengthy, historic, divisive, acrimonious process that will set Israel's borders and determine its destiny as a Jewish state.

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New shlicha ready for challenges in Toronto

Haifa native eager to begin duties at UJA Federation

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation has a new Israeli emissary on staff, and quite simply, she can't wait to start.

"I am so enthusiastic to start here in Toronto, because I am so impressed with Toronto's Jewish community and its level of generosity and commitment both here, and for Israel," says Keren Hayesod's representative in Toronto Maya Talmon Chvacier, a 37-year-old native of Haifa who happens to celebrate her birthday on the eve of Israel's Independence Day.

Talmon Chvacier comes to Toronto with an impressive background, having received her Ph.D at the University of Haifa, before going on to teach there. For the past four years, she has been the director of the Centre for the Study of the United States.

A mother of two boys, Lavy, 10 and Naveh, 5, the Israeli native is also happy to come to Toronto for what she calls "a new challenge."

"From what I know about Jewish Toronto so far, one of my priorities in this new job is to bring more disconnected Jews - those who are not affiliated in any real way - to a Jewish lifestyle," she says. "I want to perform a lot of outreach for these people, and we're currently looking at new and innovative ways to do that."

Maya Talmon Chvacier

Another important goal of Talmon Chvacier involves the development of meaningful programs for young people who have returned from Israel experience trips such as March of the Living and *birthright israel*.

"These programs are fantastic for our Jewish youngsters to become familiar with their roots, but what I really want to concentrate on is what happens when the programs are over and the participants return to Toronto. I want to stay in touch with these youngsters, and find ways of keeping them involved in Jewish life, so that they can build on what they discovered in Israel."

Holocaust Education Week features a Conspiracy of Goodness

Chances are pretty good that a tiny Protestant farming village in the mountains of south-central France by the name of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon means little to the vast majority of readers. However, as it turns out, citizens of that small town played a pivotal role in the lives of 5,000 Jews in danger during the Holocaust. The towns- people of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon defied the Nazis providing endangered Jews with a safe haven.

For that reason, *Weapons of the Spirit: Le Chambon-sur-Lignon: Conspiracy of Goodness* will be the opening program at this year's Holocaust Education Week (HEW) focusing on the collective courage of the town's residents. The opening night event will feature speaker Pierre Sauvage, a child survivor of the Holocaust, an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and founder of the non-profit Chambon Foundation.

With more than 125 programs, HEW, coordinated by UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto, is the largest event of its kind in the world. This year it runs from October 27 to November 9 with programs across the GTA and beyond in churches, schools, libraries, and synagogues from Kingston to Sault Ste. Marie.

Opening night speaker Pierre Sauvage (centre) with Righteous of the Nations Marie Brottes and Henri Heritier at the Le Chambon priemier of his documentary Weapons of the Spirit.

"Sixty years have passed since the end of the Second World War and the liberation of Auschwitz, yet Jewish communities around the world still struggle with issues of antisemitism, racism and intolerance," says UJA Federation Chair David Engel. "It is my belief that education is our strongest tool against the ignorance that leads to racism and hate. This is the gift that Holocaust Education Week has been delivering for the last 25 years."

"Each year we dedicate our program to our survivors and their lost families," HEW chair Honey Carr, along with Joan Shapero said. "It is important to honour the victims and preserve their stories and memories. We pay tribute to their courage."

For more information call 416.631.5689.

Societies launch UJA Federation Campaign 2006

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

Over the 92 years since Toronto's Societies were established by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, they have helped to strengthen Toronto's Jewish community, promote Jewish education and influence future generations. Last week UJA Federation's Societies division celebrated its annual campaign launch, marking past success and paying tribute to their devoted division chairs Michael Rosenberg and Morris Flicht.

(l-r) Campaign 2006 Chair Honey Sherman, Morris Flecht, Michael Rosenberg and Campaign 2006 Chair Warren Kimel.

"Societies have been constant supporters of UJA, wholly committed to the State of Israel and to the needs of the Toronto community, and we are grateful for all their hard work and devotion," said Warren Kimel, Campaign 2006 co-chair with Honey Sherman. "We recognize that the Societies represent the foundation of our community and that, as we build for our future, we could not have come this far and accomplished this much without the strength and conviction of our past."

"As a child of Holocaust survivors, I was taught the importance of *tzedakah* and *tikun olam* (healing the world) from an early age," added Sherman. "It's a lesson all of you know well and for that reason I can't tell you how much being here tonight means to me."

Flicht and Rosenberg were singled out and honoured for their committed work as division chairs and their continuing contribution to UJA.

"These two men represent everything volunteerism stands for in our community," said Steve Ain, UJA Federation's Senior Vice President of Integrated Development. "After everything, you both still believe in the importance of our cause. We couldn't get two better people."

Torontonians volunteer in Eilat

Toronto's Jewish community - through UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 (P2K) initiative - enjoys a strong connection with Israel's Eilat/Eilot Region. Two Israeli firefighters visited Toronto last year as guest of UJA Federation, where they met with their Canadian counterparts. Recently, eight young Torontoians volunteered in the Eilat area. Two of them assisted the area's firefighters.

Pictured, Toronto's Rikki Bennie (iside the truck) and Sammy Goren underwent training before joining the firefighters on their calls. "They made us feel like part of the family," said Goren. "We loved coming to work every day."

Read all about it!

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Exciting new challenge for UJA Federation campaign

Campaign 2006 set to launch on September 1

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

A new initiative to encourage gift increases has been added to UJA Federation Campaign 2006, and the campaign chairs are feeling optimistic about its impact.

The Chairmen's Challenge Fund will match any gift increase that brings a donor up to between $100 and $1000. It will also match any new gift of up to $1000. The fund is being financed by the family of Warren Kimel, who is chairing Campaign 2006 with Honey Sherman

"By us matching their gift increases, people are starting to realize that their gifts suddenly will have that much more impact and significance," said Kimel. "Honey and I have already begun our canvassing, and we're very optimistic about the Fund. The response from community members has been terrific which bodes really well for Campaign 2006."

"We are so very fortunate to have access to this Fund thanks to Warren's overwhelming generosity," said Sherman. "It's been a pleasure meeting with members of our community at all levels of giving so far. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and Warren and I are confident that the Chairmen's Challenge Fund will help us find the new dollars necessary to meet the challenge of this campaign."

Campaign 2006 will work to help children at risk, including Israel's Ethiopian immigrants.

The goal of Campaign 2006 is to raise 10 million additional dollars within three years to create new opportunities for Jewish young people at risk in Israel, Toronto and around the world.

The Campaign 2006 action plan will concentrate on three key areas:

- Social Justice - assisting Toronto's poor and vulnerable
- Re-building Israeli lives - offering new opportunities to help relieve the impact of five years of terror on Israel's youth
- Helping Jewish youth return to Jewish life - programs that will strengthen the attachment of Jewish young people to the Jewish community and Israel.

Campaign 2006 will officially launch at Toronto's Royal York Hotel on Thursday, September 1. The launch will feature *The West Wing's* TV star Joshua Malina, and Israeli singing sensation, David Broza.

For ticket information, call 416.631.5700 or visit www.ujaevents.com/2006launch

Then and Now

Then and now is a feature of Jewish Toronto which updates readers on recent stories

New BJE inspired book to debut in Toronto schools

On March 17 of this year, Jewish Toronto reported on a new book authored by three teachers affiliated with UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education.

Immediately after the story was published and the book's official launch was held at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, *Telling Our Story: A History of Jews in Canada to 1920* - made possible through the Max and Beatrice Wolfe Charitable Foundation - caught on with educators. They quickly ordered hundreds for use in Associated Hebrew Schools, Bialik Hebrew Day School, Leo Baeck Day School and United Synagogue Day School, beginning this coming September.

Telling Our Story, which complements the Ontario history curriculum for grades seven and eight, was co-authored by Dr. Jack Lipinsky, Meir Balofsky and Donnie Friedman. The initiative was inspired by the BJE's Etgar (Challenge) program, which provides funding for innovative educational projects.

Two authors, Lipinsky and Balofsky, will be helping BJE teachers draw upon the book to plan creative, interdisciplinary learning opportunities for their students at a BJE teachers' workshop later this month.

It was all smiles at April's BJE book launch for "Telling our Story," a history of Jews in Canada to 1920.

Innovative centre will enhance Jewish experience

Access to knowledge has always been an integral part of Jewish community life. Literature, music and art continually play a significant role in its evolution and growth. UJA Federation's new Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage promises to continue this valuable tradition of Jewish education and cultural enrichment. The innovative centre, with Susan Jackson as its founding executive director, will integrate the Jewish Public Library, the Ontario Jewish Archives, the Holocaust Centre, the Jewish Pedagogic Library, the Board of Jewish Education's Media Centre and Jewish Information Services of Greater Toronto, providing community members with a higher caliber of events and programs.

Susan Jackson

One of the new centre's main goals is to partner with many different organizations throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Offering joint programming with other institutions and communities will enable the centre to reach out to the unaffiliated and those who would otherwise not attend Jewish events of any kind.

Jackson, who brings with her 23 years of Jewish community experience, is enthusiastic about the broader implications of the centre and its impact on the city of Toronto as a whole.

"We want to collaborate and present programs at, for instance, Jewish Community Centres , synagogues and other cultural facilities that are not necessarily Jewish," Jackson explained. "In this way we will see programming all over the city and, to a wide range of people, educating everyone in the process."

UJA Federation mission to celebrate historic event

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

There are times when it's not enough to learn about urgent situations through current literature, on Internet sites or in newspapers. Sometimes personal experience is essential. Eighteen UJA Federation mission participants will take this notion to heart when, on September 8, they travel to Moldova, Europe's poorest country to celebrate the historic opening of a new Jewish community campus built in the capital of Kishinev with Toronto's help.

Kishinev is home to approximately 18,000 Jews who have been anxiously awaiting the construction of the city's Jewish campus, ten years in the making. The development of this landmark project has in large part been realized through a generous donation made to UJA Federation from the late Steven Lewar. With this lead gift the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) was able to begin building the centre in 2003, which will accommodate the growing array of Jewish communal activities that were once illegal under communist rule.

"This community centre is the main hope and joy of Moldovian Jewry today," said Stuart Saffer, the JDC representative for Moldova. "The site of the campus was the site of the old Jewish synagogue, built in the 1830s, and returned to the Jewish community. It is going to be a one stop address for Jewish community life."

Leo Goldhar, JDC board member and the Kishinev mission co-chair, along with Allan Brown, was clear about the importance of this endeavor and its impact on Kishinev Jewry.

Construction of the new Jewish campus will be completed next month in Kishinev.

"It is our responsibility, wherever there are Jews in need to help them," Goldhar explained. "This is my commitment, to help as much as I can and to get this important message across to Toronto Jewry."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Jewish scientist helps uncover oldest dinosaur embryo

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Almost 30 years since they were first discovered, scientists have successfully excavated two of six 190-million-year-old fossilized eggs containing dinosaur embryos.

The embryos, 100 million years older than any other articulated embryos known to scientists, have provided paleontologists with groundbreaking discoveries about the life and development of the Massospondylus, a plant-eating dinosaur from the Jurassic era.

"The quality of the fossil is superb," said Robert Reisz, a biology professor at the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus. "It is a completely articulated, beautiful skeleton."

But Reisz said the fact that these are the oldest embryos known to scientists is secondary to what he and his team have learned about the life and development of the Massospondylus.

When the embryos were discovered in 1978 in South Africa as a result of roadwork, they were left in storage until three years ago because scientists were unsure how to study them and didn't want to risk damaging them.

After Reisz was approached to head the project, his research assistant Diane Scott, managed to free the embryo after a year of chipping away at the surrounding sediment that even infiltrated the egg using a 100X magnification microscope and miniature excavating tools.

Once she exposed the embryo, Reisz was able to reconstruct a detailed growth trajectory.

In South Africa, the Massospondylus were quite common and many skeletons in later stages of life were discovered. Reisz was able to determine the dinosaurs' growth pattern by comparing it to juvenile and adult skeletons of the same species.

His team, including his assistant Scott; Hans-Dieter Sues, a paleontologist at the Natural Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian in Washington; graduate student David Evans; and Michael Rath, a scientist at the University of Witwatersrand, discovered how they grew from 15 cm, to a five metre adult.

"This growth trajectory shows us that Massospondylus starts out as an awkward looking animal that is an obligatory quadruped, with a relatively short tail, a horizontal neck, long forearms and a huge head," said Reisz, who considers himself an anomaly by being one of a very few Jews in this scientific field.

"As the animal grows, the neck grows faster than the rest of the body, but the forelimb and head grow much more slowly than the rest of the body."

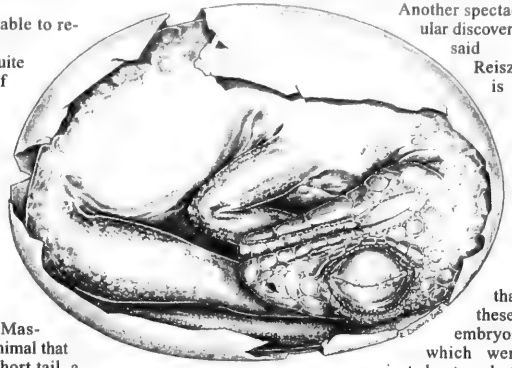
This information, which was published in the journal *Science* last week, suggests that contrary to most living organisms, they crawled on all fours in their infancy stage and later developed into bipedal dinosaurs.

"I can't think of any other species that does that other than humans. As babies, some lizards and crocodiles can scurry around on their hind legs for a short distance, but as adults they can't," he said.

But what separates the growth pattern of these plant-eating dinosaurs from most living things is how much they grow from a hatchling to an adult.

For instance, the femur, or thighbone of the hatchling was measured at 1 cm in length. After comparing this to the femur of an adult Massospondylus, which measured 55 cm, they were able to deduce that they grew about 50 times their birth size.

This, compared to the fact that humans, and even elephants, only grow about three to five times their size at birth, impressed the scientists.



Another spectacular discovery, said Reisz, is that these embryos, which were just about ready to hatch, had not yet developed teeth. This suggests that these dinosaurs may have needed parental care. Reisz's theory is that the mother would regurgitate plant material for their offspring, similar to the way birds regurgitate insects for their young.

Reisz, the McGill University graduate who often struggles for funding to further his research, said he hopes these discoveries will entice people to look at the growth trajectory of embryos to adults in a new light.

He added that studying relatively smaller, plant-eating dinosaurs is not as "sexy" as studying predators like a Tyrannosaurus Rex, but he still hopes his discoveries will lead to new studies and developments.

His goal is to go back to South Africa, to the same region where the embryos were discovered, in hopes they may discover nesting sites and more eggs, which will give scientists a better understanding of the biology of the organisms.

As for the research, this is just the beginning, said Reisz, who is in the process of developing a paper in much more detail than the one that was released last week.

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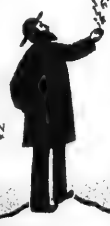

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Jewish Life

The Jews of Nagasaki

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

The 60th anniversary of the atomic blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki provides an occasion to recall the small but thriving Jewish community that once existed in the southern Japanese port city of Nagasaki.

Nagasaki's Jewish colony was founded by a few Jewish refugees fleeing the Russian pogroms of the 1880s (the town had long been frequented by Russia's Far Eastern fleet). The community soon reached about 100 families in size. A synagogue, Beth Israel, was built in 1894.

With the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, the beleaguered Jewish community of Nagasaki passed its Torah scoll to its counterpart in Kobe. After a severe earthquake in 1923, the town's remaining Jews relocated to Kobe for good. The Russian-born Zionist hero Joseph Trumpeldor (1880-1920), who lost an arm in the Russo-Japanese conflict, lived briefly in Nagasaki and is perhaps its best-known Jewish resident.

According to credible reports, no Jews were living in Nagasaki when it was devastated by the atomic explosion of Aug. 9, 1945, three days after a similar atomic blast levelled Hiroshima.

Nineteen years later, in the summer of 1964, an American Jewish chaplain in Japan attempted to find the community's abandoned cemetery. After much fruitless searching, Chaplain Marvin Tokayer located an old map of Nagasaki that indicated the outline of an obscure rectangular enclosure on a local hilltop. A short taxi ride later, Tokayer ended a trail had he had been pursuing for months.

Scattered in the field before him were numerous stone monuments, many engraved with Hebrew, Japanese, Russian and English characters, all dating between 1880 and 1920. The lost Jewish cemetery of Nagasaki had been found.

Nagasaki's Jewish Cemetery about 1900

An unsigned article about the cemetery appeared in various Jewish publications, including *The CJN*, in the summer of 1964.

"The Jewish cemetery is on a hilltop overlooking a granite pillar marking the epicentre of the atomic blast," the story reported. "The hill crest protected the cemetery from heat and blast, but almost 50 years of neglect had taken their toll and the grounds were sadly dilapidated."

Tokayer reportedly enlisted some 20 Jews from the Jewish community of Tokyo, the Israeli Embassy and a local American marine corps station and airbase to "clean and restore the cemetery and to recite the *Kel Moleh Rachamim*… the prayers for the dead.

"With water buckets, weed removers, brushes and soap, everyone worked to clean moss from the grave stones and remove weeds from the grounds. It added purpose to the work to recall that a Jewish community lived, worked and worshipped near the very spot, Chaplain Tokayer asserted."

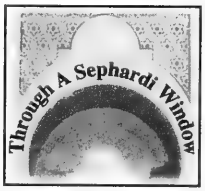
We owe to Tokayer, who later became a noted expert on Oriental Jews and author of *The Fugu Plan*, the restoration of the old Jewish cemetery in the Sakamoto Gaijin district of Nagasaki. A photograph of the cemetery that accompanies this column and another of the synagogue appeared in the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, published in the United States between 1900 and 1906.

The 'Canadian experience' dilemma

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the arrival in Toronto of the first Moroccan immigrants. This article is part of a series about the community's early days.

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

In the late '50s, Canada saw a sudden influx of immigrants. Of these, the Moroccans were only a small minority amongst the Italians, Greeks, Hungarians and others.



Immigrants were not always welcomed warmly – this was well before the birth of the social theory of multiculturalism. At the time, the University of Toronto conducted a social experiment in which individuals who were quite obviously new to the country were dispatched to the then very "WASPy" borough of Scarborough. There they were to go from door to door, offering six $1 bills in return for a $5 bill. It was found that there was not even one individual who would accept their proposition. Such was the disdain for and distrust of these new Canadians.

Nowhere did this feeling make itself felt more for the newcomers than in their attempt to find a job.

Like all newcomers, the Moroccans came prepared to work in order to provide for their families. They quickly found that their eagerness to do an honest day's work was insufficient to land them a job.

Those who searched for office work, the same sort of white collar occupation that they had done in the old country, found that the two major employers – the financial and insurance giants of Bay Street – were virtually unapproachable if you a member of a minority.

Furthermore, immigrants seeking to enter the labour market at any level were confronted with the two most heinous words, given as reason for refusal – "Canadian experience," or the lack thereof. This blatantly derogatory and discriminating term was then the politically correct way to communicate that "you are an immigrant, and immigrants are not wanted here, thank you."

Immigrant applicants were told, over and over again, that no matter how willing or capable they might be, if they did not have "Canadian experience" they were somehow not worthy.

Compounding this was the nagging issue of Jewish observance – requests for time off for Jewish holidays and to leave early on winter Fridays for Shabbat.

Few things can be more demeaning, despairing and depressing than being denied the ability to provide for one's family, especially since during all of this time, one's family would go in need. Day in and day out, one would find doors of opportunity slamming in one's face in the wretched name of "Canadian experience."

It was not uncommon to find individuals who, after long, unsuccessful and disappointing searches would accept jobs whose very nature would be crushing to their self-esteem. Family heads with no other income alternative took menial and even janitorial jobs. Many accepted work in factories that more often than not were owned by other Jews or that generally used immigrants as a source of cheap labour.

One has to honour and respect these immigrants who, out of necessity, were ready and able to do anything to support their families in the best and most honourable fashion that was available.

Jewish Life

Ba'al Shem Tov

The Besht: Magician, Mystic and Leader
by Immanuel Etkes; Brandeis University Press

Who was Israel ben Eliezer (1700-1760)? He was known as the Besht, an acronym for Ba'al Shem Tov, the Master of the Good Name. Until relatively recently, he was regarded as a semi-literate, anti-establishment figure – a healer of minor ailments and the performer of worthy deeds. He was often depicted as a teacher of children, an elusive personality who spent much time in meditation and solitude. In addition, he taught that sincere religion mattered more to God than knowledge of the Talmud.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Because the whole world is full of God's glory, he encouraged the enjoyment of one's senses. Why should the pious reject the world's pleasures if they could lead to spiritual awareness and growth? This notion was a strong challenge to many ideas current among the Kabbalists of the time who preached asceticism, and even advocated that Jews fast every Monday and Thursday. The Ba'al Shem Tov warned people against such practices, fearing that they would lead to melancholy, not joy.

Immanuel Etkes, professor of history of the Jewish people and education at the Hebrew University, has written a groundbreaking scholarly study of the Besht, whose innovative approach to Judaism proved revolutionary and transformative.

For Etkes, the Besht was undoubtedly the person who set in motion the process that was in time to lead to the chassidic movement. Yet, recent evidence makes clear that he was not unlettered or unsophisticated or an anti-establishment figure. Indeed, he received a handsome stipend from the Jewish community of Meziboz in Poland, where he lived not far from the Lithuanian border.

The Besht, new evidence suggests, was the model of a mystic deeply involved in the affairs of the public, working within it and on its behalf.

Etkes writes, "In effect, the Besht had created a new model of public leader. This model was characterized by a combination of three features: a ba'al shem who is empowered to relieve individual suffering; a leader who applies his endowment of unusual powers to the spiritual and material welfare of the public; and a mystic who paves new paths in divine worship that others are to follow."

One of the novel aspects of leadership advanced by the Besht was the result of the intense mystical experiences he underwent and of his ability – at least as far as his followers were concerned – to advance the cause of troubled spirits in the "Upper Worlds," either by carrying up prayers that have not reached their destination or by redeeming the souls of sinners.

But the Besht was convinced that his mission in life was not confined to relieving the ailments of individuals, that he was responsible also for the welfare of the Jewish people as a whole. He further believed that the unusual powers with which he was graced, those he made use of in his work as a ba'al shem, were conferred upon him in order to be used for both rich and poor, the ignorant and the learned, the lowly and the highly placed.

After his death, his closest followers dispersed to a number of communities in eastern Europe where they furthered their exalted teacher's ideas and way of life.

Chassidism, in its many diverse forms, is a powerful, growing force in modern-day Orthodoxy. Its origins and development, as well as the nature and personality of its founder, are subjects of enduring interest and importance.

Jewish homeschooling

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The days are getting shorter… and kids are gearing up for school. For most of them, that means a daily trip by bus, by carpool or even by foot to meet up with old friends and new teachers. But for a select group of Jewish students, their classroom is in their den or bedroom – and their teachers are their parents.

Some Jewish families are opting for homeschooling because of geographical or philosophical needs. But even if you are perfectly happy with your children's current schooling arrangement, you still have the opportunity to learn about an alternative type of Jewish education. Here's a sampling of comments from supporters and critics of Jewish homeschooling.

"It is fabulous to be able to customize the Judaic and secular curricula to their abilities… I sense that some of the parents trapped in the yeshiva system of school days that run six days a week until almost dinner envy our freedom. And it is not a freedom I would easily give up. Actually, the nicest thing is something my husband learned when he was homeschooled – that learning is a function of effort, not time. If I can teach this to my children…" Anonymous. **[www.chayas.com/homeschooltestimony.htm]**

"Learning has a multiplier effect when it takes place in groups… You know the line that's been popularized – 'Does not get along well with others.' Well, if you have no experience getting along with others, it's hard to do it." Richard Wagner, head of school at Ben Porat Yosef Sephardic Yeshiva in Bergen County, N.J., to *Forward*. **[http://tinyurl.com/e4j4p]**

"My children see their friends almost every afternoon. They aren't busy with homework, after all. Is school for socialization? My experience was always being told to be quiet and not talk to our friends! We are also part of a strong community through our shul and the children are friends with kids of various ages from different schools." Lisa, mother of Rena and Aviv, to the *Jerusalem Post*. **[http://tinyurl.com/am33c]**

"We [Jews] are a tribe, a religion, a social entity. We count minyans. We are by definition people who educate in groups… Talmud and midrash aren't monologues. They aren't even dialogues. They're a plurality of voices crossing intellectual abilities, space and time." Rabbi Henry Shreibman, then executive director of Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Francisco, to the *Jewish Bulletin of Northern California*. **[http://tinyurl.com/c6skx]**

Aside from anecdotal experience, I couldn't find any analyses online studying Jewish homeschooling in North America. However, I did come across an Israeli report that looks at the phenomenon in that country as well as general principles that seem to transcend borders. Here are two of the reasons the researchers suggest families turn to homeschooling:

• "Homeschooling allows parents… to re-experience and better cope with their own difficult experiences, as well as allowing the parents to invest in their children at a level that they themselves would have liked to receive but did not…

• "Homeschooling is perceived as rescuing the child from regressing emotionally and ethically or morally, which is what occurs when he or she encounters the conventional school system."

The report *Homeschooling as a Fundamental Change in Lifestyle* was created by the Centre for Futurism in Education at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev. The study is in English. **[http://tinyurl.com/exwqa]**

Barry Koff has an interesting perspective on Jewish Homeschooling. He has taught Hebrew and Judaic studies at Temple Bat Yahm in Newport Beach, Calif. And he has taught Hebrew and Judaic studies to his twins at home. He sums it up very well:

"Homeschooling is not for everyone. Each child is unique, and every family dynamic is different. But for us, as evidenced by my son's smile and enthusiasm, and my daughter's energy and anticipation, it has made all the difference. I can recite for the first time, with commitment and sense of purpose, the second paragraph of Judaism's defining prayer, the *Shema*: 'Teach them faithfully to your children; speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up.'" **[http://tinyurl.com/8oeu6]**

Next time, back-to-school resources from Jewish homeschoolers that anyone can take advantage of.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Toronto Salon featured in guidebook for young Jews

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

A guidebook that showcases 50 of the most innovative Jewish non-profit organizations in North America titled *Slingshot* was launched last week in New York City.

The project, put together by 21/64, a division of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies (ACBP), was conceived by young philanthropists who hope the book will expose innovative and forward-thinking organizations to 18- to 25-year-old Jews who are looking for ways to connect with their community.

From JDub Records, a non-profit record and event-production company that promotes Jewish reggae and hip-hop artists, to the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, a centre for women's advanced study of classical Jewish texts, *Slingshot* is meant to represent a portrait of the post-modern Jewish community, said Sharna Goldseker, the director of special projects for 21/64 and ACBP.

"We were working with younger funders who felt they didn't have a sense of a Jewish landscape or how to navigate it."

Goldseker added that ACBP recently conducted a report that polled 18- to 25-year-old Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims. Forty-seven per cent of them felt they were in the middle of being "godly or godless." They care deeply about their identity, but wanted to find informal rather than institutional ways to become involved with their religion.

A Toronto-based organization listed in *Slingshot,* the Jewish Salon, headed by journalist Mireille Silcoff, is meant to fill that void.

What began as a small gathering in her living room two years ago has evolved into an exclusive monthly event that brings young, influential, successful Jews together.

When Silcoff moved to Toronto from Montreal, where she had grown up, she began to "crave something Jewish."

Never one to go to synagogue or join a Jewish community centre, she was inspired to create the salon after attending the inaugural meeting of Reboot, an organization that helps Jews maintain a connection to their roots, which was founded by ACBP and Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation.

With themes that range from the concept of sin and the concept of Jews as the chosen people to the construct of the cool Jew, salon sessions are meant to be an outlet for Jews in their 20s and 30s to have discussions and "feel Jewish without having someone wag a finger at you."

The salon caught on so quickly and grew so much that she moved the venue from her living room to a trendy downtown Toronto hangout, the Drake Hotel.

Silcoff, who organizes the salon on her own, puts together reading packages that focus on a particular Jewish theme. The idea is that the participants will come with the knowledge needed to participate in sometimes heated discussions.

"I just wanted them to do the readings and have something important to say."

Silcoff recalled what she described as the most inflammatory session, during which the topic of discussion was the relationship between Jews and money. She said that although some people were getting so angry that they left, "in a way, it was the best one because people were getting so fired up."

Mireille Silcoff

She does, however, make restriction about what can be discussed. She made a rule that anti-Semitism and Israel are two topics that will not be broached because she says there are other outlets for people to discuss these topics, but admitted that she caved in last year when they discussed humour and irony in Israel.

She said the most challenging part of putting the salon together is having to come up with her selective guest list. With the Jewish Salon gaining more popularity as the months go by, this has forced Silcoff to be even more discriminating.

She said that while there is a huge waiting list, she doesn't want this to become something open to the public because, historically, salons are meant to be selective.

"Salons are supposed to be low-fi. With 80 people, it's not going to work."

However, there are plans to expand the Jewish Salon to other parts of North America.

She said there is a huge interest in Montreal and she is in the process of launching one in New York. In Los Angeles, there has been a salon up and running for a year now, and she added that it is very likely that San Francisco will soon have a salon to call its own.

The most important thing to come out of the salon, she said, is the friendships and connections that have been made through a Jewish context.

"It is interesting to them, who like me, are secular Jews with identity problems that everyone has."

Silcoff, who funds the salon on her own, is proud of the fact that it is unlike any other institutional Jewish organizations.

While she is proud to be a part of *Slingshot*, she thinks of it as a catch-22.

Silcoff welcomes the recognition the guidebook will offer, but wants to keep the salon non-institutional.

"Even if I was offered funding, I wouldn't take it because it goes against what the salon stands for."

The salon is on hiatus for the summer, but Silcoff plans to host another session in late October. This will coincide with the launch of her magazine *Guilt & Pleasure*, a new Jewish literary magazine that will feature, she says, "some of the best writers and best thinkers."

For more information about the salon, visit http://www.mireillesilcoff.com.

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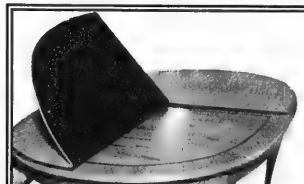
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Habonim reunion held

Continued from page 5

The madrichim or counsellors, are all volunteer members of a certain age who take complete control of camp organization.

Anyone with a connection to Habonim, or who would like to hear Gideon Shimoni, can contact Skapinker at marks@brightspark.com.

The Canadian Jewish news

CONGRATULATIONS

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

Please fill in the requested information and fax to 416-391-0949 or mail to 1500 Don Mills Rd, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4

Name _____

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Date of wedding _____

Location of wedding _____

Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

These two loving cousins recently each became engaged. Yael Ben-Dat (right) to Jordan Appell of Chicago, and Adam Laiken to Elana Weintraub of Toronto. Their relatives and friends are very happy and wish them Mazel tov. From Bubbie Leah.

Happy 80th birthday to a wonderful husband, father and zaidy. L'chaim to Bernie Waldman and many more happy birthdays.

Mazel tov to Yehuda & Stephanie Sadek on their first anniversary.

Mazel tov to Rhoda Kasner on her 65th birthday, July 1. With love from her husband Irv, children and grandchildren.

Julius and Celia Mink, 60 years together, through thick and thin. With love, your family or your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos, keeping wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New deadlines: NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. Monday, Aug. 22, is the deadline for the Sept. 1 issue, Monday, Aug. 29, is the deadline for the Sept. 8 issue and Wednesday, Aug. 31, is the deadline for the Sept. 15 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Friday, Aug. 19

SHABBAT POTLUCK PICNIC

Join Temple Har Zion for its Shabbat potluck picnic-dinner after 6:30 p.m. Shabbat services. Bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share, lawn chairs and blankets. To RSVP, call **Rhona** at 905-889-2252, ext. 7.

LODZER ONEG SHABBAT

The Lodzer Congregation hosts an Oneg Shabbat with **Marty Green** performing excerpts from *The Ballad of Monish* in English and Yiddish. Program and dinner $40. To reserve, call 416-636-6665.

Sunday, Aug. 21

WALK AND TALK ETC

The walking group Energetic Jewish Singles 50 + will learn about the history and ecology of the Don Valley Brickworks. Meet at the front entrance of the adminstrative building located on the west side of the Bayview Ave. extension, just south of Pottery Rd. at 9:30 a.m. Semi-annual fee, $20. For information and registration, contact walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

BRIDE AND GROOM

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham offers a course for couples getting married before December with **Rabbi Avraham** and **Goldie Plotkin**, beginning today at 83 Green Lane from 10 a.m. to noon. For details, call 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

MOMS & TOTS OPEN HOUSE

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is holding an open house 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for their new mom and tot program, which begins in September. For information, contact **Robin** at 416-789-3213, ext. 217.

Monday, Aug. 22

JEWISH WOMEN & MUSIC

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents "A Musical Celebration of Jewish Women," with **Lauren Segal**, **Renee Winick** and **Rosalind Mills**, accompanied by **Nathan Rosen**. They perform opera, Broadway, Jewish and jazz pieces. 8 p.m. $5 at the door. 3080 Bayview Ave. 416-221-3433, ext. 303.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

A MOTHER'S PLEA

Shani Taragin leads a women's beit midrash on "A Mother's Plea: Rachel Cries for Her Children." 1-3:30 p.m. at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. $15. 416-633-5770, www.torahinmotion.org.

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

The Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets at 7 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. Open to people of all ages. For information, call **Irv Helpert** at 416-661-2541.

LISTENING TO CHILDREN

Rabbi Reuven and **Shani Taragin** lecture on "How to Talk So Children Will Listen – Revisited." 8 p.m. at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. $10. 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org.

Other news

STUDENT YARCHEI KALLAH

Torah in Motion invites university-aged young adults to a three-day Yarchei Kallah, "Elul and the Yamim Noraim in Tanach, Torah Ba'al Peh and Jewish Thought" with **Rabbi Reuven** and **Shani Taragin**, taking place Aug. 24-26 at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. Davening at 8:15 a.m., followed by breakfast and learning until 12:45 p.m. $30. 416-633-5770 www.torahinmotion.org.

COLORECTAL CANCER

The Canadian Cancer Society has a support group for people who have

Continued on page 21

3rd Annual CFHU Alumni & Friends
Family Fun Day For Paediatric Research
In association with Beth Torah Congregation

When: Sunday September 11, 2005
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Place: Camp Robin Hood, Markham
(East on Major Mac. (past Hwy 48) until end @ 9th line, follow Camp signs)

Please join us for a fun filled day of outdoor adventure and entertainment for all ages with activities including:

BBQ lunch, swimming, canoeing, low ropes course, beach volleyball, basketball, jungle gyms, mini golf, relay races, face painting, games, climbing wall, prizes, dancing & singing.

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- Discovery Toy play area
- Drumming Circle presented by Living Rhythm
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Jewish Family and Child Service
is seeking a
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11 Month Contract Position: August 29, 2005 – July 31, 2006

The Manager will direct the total operations of the JDD, which is a Children's Mental Health Centre operated by Jewish Family & Child Service in association with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

The Manager will oversee the clinical treatment of clients, supervise all non-TDSB staff and volunteers and work with the JF&CS Board of Directors. In addition, the Manager will relate to other stakeholders, including the community, social agencies and boards of education.

Qualifications: The incumbent requires an MSW degree or equivalent and extensive supervisory/management experience in the Children's Mental Health Sector. Familiarity with the Jewish culture and religion is an asset

Fax your resume to Ron Levin, Executive Director, Jewish Family and Child Service, 416-638-7943 or e-mail rlevin@jfandcs.com.

Deadline for applications is August 22. No telephone calls please. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

UJA Federation
Jewish Family and Child Service
United Way

What's New

Continued from page 20

been newly or recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 620 Wilson Ave., Suite 501. The next meeting takes place on Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. For information, call 416-638-0771.

CLUB SIMCHA

Chai Tikvah Foundation is a new program for people with mental health problems. Club Simcha meets every Tuesday afternoon through Aug. 30, 1-3:30 p.m. at National Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., for movies, board games and discussions. Call 416-665-0482.

CHORALAIRS

The Choralairs of North York start their new season on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 8:15 p.m. at Earl Bales Park Community Centre. New members are welcome. No auditions are required – all you need is a love of singing and a sense of fun. The Choralairs have been singing in nursing homes and seniors' residences for the past 43 years. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening, 8:15-10 p.m. Repertoire includes pop, Broadway, and folk songs. For information, call **Brian Slepchik** at 416-631-0029 or 416-540-7106.

NEW GROUPS FORMING

National Council of Jewish Women is forming new groups for young mothers, singles or anyone interested in meeting new people and getting involved in interesting fundraising projects. Call 416-633-5100.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Mekorot Institute of Torah Studies for Women offers day and evening text-based classes, including Bible, Jewish philosophy, Jewish law, Talmud and more. Courses are offered in three, four and six-week sessions and year-long sessions in a number of locations across the GTA. Visit www.mekorot.ca or call 416-877-2050.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Registration for Shaar Shalom Religious School is open for September 2005. The school offers classes for senior kindergarten through Grade 8. Classes are held on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Thornhill Secondary School. The Grade 7 class is held Wednesday evening and Saturday morning at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. For information, call **Hava Greenberg** at 905-889-4975.

ATERET SHALOM SCHOOL

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School runs classes in two locations in fall 2005. The locations are Bakersfield Public School, 121 Misty Sugar Dr. and York Hill Elementary School at Hilda and Clark Ave. The school offers classes from junior and senior kindergarten through Grade 7 and bar/bat mitzvah program, including individual tutoring. Program includes music, arts and crafts, Israeli folk dancing, Hebrew, history, holidays and prayers. For information, call 905-886-1457 or visit www.ateret.ca.

BOWLING GROUPS

Saturday Nighters' Bowling, 2005-06 season, begins Sunday, Aug. 28. Mixed or singles 50-plus are invited to join the group. A full program of social activities including theatre and dining is being planned. Call **Al Federman** at 416-635-0563 for information.

Maven Bowling is looking for new bowlers. This is a social league made up of men and women in their 30s and 40s who bowl every Thursday at 7:20 p.m. at Wilson ProBowl, 877 Wilson Ave. For information, call **Ron Caine** at 905-889-8333.

Ladies Wednesday Night League is looking for interested bowlers. The league meets at Playtime Bowl. For information, call **Charlene** at 416-221-9328.

MOUNTAINS OF MITTENS

For the past 15 years, Jewish Women International Canada members have made mittens, hats and scarves for children in need in Toronto schools. Many volunteers lovingly knit thousands of these items annually. If you like to knit and are interested in joining Knit For The Kids, call 416-630-9313 or e-mail at miriam@jwicanada.com. Wool is available at the JWIC office or use your own. Wool donations are also needed.

ISRAEL MISSION

Canadian Magen David Adom is hosting a health and wellness mission to Israel. For information about the trip, call 416-780-0034.

OSTEOPOROSIS GROUP

Seniors living with osteoporosis can register for "Power," a seven-week wellness program of exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes begin Oct. 17. $70. Call Baycrest Centre, 416-785-2500, ext. 2588.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Aug. 18, Israeli movie; Aug. 25, picnic at Earl Bales. 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Aug. 21 and Sept. 7. Casino Niagara/Fallsview, Wednesday, Sept. 21. Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino in Michigan, Nov. 8-11, members $435, non-members $455. Conversational Hebrew classes, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. Bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Visionaries: A Low Vision Group meets Thursday, Aug. 18, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

"Lunch and Learn," Tuesday, Aug. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring a one- or two-page story that you would like to share with the group. Members $5, guests $7. To register, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

"Montrealer Group" has its monthly meeting, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 1-2 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. For information, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Current Events" Thursdays through Aug. 25, 1-2:30 p.m. with **Shura Verona** facilitating. Member $1, guests $2. For information, call ext. 259.

"Incognito," a show of new and recent works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter**, is on display through Oct. 2 in the Koffler Gallery.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Each course is 16 hours. There are two classes per week and courses are four weeks long. Call **Janet** at ext. 259 to register.

You can now register for BJCC programs using centralized registration, which enables registeration for all BJCC/Koffler Centre programs at one time. Bring registration form and payment to BJCC information and registration area. Call 416-636-1880, ext. 235, fax form to 416-636-5813 or mail form to 4588 Bathurst St., Toronto M2R 1W6.

The Family Resource Centre located in the Promenade Mall is taking registration for fall parent and tot programs and parenting workshops. New drop-in hours begin Sept. 1. Visit www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca or call 905-882-8509.

The Koffler School of Music is accepting fall-session registration for babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information and registration, call ext. 228.

Registration is now open for September 2005 for morning preschool and full-day day care: A morning school Tic Tac Two program, 9-11:30 a.m; a morning nursery school two, three and five days a week, 9–11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and morning junior and senior kindergarten, 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The full-day day care is for toddlers 18 months through senior kindergarten. Includes music, fun centre gym, swimming, Hebrew for groups three years of age and up and discovery museum for preschool and up. For more information or to book a tour, call ext. 248.

DISABLED ISRAELI VETS HOSTED IN T.O.: Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada, recently hosted 10 disabled Israeli veterans in Toronto. While here, the veterans visited Jewish day schools and attended the organization's annual gala concert at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. In addition to touring Toronto, the veterans visited Niagara Falls, Ottawa and Kingston.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

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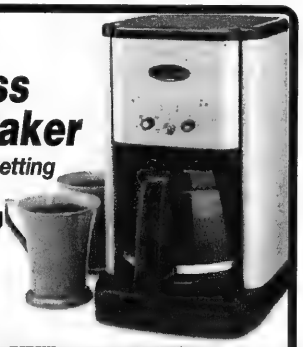

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Joe Indig	Jul 30/05	747 Briar Hill Avenue
Sally Lipton	Aug 2/05	26 Abbey Lane
Varda Hadayo	Aug 3/05	48 Royal Appian Crescent
Adeline Borins	Aug 4/05	38 Ridge Hill Drive
Martin Jacobson	Aug 4/05	3636 Bathurst Street
Etelka Reisz	Aug 5/05	61 Richview Road
Charles Goldlist	Aug 7/05	139 Strathearn Road

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Basil Cohen	Jul 28/05	3560 Bathurst St.
Evelina Daniel	Aug 6/05	Seniors Health Centre

HARRY ZWI TIEFENBACH ז"ל

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away on August 20th, 2004. Forever in our hearts, deeply loved, greatly loving. Sadly missing your smile, your hug, your gentle kiss,
Bella, Karen (Stephen), Hanita, Dara, Carly and Jordan.

The Toronto Board of Rabbis
mourns the passing of
Rabbi Yitzchak Witty ZL
Outstanding educator, spiritual leader and colleague.

The family of the late
FAY AND DAVID TWEYMAN ז"ל
wish to acknowledge with gratitude the kind expressions of sympathy received from our relatives and friends on the passing of our dearly beloved and sorely missed parents.
Stanley and Martin Tweyman, and family

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDDY BACHNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 21, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Holy Blossom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LILLIAN BOBKIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 21st, 10:00 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Hebrew Men of England Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LILA FLOM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 28th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section 4
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CELIA KELLEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LILY DUCHESS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOEL SACKS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 21st, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Jewish War Veterans Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NACIA KACZKA ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Piotrokov Section 19A
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ZIGA ZIMMERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 21st, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Zaglembier Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK M. SCHWARTZ ז"ל
(passed away on September 29, 2004)
will take place
Sunday, August 21st at 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
5822 Bathurst St., North of Finch Ave.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID ISRAEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 21st at 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. North of Major Mackenzie
MaraMarosher Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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After disengagement, what's next?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

As Israel's disengagement from Gaza and part of the northern West Bank neared, Canadian news outlets and much of the international media increased their coverage of this historic event. The *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Toronto Star* discussed the implications of the withdrawal as analyzed by two leading Middle East experts, Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor and Dr. Khalil Shikaki, who recently visited Canada together to brief journalists and policymakers.

(Ben-Dor chairs Haifa University's political science department and is one of the architects of the disengagement plan. Shikaki heads the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, an independent polling institute. Rejectionist Palestinian factions have reacted angrily when the institute's findings have occasionally indicated a trend towards accommodation with Israel.)

In the *Ottawa Citizen* (Aug. 9) Aron Heller noted that while Shikaki favours disengagement, he is pessimistic that it will reduce violence. He believes Hamas will claim ownership of the disengagement at the expense of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' prestige. Only an Israeli-PA agreement resulting in a co-ordinated disengagement, he said, could bolster Abbas' capacity to prevail over extremist factions in Palestinian society.

Taking a more optimistic approach, Ben-Dor argued against Shikaki. In the post-Oslo, post-Camp David II climate, since Abbas was either unwilling or unable to take on the extremists, Israel felt it had no negotiating partner among the Palestinians and had to pursue a "unilateral" action to break the stalemate. Israel believed this approach would at least reduce friction between Israelis and Palestinians and result in less violence, provided the Palestinians worked to establish civil order.

Heller quoted Ben-Dor: "The Israeli mainstream has made a decision, which is of historical significance, to give up territories [on] a big scale… This has the potential for future progress." But again, much depends on how the Palestinians react to the Israelis' departure from Gaza.

"The disengagement does instill the concept that the fate of the Palestinians in the future is the responsibility of the Palestinians," Ben-Dor said.

In its Aug. 9 editorial, "Give Gazans hope after the pullout," the *Toronto Star* chose to open with Ben-Dor's more optimistic assessment. "What does the State of Israel stand to gain by pulling its troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip. A lot." Citing Ben-Dor's words, the paper noted that Israel will become "more Jewish, more compact, more secure and defensible and more at peace" – with itself.

The *Star* urged Abbas to be "resolute enough to prevent Gaza from becoming a launch pad for violence." It called on Mahmoud Abbas to avoid the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's "historic blunder" of not establishing "a credible Palestinian government" under Oslo when he had the chance.

If Abbas could form a respected government, the *Star* also argued, Israeli opinion might approve ceding "more land for peace," thereby making it harder for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to justify "expanding provocative West Bank settlements."

The *Star* said the responsibilities fall on both sides, but it emphasized that it's Abbas who "must challenge the prevailing view among his people that violence liberated Gaza, and that a 'third intifadah' is needed in the West Bank." Such ideas are "folly," in the paper's view.

This challenge might very well involve force, Ben-Dor told Aron Heller. "Without some kind of confrontation in the near future [between the PA and the extremists], there is not going to be a chance for a negotiated settlement."

In the meantime, dire predictions – like those of former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu ("Netanyahu sees horrors for Israel" *National Post*, Aug. 11) that Gaza will become a base for terrorist groups and a launching pad for rocket attacks on Israeli cities – will keep many journalists focused on the aftermath of disengagement. (See also Martin Peretz's "prophecy" in the Aug. 1 *New Republic*: "The morning after the Israeli pullout from Gaza, the terrorism against Israel will intensify.")

What the media need to examine, therefore, are inter-Palestinian developments. Following disengagement, will Abbas rein in Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and disarm and dismantle terrorist groups, as the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan requires? Or can his attempt to co-opt rejectionists by allowing them to participate in national elections, now scheduled for January, result in anything other than the further weakening of his Palestinian Authority?

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

CLARIFICATION

The article "Temple Scroll part of Israeli exhibit in Berlin" (*CJN*, Aug. 4,) reported incorrectly that the Temple Scroll, now on view in "The New Hebrews" exhibition at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, had never been exhibited previously. While the exhibition marks its first public presentation in Europe, the Temple Scroll has been on view in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum Jerusalem, which holds it and other Dead Sea Scrolls as part of its permanent collection.

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Coast to Coast

Montreal man convicted in U.S. of trying to aid Hezbollah

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – A Lebanese-born Montreal man is facing up to 30 years in prison in the United States and a $750,000 (US) fine after pleading guilty in a Little Rock, Ark., court to three counts related to a scheme to ship military equipment to Hezbollah.

A co-accused, a Jewish Israeli citizen living in New York, pleaded guilty in July to the one charge against him and is also awaiting sentencing.

Naji Antoine Abi Khalil, 46, chair and general manager of the Montreal-based import-export company New Line Services, and Tomer Grinberg, 31, an employee of the Tober Group, a shipping and logistics company based in Brooklyn, were indicted in June 2004 in Manhattan Federal Court for their involvement in a plan to export night-vision goggles, infrared aiming devices, and other military night-vision equipment to the Lebanon-based terrorist organization, according to information released by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Khalil, who holds dual citizenship in Canada and Lebanon and resides in both countries, was charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to a terrorist organization and to contribute goods to a specially designated terrorist. Both Khalil and Grinberg were charged with conspiring to export sensitive military night-vision equipment without first obtaining the necessary licenses from the U.S. State and Commerce departments. Grinberg's maximum penalty is five years in jail and a $250,000 (US) fine.

Khalil has also been convicted of money laundering for Russian organized crime through a Beirut bank, for which he could serve up to 20 years.

The two men were arrested in May 2004 after a lengthy investigation by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the New York City Police Department.

In May 2004, Khalil flew from Montreal to New York to meet a man who he believed wanted to export stolen electronics goods, but who was in fact a witness co-operating with the FBI in the money-laundering investigation.

Their meetings at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Manhattan were monitored by law enforcement agents from an adjoining room. The co-operating witness told Khalil during one of those meetings that he had a customer who wanted to ship night-vision goggles to Hezbollah in Athens.

Khalil responded that this was not a problem and that he had "friends."

During another meeting, the witness introduced Khalil to an undercover FBI agent posing as the "customer." The agent provided Khalil with the point of contact and address of individuals who would receive the shipment of goggles and infrared aiming devices in Greece.

Khalil agreed to create a fictitious bill of lading so that the nature of the items and the identity of the shipper would not be revealed.

The next day, Khalil and Grinberg met the undercover agent at a storage facility in Manhattan to pick up the equipment. They were shown a crate filled with the latest technology goggles and the aiming devices, which were designed to be mounted on M-16 and other military rifles.

Khalil and Grinberg then loaded the equipment into a minivan. Khalil accepted $2,500 (US) from the agent as a down payment for the shipment. At that point, Khalil and Grinberg were arrested.

Khalil was detained and Grinberg was released on a $100,000 (US) bond.

At the time, then U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft said Khalil's arrest demonstrated that the United States is "committed to identifying and prosecuting those who would provide equipment and support to our terrorist enemies."

Khalil made headlines in 1992 when his wife gave birth at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital to the first quintuplets ever born in Quebec. He had recently immigrated from Lebanon and was living on welfare.

There was an outpouring of generosity toward the family from the public, business and the government. They were later able to buy a house in suburban Dollard des Ormeaux and Khalil started his own import-export company.

Bertrand's conduct probed

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The Quebec Bar is expected to announce this week whether its disciplinary committee will try lawyer Guy Bertrand for unprofessional conduct stemming from his allegation that a Jewish conspiracy was behind the federal government's efforts to deport his client Leon Mugesera, a Rwandan exile accused of inciting hatred and genocide.

Bertrand has been under examination by the bar's syndic since June, when the Supreme Court of Canada upheld a deportation order against Mugesera and severely reprimanded Bertrand for saying Justice Minister Irwin Cotler and Canadian Jewish Congress had plotted to ensure Mugesera would be forced out of the country.

Bar spokesperson Grace Bujold told *The CJN* that if it's decided Bertrand, a Quebec City lawyer, has violated the professional code, the syndic will file a formal complaint with the disciplinary committee. A date will then be set for him to appear before this tribunal.

She said the committee functions like a court: Bertrand will be called before it at one or more open hearings and may be defended by a lawyer.

If found guilty, the committee will decide what disciplinary action should be taken. Sanctions could range from a reprimand to expulsion from the bar.

Steven Slimovitch, a member of the bar's executive committee, firmly believes Bertrand should be disciplined. "Without a doubt. There's no question he acted in a manner unbecoming to a solicitor and that his comments were atrocious. If he doesn't understand they are anti-Semitic, it's all the more so."

Slimovitch said, however, that he would recuse himself from any debate that may come before the bar about the matter because of his position as legal counsel to B'nai Brith Canada.

B'nai Brith, as well as Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), were interveners in the Mugesera case in support of the federal government's appeal to the Supreme Court.

שיעור ג'ינג'

גידי קורן וחברים

הכלה הסורית

הכפר הדרוזי מג'דל שאמס שברמת הגולן, כמעט ארבעים שנה אחרי מלחמת ששת הימים, עדיין תומך בסוריה ושונא את ישראל. זהו מקום התרחשות סרטו החדש של ערן ריקליס. אישה דרוזית מתאהבת בשחקן טלביזיה סורי מפורסם ומתכתבת איתו. הדבר מביא להצעת נישואין מבלי שהשניים נפגשים כי הם חיים במדינות אויבות.

הסרט מתרחש ביום חתונתה של הצעירה. כדי להינשא לבחיר ליבה עליה לעזוב את רמת הגולן ואת בני משפחתה, ויתכן שלא תפגוש אותם שוב לעולם. וכך הופך יום חתונתה גם ליום העצוב בחייה.

מעבר לטיפור האישי המאוד נוגע ללב והמאוד אינטרסאלי- נוקט הסרט בעמדות פוליטיות מאוד ברורות. הוא מציין גם את סוריה וגם את ישראל באור מאוד מטומטם וקהה חושים. לאיש משני הצדדים לא ממש איכפת לאפשר לצעירה הדרוזית לחצות את הגבול. אינני מתכוון להיכנס לפרטים כדי שלא לקלקל לכם את העלילה, אבל לא מפליא שהקהל בישראל לא אהב את הסרט.

המחמאה העיקרית היא בכך שישראל היא מדינה דמוקרטית שמאפשרת ביקורת נוקבת על המדינות שלה. אף במאי סורי לא היה מעז ליצור סרט כזה, כפי ששום במאי במדינה ערבית אחרת לא היה מעז.

הסרט הזה הינו הסרט הישראלי הרביעי ברציפות שאני רואה ברמה אירופאית. ולאחר "ללכת על המים", "מדורת השבט" ו"סוף העולם שמאלה" אפשר לנשום לרווחה ולהצהיר שדור הסרטים הישראלים הוולגריים, המביכים ומבישים הוחלף בבמאים שמבינים את הפרינציפ. זו כשלעצמה בשורה נהדרת. תשע בסולם קורן, אבל שישאר בינינו.

מצעד הפינגווינים

באנטארקטיקה, בקור של מינוס מאה מעלות, מצליחים הפינגווינים לשרוד ולגדל צאצאים. אבל כדי שזה יקרה חייבים שני בני הזוג להסתכן בחייהם ולגלות הקרבה מדהימה שאי אפשר לתאר במילים. צריך לראות את זה בעיניים. כרופא ילדים אני מקדיש את כל חיי המקצועיים להבנת הקשר שבין הורים וילדים, בריאות הילד ומחויבות האב והאם, אבל עד כה לא ראיתי דוגמא כזו של הקרבה. והמדהים מכל- התנהגות הפינגווינים היא אינסטיקטיבית לחלוטין. אין שם שום שמץ של תודעה או תובנה- הכל מתוקנת כמו שעון שויצרי.

זהו סרט חובה. ואם יש לכם ילדים מתבגרים או בוגרים- קחו אותם כדי שיראו מה זו מחויבות למשפחה.

עשר בסולם קורן. על זה נאמר Wow!!!

על כתומים וכחולים

הדמוקרטיה הישראלית מתחלקת עכשיו לנושאי סרטים כחולים (בעד ההפרדה) וסרטים כתומים (נגד ההפרדה). עד כאן הכל דמוקרטי. אלא מה- סיפר לי חבר שקחנה את ריכבו שנשא סרט כחול על'האנטנה- שכאשר חזר לרכב אחרי מספר שעות מצא ששברו לו ולחבריו הכחולים את האנטנות שלהם. זהו הפירוש של חלק מהמתנחלים לדמוקרטיה הישראלית: My way or the Highway-, אבל שישאר בינינו.

Swastika attacks hit prominent Jewish families

By RON STANG
Special to The CJN

WINDSOR — Two prominent Windsor Jewish families were hit by graffiti vandalism earlier this month, with swastikas painted on their properties – one a home, the other a business – at around the same time.

Police said the incidents occurred on either the evening of Aug. 3 or the morning of Aug. 4. In one case, a black swastika was painted on the driveway of Windsor lawyer Harvey Strosberg, a civil litigator and class action lawyer with a national profile and offices in Windsor and Toronto. In the other incident, vandals defaced a store sign for Tepperman's Furniture, a Windsor-based chain of family-run furniture stores in southwestern Ontario.

It's apparently the first time individual Jewish families in Windsor have been attacked so personally, mirroring an increase in similar incidents elsewhere in Canada, said B'nai Brith legal counsel Anita Bromberg.

"When you seek out, as in the Windsor cases, Jews in their homes or… in their businesses, you're making a much more threatening statement, and I think it's disturbing," Bromberg said. "And that's a trend that we're noting."

Two incidents took place around same time

Last year, there were also two high profile local graffiti attacks, but they were against institutional property – in one case against the Windsor Jewish Community Centre and in the other against Shaar Hashomayim Congregation. Also, during last year's federal election campaign, vandals defaced election signs of local Conservative Party candidate Jordan Katz.

Strosberg posted a $3,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the attack on his home. He said "a friend" donated $2,000 anonymously, bringing the total to $5,000.

"I'm not afraid and I'm not intimidated," Strosberg told a local radio station. "This is the act of a coward."

He added that in a country such as Canada, people have the right, within the rule of law, to "stand up and say you disagree" but "you don't deliver a message of hate under the cloak of darkness."

Strosberg said the attacks aren't just a "Jewish problem, it's a problem for everyone," and future incidents could be against a black person, "a Muslim or someone else."

At Tepperman's, a sign with the store's name was defaced with a black swastika measuring about three feet by three feet. It was painted in a blank area beside the company logo.

Noah Tepperman, an owner and third generation executive at the chain, said the two families were hit because they're prominent Jews.

"If you're somebody who is trying to identify reasonably prominent Jewish families, Harvey Strosberg and his children are very successful at what they do. They're in the media a fair bit. My parents are in the newspaper all the time in terms of our advertising."

The Tepperman's location that was hit may have been targeted because it is relatively close to Strosberg's home, Tepperman said.

The chain also has stores in Chatham, London and Sarnia, but there have never been incidents at those locations, he added.

Bromberg said the attacks were similar to those elsewhere that have taken place under "the cover of night."

Although a newspaper report suggested the graffiti on Strosberg's driveway was painted after 9 a.m. on Aug. 4 after Strosberg went to work, Bromberg suggested it's more likely to have been painted overnight and the lawyer just didn't notice it when he left.

"[Daytime vandalism is] not typical behaviour that we see," she said. "Whoever's doing it knows they could be detected during daylight hours, and they typically do it when they know no one's watching."

Bromberg said the attacks fit a pattern of increased anti-Semitic acts across Canada against private property. In 2004, there were 151 such incidents, up from 95 the previous year.

In Windsor, there were nine anti-Semitic acts of all types in 2004, up from two in each of the previous two years.

But despite the spike, the actual numbers are still relatively small, Bromberg said, "so we have to take the statistics with a bit of caution, not to cause a panic."

Windsor is among the 10 most ethnically diverse Canadian cities, according to Statistics Canada, and civic leaders take pride in its harmonious race relations.

But, said Bromberg, "even where people in public office are sensitive to issues that are raised, you have anti-Semitism. And in that way there's nothing unique about Windsor."

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I frequently have to grab breakfast on the run on my way to work. What are some suggestions for healthy choices I can get at coffee places?

A. One great new item that most coffee and donut places are offering is yogurt with fruit. This is low in fat and full of calcium and protein, a far better choice than a donut, muffin or buttered bagel. You could try toast with peanut butter, also a good source of protein, and of course, you should ask for whole wheat bread. You could also take a pouch of oatmeal along with you and just add hot water at work for another great and nutritious breakfast.

Q. My blood pressure is high and my doctor has put me on medication to lower it. Is this the best solution or should I change my diet?

A. Hypertension or high blood pressure is a growing problem that causes life-threatening illnesses such as heart disease and stroke. It should be attended to more effectively than it often is. Many doctors prescribe medications to improve the problem because they often do not believe that patients will be compliant in making lifestyle or dietary changes, or they many not know an appropriate diet to lower blood pressure. However, losing weight, exercising and controlling sodium (salt) intake can, for many people, significantly reduce blood pressure.

Q. How much sodium consumption is appropriate for most people?

A. The recommended guidelines have recently been changed from 2,400 mg of sodium to 1,500 mg or less per day. Currently, most Canadians consume at least twice that amount, especially children and teens, so read labels, reduce the use of added salt and avoid processed foods like canned soup and sauces, mac and cheese, snack foods, fast foods and deli meats. This applies to all ages because many people believe that with our current diet and lifestyle, at least 50 per cent of us will have high blood pressure by age 65 and that number will climb after 65. Eating foods high in potassium can reduce the effect of sodium on blood pressure, so choose foods high in potassium like potatoes and sweet potatoes, bananas, spinach, milk, oranges, almonds and watermelon.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

CLARIFICATION

A story in last week's print edition of *The CJN* ("Mississauga MP lashes Israel") may have given readers the impression that *The CJN* did not attempt to contact Mississauga MP Carolyn Parrish for comment. In fact, *The CJN* did contact Parrish's office, but the call was not returned.

Racist graffiti on Hamilton school

Continued from page 3

in 2003 of promoting hate; and Paul Fromm, head of the Canadian Association for Free Expression.

* * *

In Hamilton, the Jewish community issued a release expressing its solidarity with other minorities after vandals spray-painted swastikas and racist graffiti on an elementary school.

Although the school was neither in a Jewish area nor served Jewish children, the community statement against the vandalism is indicative of the warm relationship with other minority communities, said Gerald Fisher, executive director of the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

* * *

In Windsor, meanwhile, two prominent Jewish families found swastikas painted on their property. (See related story on this page.)

ASSOCIATION OF HEBREW SCHOOL EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATED HEBREW DAY SCHOOLS
BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
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The Executive and Teachers of
The Association of Hebrew School Educators
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Past President of Na'amat Canada - Toronto
Her devotion to Na'amat in Israel and her commitment to the Jewish State will always be remembered
We extend our sincere condolences
to her husband Max,
her children Candice & Edward Lewis,
Dr. Mark & Ellen Leroy
and to the bereaved family

On Campus

Students receive basic training in running a campus group

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

About 85 Jewish student leaders from across Canada will come together at the end of this month to receive basic training in running a Jewish group on campus, in preparation for the new school year.

Representing a diverse spectrum of Canadian student life, executive members of Canadian Jewish student groups such as Hillel, Jewish student associations, Jewish law student associations and leaders of Israel groups will meet at Camp George near Parry Sound, Ont., for a four-day retreat, held under the auspices of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students (CFJS), working with UIA Federation's National Jewish Campus Life group.

Along with basic training on running a Jewish group on campus, the students on the retreat will learn about fundraising, public relations and how to work with the media and student governments.

Crisis management will also be a major aspect of the program, answering such questions as what a Jewish student leader should do if an apartheid wall, symbolizing the Israeli security fence, is built on campus.

"We mainly want to create a strong network of people who can work efficiently and effectively with each other throughout the year," said Sara Berger, vice-president of programming for CFJS.

Although a big part of the retreat will be networking, everything done will be done for a reason and so, even Shabbat, she said, "will essentially be an example of how to run an effective Shabbat with the students on campus – even though we will still have fun."

The idea for the retreat was a "bottom-up" initiative, according to Berger, with the idea coming from student leaders.

Looking at what other countries around the world are doing in their student communities, CFJS saw that with 20 to 30 campuses in Canada having active Jewish students, Canada could form a strong community because there is a relatively small number of students to work with.

CFJS was founded in January 2004 at a conference in Ottawa of 30 to 35 Jewish student presidents representing different Jewish student organizations.

From left are Canadian Federation of Jewish Students members Avi Ben-Zvi, Sara Berger, Jessica Apter, Dori Borshiov and Hartley Lefton, who helped to plan a retreat for student leaders.

Its aim is to be an umbrella organization for the various Jewish student groups across Canada. It is the first national Jewish student organization of its kind to run in Canada in at least a decade.

"We're going into our second year now," said Berger. "The first year was focused on developing and growing the organization. Now we are looking at leadership development – building a strong leadership."

With a 13-person executive, headed by president, Gary Diamond, the CFJS has already held several successful events.

The One Conference in Montreal saw about 100 student leaders from across the country meet to learn about and discuss event programming and Israel advocacy. As part of the conference, CFJS hosted a party for 1,300 Jewish students from across Canada.

At a regional conference, more than 100 students from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba gathered for a weekend in Calgary. The theme of the weekend was student empowerment on campus.

CFJS is made up of students from towns all over Canada. "A lot is done over the phone and e-mail, but it is important that no city or centre feels left out," said Berger.

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BBYO CHARITY GOLF: BBYO's 11th annual golf tournament at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club last month attracted more than 130 golfers. Pictured with BBYO golf chair Jeff Wagman, second from right, are winners Marc Lampert, Jeff Kirshenbaum and Josh Medad. A portion of the money raised will go to the National Colorectal Cancer Campaign in memory of BBYO alumnus Steve Glickman.

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Settlers mourn withdrawal from Gaza

By DINA KRAFT
JTA

NEVEH DEKALIM, Gaza Strip — The rabbi's voice rose and fell in a haunting trill over the hundreds gathered around him.

Mothers cradled babies as young men with guns by their sides swayed in prayer and recitation.

Above them a half moon glowed an eerie orange.

"We see this not just as the sacrifice of the Temple but the sacrifice of our land," says Shlomit Landau, 20, who had come to Neveh Dekalim from Jerusalem. "It feels much more meaningful."

Tisha b'Av in Neveh Dekalim, the largest of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, took on an especially mournful tone as it was observed from sundown Saturday to sundown Sunday.

Both residents and the hundreds of outsiders who came from across Israel and the West Bank to reinforce the settlement ahead of the government-ordered evacuation of Gaza, which was scheduled to begin this week, saw special significance in this Tisha b'Av.

The fast day marks the destruction in Jerusalem of the First Temple in 586 BCE and the Second Temple in 70 CE. Observant Jews, such as those who live in Neveh Dekalim, observe the day by sitting on the floor chanting the biblical book called Lamentations.

On Tisha b'Av, many Jews around the world mourn not only the loss of the Temples but other tragedies throughout Jewish history. The Jews gathered here see the evacuation of 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and four more in the northern West Bank as a monumental tragedy.

"It makes us wait even more fervently for the coming of the Messiah," says Narkiss Netanya, 20, as she finds a place on the sprawling pebble and cement plaza outside the main synagogue complex in Neveh Dekalim, where clusters of worshippers are gathered in large circles.

Netanya is one of many people this week in Neveh Dekalim – part of the main Jewish settlement bloc, Gush Katif – who illegally entered Gaza after it was declared a closed military zone by the army.

Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz, chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces, estimated Sunday that as many as 5,000 anti-withdrawal activists have slipped into Gaza in recent weeks. The government refers to them as infiltrators; the settlers call them their guests.

Whatever one calls them, they could prove to be an obstacle to Israel's plans to withdraw from Gaza.

Forced evacuations of those settlers who refuse to leave three of the settlements – Morag, Kfar Darom and Netzarim – were slated to take place Wednesday; no date has been set for withdrawal from the other settlements, although Neveh Dekalim is among the second round of settlements to be evacuated, according to government plans.

Shmuel Levy, 17, who grew up in Neveh Dekalim, has been hosting several outsiders at his family's home.

He still holds out hope for the elusive "miracle" that might prevent this settlement and the others from being evacuated. Speculation about an 11th-hour miracle is rife in the community.

People are even inviting one another to feasts of thanksgiving to be held should the withdrawal be averted by a divine act.

"We believe that just as in Purim, everything could change at the last minute," says Levy, who said he was discouraged to see eight out of the 10 families on his block move out in recent days.

His family has followed their rabbi's instructions to pack only their religious books. Everything else remains untouched in the home. The decision to not pack up one's belongings and furnishings has become a badge of protest throughout the settlements.

Neveh Dekalim children were seen watering the grass, flowers and trees in their garden as if oblivious to the fact that in days their home will be empty. [Israel photo]

Levy said that seeing so many people from outside flock to Gush Katif gave him renewed strength.

However, he acknowledged the end could indeed be near.

"If it really is to be the last Tisha b'Av" in Neveh Dekalim, he said pausing, "that would be really sad."

Adiel Gehassi sits outside on the wooden benches removed from the Yemenite synagogue in Neveh Dekalim to make room for worshippers sitting on the ground. He says this Tisha b'Av feels extremely personal. He moved here when he was just two years old and remembers no other home or community.

"This is much more difficult than a regular Tisha b'Av. You think more about your own home than the Temple," Gehassi said. "What makes it especially sad is that this is Jews who are doing this. It is very hard to grasp that this is all happening."

Of course, based on a complicated financial formula, the Israeli government is paying compensation – estimated at between $200,000 and $300,000 (US) – to those families who leave voluntarily.

Despite this, the estimated 9,000 Jewish settlers have been reacting to the approaching deadline in various ways.

Some staunchly refuse to pack out of defiance; others hired moving vans and made their way to their new homes inside Israel. Some, like the Issak family in the settlement of Morag, southeast of Neveh Dekalim, chose the middle ground: they packed their belongings into army-issued shipping containers but vow to stay in their home until evacuation day.

As Gabi Issak, 48, packed up his airy two-storey home with the help of his four children, he said that he was preparing for the move – painful as it was for him – because he could not bring himself to break the law. "This is the law. We have to honour the law," said the farmer who has been growing tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in hothouses on the settlement for the past 20 years. "Without laws, this country would cease to exist."

His wife, Nurit, 45, a nursery-school teacher, said the family of six would remain in their empty house as a sign of protest but when the time came to leave they would go peacefully.

"We are waiting for the knock on the door, but then we will go quietly," she said, saying she did not want to traumatize her children by making them witness soldiers and police dragging her and her husband out of their home.

The family plans to move to Nitsan, where the government has set up temporary housing: trailer homes by the beach near the coastal city of Ashkelon.

Meanwhile, at the edge of Gadit, another settlement, Ariel Porath, 46, a round-faced man with a dark beard who owns dozens of acres of greenhouses, is hedging his bets.

On one side of his property, Nepalese workers squint into the sun and dismantle the metal rods that support the greenhouses. On the other side of his land, dozens of Israeli teenagers who are among the anti-withdrawal activists illegally in Gaza, plant tomato seedlings and scallions in the sandy ground.

"I am being strategic," he says with a sad smile.

On Sunday, as part of their commemoration of Tisha b'Av, people prayed by the grave sides of loved ones at the cemetery on the outskirts of Neveh Dekalim, some placing stones painted orange – the colour of the anti-withdrawal movement – on the graves.

The sun blared in the midday heat as people cried and wailed, coming to terms with what may be the last Tisha b'Av in Gush Katif.

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Israeli youths block road to Gush Katif, delay IDF

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Some 400 youths opposed to the disengagement blocked the main road leading into Gush Katif on Monday morning, preventing an army convoy from reaching its destination.

The protesters threatened to block the road until Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to cancel his plan to evacuate Gaza.

Meanwhile, border police gathered nearby in case they were needed to disperse the demonstration and open up the road to Gush Katif.

Elsewhere, settlers clashed with Israel Defence Forces troops in separate incidents throughout the Gaza Strip and West Bank before dawn on Monday.

As the IDF closed the Kissufim crossing for entry to mark the start of the disengagement early Monday, a group of youths left the Kfar Darom settlement heading toward the crossing to protest the sealing off of the Gaza Strip.

At the same time, hundreds of Gush Katif youths, both residents and illegal infiltrators, blocked the entrance gate into the nearby settlement of Neveh Dekalim to prevent any troops from entering.

The youths lit bonfires on the road and blocked it to traffic. They slashed the tires of the army jeeps making their way into Neveh Dekalim and also surrounded a stranded army jeep with four soldiers in the vehicle.

Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, head of the Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva, came to the scene and, with a loudspeaker, tried to persuade the rioters to disperse. A major brawl broke out as several youths tried to assault Rabbi Aviner while others protected the rabbi. The army jeep left the area as the brawl subsided an hour later.

Settlers clashed Sunday night with IDF troops in the northern West Bank after the army attempted to impose a seal on the area surrounding settlements set to be evacuated under the disengagement.

Some two hundred residents of the settlement of Shavei Shomron in the northern West Bank clashed with the troops and broke down a gate on the road leading to Sa-Nur and Homesh, two out of four settlements set for evacuation.

An Israel Air Force officer was taken to hospital as medics feared he broke his hand and one settler was also wounded. The IDF detained three protesters.

In wake of the clashes, the army left an armoured personnel carrier to block the road.

Outside another Neveh Dekalim home a group of IDF soldiers replace all the tires on their army lorry which had all been slashed during last night by unknown people. [Israel photo]

Shortly after midnight Monday, dozens of settlers clashed with troops in two other northern West Bank settlements, Sa-Nur and Reihan.

West Bank, east Jerusalem next: Abbas

By ARNON REGULAR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday welcomed Israel's evacuation from the Gaza Strip as an "historical moment," but said that Israel must also hand over the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the future.

"If they want peace, they must allow Palestinians to achieve their rights," Abbas told the BBC World Service.

Palestinians across Gaza celebrated the start of the evacuation process of Israeli settlements on Monday, holding victory processions on the road between Khan Yunis and Rafah and the road from the Kissufim crossing to the Gush Katif settlement bloc.

In Gaza City, members of Hamas hung banners proclaiming the pullout is a result of attacks by militants on Israelis. "The blood of martyrs has led to liberation," one banner said.

Islamic Jihad held a midnight procession to celebrate the start of the withdrawal.

Mortar shells hit Gaza enclave

ALUF BENN
Haaretz Daily Newspaper Limited

JERUSALEM – The cabinet Monday ratified the evacuation of Gush Katif, the largest settlement bloc in the Gaza Strip, by a large majority of 16 ministers in favor and four against.

Labor ministers backed the measure. The dissenting votes were cast by Likud ministers Limor Livnat, Tsachi Hanegbi, Yisrael Katz and Danny Naveh.

Some activists had called for an attempt to block the entry of cabinet ministers early on Monday, but the vote went on as scheduled.

The vote reflected a compromise decision last February, when the cabinet mandated separate votes on each phase of the disengagement.

In a similar vote last week, the first phase of the disengagement - comprising the isolated settlements of Netzarim, Morag and Kfar Darom - was approved.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz intends to bring to the cabinet's approval in two or three days the evacuation of the third group of settlements located in the north of the Gaza Strip, in which only few residents remain.

The date for the approval of the evacuation of four settlements in the northern West Bank has not been set yet.

Mofaz regards the shortening of the evacuation period as highly important, and sees it as the key to performing a successful disengagement.

He has set September 4 as the target date for the completion of the operation, and hopes that it would be completed sooner.

On Monday Mofaz will ask the government to approve the immediate demolition of houses in the settlements of Kadim and Ganim in the northern West Bank, which have already been abandoned by their residents, as well as the demolition of evacuated houses in settlements in the northern Gaza Strip.

On Monday Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was scheduled to deliver a four-minute speech on Israel's television channels, in which he would talk about the disengagement and maintaining the nation's internal unity. In several meetings he held Sunday, Sharon spoke with determination about the disengagement, but expressed concern about his difficult political situation in the Likud party.

"The plans are known, you are prepared, and we are not changing the timetables," Sharon concluded the last consultation he held Sunday on the eve of the implementation of his disengagement plan.

Senior security officials said in the meeting that the order of settlement evacuation will be decided upon Tuesday evening, after the number of settlers who left of their own free will would be determined.

The IDF's dilemma is whether to start the evacuation from the "easy" settlements to the difficult ones, or whether to start the process at the settlements considered to be hotspots of resistance such as Kfar Darom, Atzmona and parts of the Neveh Dekalim.

The Yesha Council protest that began Sunday night opposite the Prime Minister's bureau, a last-minute effort to pressure cabinet ministers into voting against the evacuation of the Gush Katif, ended before noon, many hours before the council planned it would be concluded.

The demonstration was supposed to take place during the cabinet meeting and after it, but only several hundred activists participated in the protest.

Police officials had been reluctant to authorize the demonstration, fearing that ministers who arrived at the Monday meeting would be injured.

Due to the demonstration, and under police authorization, the main road leading the Knesset and government offices was blocked Sunday night and the cabinet ministers arrived at the meeting using alternative routs.

The Yesha Council had announced plans to hold the demonstration regardless of whether they had obtained the necessary permit.

At the end of the protest, settler leaders planned to lead protesters toward Gush Katif in a further effort to thwart settlement evacuation.

The Staff of The Canadian Jewish News
extend sincerest condolences
to the family of our friend and colleague

CAROL LUGER ז"ל

who died Sunday, August 14th, 2005 after a long and courageous battle at the age of 46.

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of Gregory and Cathy Luger,
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The agony that endures

Holocaust survivors are three times more likely to attempt suicide than others in the same age group, a new study suggests. According to findings published in the recent *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, around 24 per cent of Holocaust survivors hospitalized at Israel's Abarbanel Mental Health Center have tried to kill themselves, as opposed to an 8 per cent rate of attempted suicide among other elderly patients. According to the Abarbanel staff and Tel Aviv University researchers who carried out the study, it overturns longstanding beliefs that survivors have a stronger will to live. The suicide attempt rate increases as survivors age, the researchers found.

Bibi eyes Al Qaeda risk

Benjamin Netanyahu said the plan to quit the Gaza Strip risked drawing Al Qaeda to Israel's borders. Addressing the Knesset after his resignation as finance minister went into effect, Netanyahu warned that leaving Gaza would make its seaport and land crossing from Egypt accessible to international terrorists. "There is a global enemy, and they will flock here. They are already arriving from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq," said Netanyahu, who urged MKs to overturn the withdrawal plan.

Little alcohol flows

One in two Israelis avoids alcohol, a government study found. According to Health Ministry dietary data released last week, 50 per cent of Israelis do not drink, making for a low average national alcohol consumption of 20 millilitres per person per day. While the report approved most Israeli eating habits, it found most diets are too high in cholesterol and too low in calcium.

Feast not fast

Avraham Burg, a former Labor Party MK and Jewish Agency for Israel head whose father founded Israel's National Religious Party, said in a radio interview that rather than fast on Tisha b'Av, which marks the destruction of the First and Second temples, he and his family planned to hold a festive meal to celebrate Jerusalem's reunification in the modern State of Israel. Burg's defiance of Orthodox ritual drew quick censure from Israeli religious figures. "The existence of a State of Israel and the rebuilding of Jerusalem are still no replacement for our lost Temple," NRP leader Zevulun Orlev said.

Landau challenges Sharon

Likud Party hard-liner Uzi Landau plans to challenge Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in the next party primary. A primary has yet to be scheduled, but many analysts believe that after the pullout is completed, Sharon's coalition government will fall apart, prompting new elections. Landau would face stiff competition from Sharon's top rival, former finance minister Benjamin Netanyahu. – *JTA*

Jews' historical ties to Gaza

By DINA KRAFT
JTA

TEL AVIV — Modern Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip resumed only after the 1967 Six-Day War, but even with those settlements set to be evacuated, Jewish roots in the sandy strip of land where Egypt, Israel and the Mediterranean Sea meet run deep.

Opinions differ on whether the area was or was not included in the Land of Israel conquered by the ancient Israelites in the Bible.

Samson is the only biblical Israelite noted for having set foot there. In the 17th century, the false messiah Shabbatai Tzvi gave the area a bad name when he launched his movement from its shores.

After a contentious debate, Israel's Knesset voted last year to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip and evacuate the 9,000 or so Jewish settlers who live in suburban-style settlements there, where sprawling green lawns and playgrounds are protected by wire fences and military towers.

The settler population is dwarfed by the 1.3 million Palestinians who live in densely populated Gaza, which is 25 miles long and just six miles wide.

During biblical times, Gaza was part of the land promised to the Jews by God, but it was never part of the land actually conquered and inhabited by them, said Nili Wazana, a lecturer on Bible studies and the history of the Jewish People at Hebrew University.

Wazana, who is currently writing a book on the borders of the biblical Land of Israel, said there are contradictory references to Gaza in the Bible. One passage in *Judges* – often cited by Jewish settlers and their supporters – says the tribe of Judah took control of the area. But other biblical stories contradict this – a pattern typical of the Bible, she said.

"On almost everything, you will find an opinion and an opposite opinion. It was not a homogenous text. It was not written at same time, and there are competing ideologies," Wazana said. "The question of Gaza is one of the issues where you will find different opinions."

Most Israelis see neither historic nor strategic reasons for staying in Gaza. But to Yigal Kamietsky, the rabbi of Gush Katif, the main Jewish settler bloc there, Gaza is an integral part of biblical Israel.

"Gaza is part of the Land of Israel, no less than Tel Aviv and Bnei Brak," he said. "There is no doubt it is part of the borders." He said that not only is it considered a mitzvah to settle there, but that "if we were not here, I am not sure the State of Israel would still be there."

Rabbi Kamietsky said Jews in the Gaza settlements act as a buffer for those Jews living within Israel's pre-1967 borders. Indeed, some Israeli officials fear that once Israeli troops and settlers are withdrawn from the strip, Palestinian terrorists may concentrate on building rockets that can hit the Israeli city Ashkelon, north of Gaza.

Rabbi Kamietsky notes that historically Gaza was often caught in the crossfire of war.

"Always in history, Gaza seemed more problematic," he said, pointing to the fabled enemies of the Israelites, the seafaring Philistines, who controlled the area in biblical times.

The one period when Jews appeared to have sovereignty over Gaza was during the time of Hasmonean rule, when the Jewish King Yochanan – brother of Judah the Maccabee – captured the area in 145 CE.

Haggai Huberman – who has written extensively on the history of Jewish settlement in Gaza over the centuries and is writing a history of the Jews in Gush Katif – maintains that the Jews who lived there always considered themselves residents of the Land of Israel.

He says that Jews have lived on and off in Gaza since the time of Roman rule, their settlement following a pattern of expulsion during times of war and conquest and return during more peaceful periods. The remains of an ancient synagogue found in Gaza date to around 508 CE. Its mosaic floor, unearthed by archeologists, is now on display in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

There was reportedly a large Jewish community living in the area when the Muslims invaded in the seventh century. The Jews were noted for their skills as farmers and for making wine in their vast vineyards.

After the Spanish Inquisition in 1492, some Spanish and Portuguese Jews fled to Gaza. They abandoned the area when Napoleon's army marched through, but they later returned in the early 1800s.

When the first wave of Zionist settlers arrived in the region at the end of the 19th century, a group of 50 families moved to Gaza City. According to Huberman, they established good relations with local Arabs.

The settlers stayed until they were expelled in 1914 – along with Gaza's entire Arab population – by the Ottoman Turks during World War I. The Jews returned in 1920. But tensions simmered with both Arab and Jewish nationalism on the rise, and the relations with local Arabs began to sour, Huberman said.

The major Jewish presence in Gaza on the eve of Israel's War of Independence in 1948 was a kibbutz called Kfar Darom, set up in 1946. It was evacuated during the war and was among the first places to be resettled by Jews after 1967. Initially inhabited by Israeli soldiers from the Nahal brigade, it soon evolved into one of several civilian settlements established in the 1970s as the settler movement gained strength.

Any attempt to downplay Jewish roots in the Gaza Strip "is part of the disinformation being spread," said Eran Steinberg, a spokesperson for the Gush Katif settlements.

For her part, Wazana said present-day debates over territory mirror those in the Bible.

"Descriptions of borders reflect different ideologies even back then," she said. "People have put words in the mouth of God even in biblical times. If you have an ideology, you will find the right words to support it."

Some who argue that Gaza was not part of the biblical Land of Israel point to the fact that Orthodox Jews are allowed to consume produce grown in the Gaza Strip during shmittah – the seventh, or sabbatical, year when fruits and vegetables are not to be cultivated in the Land of Israel, according to Jewish law.

But Rabbi Kamietsky said it is permitted to grow produce in the Gaza Strip because even though it is every bit "as holy" as the rest of the Land of Israel, it was not an area settled during the Second Temple period, when Jews returned from exile in Babylon.

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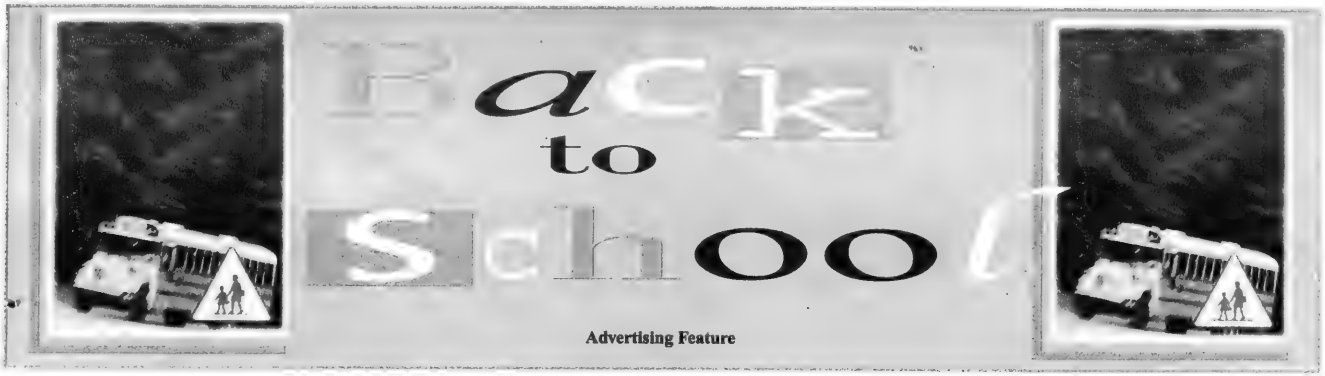

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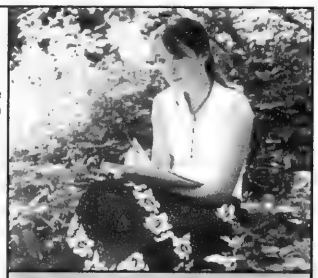

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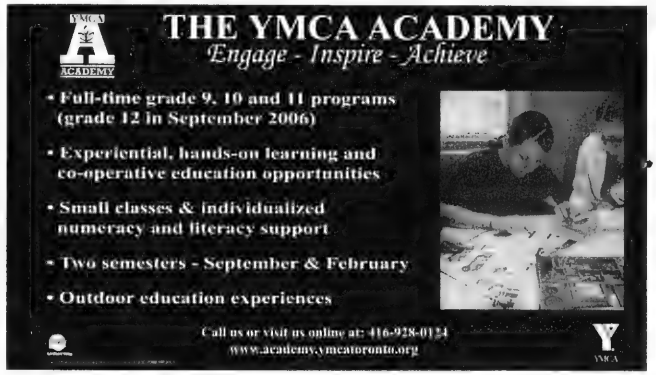
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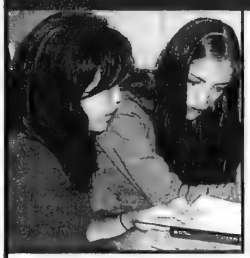

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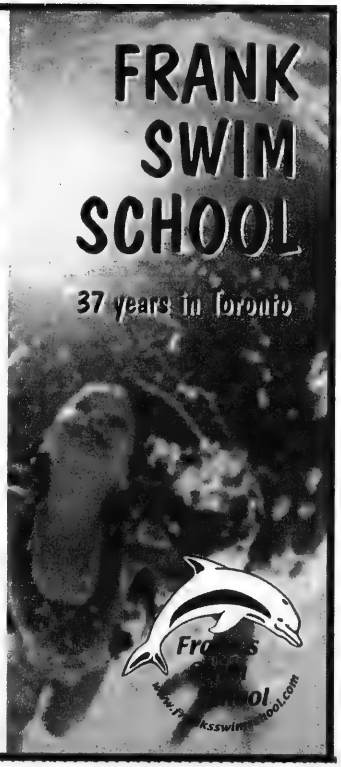

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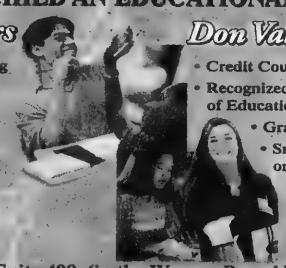

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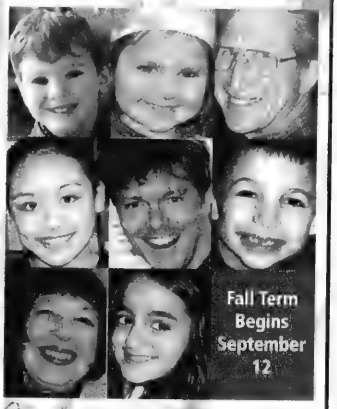

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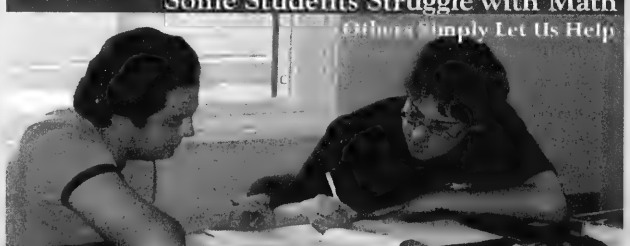

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SHOP WHERE THE WHOLESALERS SHOP

SF writer predicts demise of printed word in the mainstream

By SHLOMO SCHWARTZBERG
Special to The CJN

"I'm retiring in March." Normally that's not a startling statement, but when the potential retiree is only 34 years old, it's a telling one.

But Toronto-born writer Cory Doctorow has been doing so well in the writing field that he can afford to do just that. His third novel, *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* (TOR Books), has just come out, bearing the imprint of A Sci Fi Essential book, a SCI FI TV channel specially recommended book, the first from his publisher to be so designated.

Doctorow's short stories regularly turn up in the year's best science fiction and fantasy anthologies. He continues to make his mark with two much-praised blogs, or computer diaries, www.craphhound.com, which is his personal one, and as co- editor of www.boingboing.net, subtitled *A Directory of Wonderful Things*, which tackles worldwide issues and concerns.

And he's been making waves as the London-based, European affairs co-ordinator for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), the position from which he intends to retire from. The EFF "was created to defend our rights to think, speak and share our ideas, thoughts and needs using new technologies, such as the Internet and the World Wide Web," according to the foundation's website.

Visiting Toronto for a book signing at the city's Bakka-Phoenix science fiction bookstore, where he worked for three years in the '90s, the voluble Doctorow displays an informed opinion on virtually any subject revolving around technology, science fiction and the future.

Unlike many other writers, however, Doctorow, who is no relation to the author E.L. Doctorow, doesn't exactly view the Internet with suspicion, preferring, in fact, to make all his novels available for free downloads by readers through something called Creative Commons licenses, now operating in 81 countries. "I give books away for free; it sells way more books," he insists, adding that many readers who've downloaded his books from their computers often go out and buy hard copies of his novel afterward.

For his first novel *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom*, which postulated a future in which Disney's Magic Kingdom theme park has been taken over by several renegade groups who end up tampering with the place through technological manipulation, some 500,000 copies were given away, as well "as untold copies distributed by other people. That makes it one of the most distributed if not read [books]," he says.

This largesse hasn't significantly affected sales of his previous books in stores, even if, logically, fewer copies overall were sold, says Doctorow, pointing out that *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* has gone through an impressive five printings since its debut in 2003. (It also won him the prestigious Locus award for best first novel.) He compared notes with first novelists published at the time "and I perform well against them," he says proudly.

He doesn't understand why science fiction's old guard is so adamant in acting against what they would consider "Internet piracy."

Cory Doctorow

(Sometime science fiction writer Harlan Ellison settled out of court with AOL a year ago, after suing the company for copyright infringement for putting some of his work online without authorized permission.)

"The Science Fiction Writers of America [are] misguided; they have a snitch line," Doctorow says, adding that some writers have found a way of "'poisoning' electronic books, to 'degrade' them [after repeated viewings]. I don't think that an organization that is in the business of promoting science fiction should ever discourage people from reading it."

In any case, purveyors of the written book may not have much to protect in the future, says Doctorow. "I think that over the long term, the printed word will sunset as a mainstream activity.

"[We spend] more time reading off the screen than off pages. The question isn't whether books will disappear; the question is what will books turn into? The book will change form. We called things like the Bible a book even though it was a scroll; we called Gilgamesh a book even though it was cuneiform or clay tablets."

The problem, he says, is that too many people, in the SF world particularly, aren't prepared for the changes to come. "The boat is steering away from the pier and the response from many science fiction writers and other copyright-based industries has been to stand on the pier and shake their fist at it and my feeling is you should get in [the boat]. I don't know where books are going, but I do know that standing on the pier and shaking your fist at it, you'll miss the boat."

Doctorow concedes that much of his iconoclastic take on the world comes from the influence of his Trotsykist teacher parents. "I was a red-diaper baby; my parents were active in the Young Socialist League. I went to the Workmen's Circle and was bar-mitzvahed by [the] pacifist, anti- Zionist Rabbi [Reuben] Slonim."

His own political views are "very post-Marxist," he says. "I think the fundamental divide of the 21st century is centralized versus decentralized decision making, not social democracy versus planned economies or social democracy versus free-market economics. I believe in decentralized democracy, which I think characterizes the Internet very well."

His latest book, however, veers away from those technological prognostications. Doctorow's books have always had the touch of the absurdist about them – his second novel, *Eastern Standard Tribe*, dealt with people who communicate and in effect live through their computer connections and the common time zones they share outside the real ones of their home countries, but *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* takes it to the limit, with a hero whose father is a mountain, his mother a washing machine and his brothers comprising a set of Russian nesting dolls.

"[The novel], Doctorow says, is [also] much longer than my other two books together and the first to be set entirely in Canada. It has a larger cast of characters than I've ever handled in a book before and in general is just more complex than all the other books that I've done. It's much more of a journey, – it's not really meant to be read in one sitting the way my other books were."

One thing for sure, retiring from his main job at the EFF will mean he can devote hours to writing his fiction and non-fiction, instead of snatching precious time out of a normal day to write. "Most days I lose sleep or a meal or both and I travel three weeks a month. It's a good day when I get six hours of sleep and two meals. I'm retiring for that reason," he says.

Whatever he does in the future (he's finished 50,000 words, the first third of his next novel, tentatively titled *Themepunks*, a bit of a takeoff on the content of his debut novel, and will launch it onto an online magazine in the fall and also plans a non-fiction book on the entertainment industry) he won't, unlike writers such as Margaret Atwood, ever disavow the label of science fiction writer. "Being a SF writer was my goal from the age of 12, so I am proud and honoured to be called an SF writer. I don't think it's a ghetto; I have no objections to it [the label]."

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Former Much Music vee-jay is now a Yummy Mummy

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Erica Ehm, host and writer of *Yummy Mummy*, a weekly half-hour parenting television series on Life Network and Discovery Health Canada, describes a yummy mummy in no uncertain terms.

"She is a strong, powerful, multi-faceted woman who is a great mom," she says.

Ehm, herself the mother of Josh, 5, and Jessie, 20 months, says yummy mummies are great role models for their kids.

"Whether they are out working, or they are stay-at-home moms, they've made the right choice; they're doing what works for them."

With 13 shows completed, Ehm, well known for being the MuchMusic vee-jay for 10 years, says that *Yummy Mummy*, is not "your typical lifestyle show. There is the studio component, but there is also an animation component that turns the show into something magical and quirky."

Erica Ehm with her children Josh and Jessie.

In an episode about multi-tasking, she says, she is split into three, "because moms have to do three things at once."

In another episode, there is a woman walking upside down on the ceiling and then along the walls, "to show that since we had kids, we've done things we never dreamed we would do."

She created the show with local filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici and Meredith Caplan of Associated Producers. She also works closely with Gravity, an animation house from Israel that recently set up shop here.

She wants to empower women, she says, and let them know that when they become mothers, the rest of their lives should not disappear. "A happy mother makes a happy baby. Take time for yourself; you must feed yourself or you'll have nothing for your baby."

When she had her son, she says, she became desperate for adult stimulation, and slowly started back to work. She became head writer for *What's Up Kids* magazine and eventually came up with the concept for a parenting show for mothers.

"We've done pieces on getting ready to go back on work, healthy food, play date etiquette, allergies, temper tantrums, makeovers, choosing strollers, and in one piece we sent moms to a trapeze school because they needed a change and a challenge."

In her early 40s, Ehm, originally from Montreal, says she put off having children until she was sure she had met the right person. "I wanted to do it in a traditional way and I waited until I met, Terry [Moshenberg], who is truly a delicious daddy. He is a [loving]partner, and a father who is involved with his children.

"Delicious daddies are interesting men who help with the dinner and the diapers. We have a different generation of parents than our parents did. Women often work out of the house and the men need to carry their load. Our dads didn't have this kind of hands-on parenting. Our men have evolved."

How does she manage to be a full-time working mother? "I don't. I'm always a few steps behind. I forget to reply. to birthday party invitations, and I come home 15 minutes later than I expected, but when I do come home, I turn into Mom.

"My kids never lack for love and attention. When I'm with them, I'm there 100 per cent. When I'm not with them, I do what I have to."

It's necessary to live in the moment, because kids move very quickly to the next stage. she says. "In one episode I had my five year old son asking for the keys to the car. I just want parents to realize they shouldn't worry about what's coming up.. Enjoy yourself then and there. Your kids will feel it if you're distracted. They'll feel second best."

No house runs perfectly smoothly, she says. "That would be really creepy. You want your kids to challenge you. You want to build feisty, interesting, well-rounded people."

Ehm says that *Yummy Mummy* has been bought by Discovery channels in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy and France.

The show debuted in July on Discovery Health Canada and Life Network. It airs on Thursday evenings on Discovery and on Tuesdays and Thursdays on Life Network.

Erica Ehm: Doing the things she never dreamed she would do.

Arts & Travel

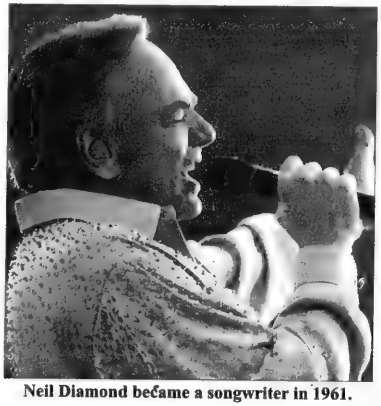
Neil Diamond brings Jazz Singer and more to Buffalo and Vancouver

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to the CJN

Although it has been 25 years since singer Neil Diamond has starred in the remake of the film *The Jazz Singer*, the soundtrack to the film is still featured in his concerts.

Diamond's *The Jazz Singer* soundtrack album has sold more than six million out of the 120 million albums sold over his 40-year career.

Fans who wish to venture to Buffalo will hear Diamond sing the familiar songs *America*, *Hello Again* and *Love on the Rocks* from *The Jazz Singer* in addition to his other 35 Top 40 songs at the HSBC Center Aug. 24.



Neil Diamond became a songwriter in 1961.

Diamond will be making his only Canadian stop on his three-month U.S. tour in Vancouver at the GM Place on Sept. 22.

"*The Jazz Singer* is memorable as my first movie. I worked very hard to retell this classic story of a Jewish cantor who left his expected place in society for a world in show business," Diamond, 64, told the *Chicago Tribune* in 2005."I loved the retelling of the Jewish experience. So much of the story reminds me of my grandparents and their kind of life. They were immigrants to America and taught Yiddish to me as a child.

"I wanted Yiddish in this movie. In fact, I tried to convince the director at one point to have the whole opening in Yiddish with subtitles as they did [in Italian] in *The Godfather*. Yiddish is a beautiful language and I wanted to do my bit to keep it alive." Diamond's first language at home was Yiddish, taught to him by his late grandmother.

Although Diamond's biography is not retold in *The Jazz Singer*, there are many similarities to his life and that of the character Jess Robbins, who he portrayed. Diamond had battles with his parents when he told them he wanted a career in music.

Born in Brooklyn in 1941 to Akeeba and Rose Diamond, Neil Diamond's father was a dry-goods store owner and moved frequently to change locations. As a result, young Neil shifted from school to school and was often lonely and drew solace from music.

Music had a large role in the Diamond household, with Neil listening to big band hits of the 1940s, Gershwin, Berlin, classical music as well as traditional Yiddish material. Neil knew he wanted a career in music, but to satisfy his father's wishes for a stable career, he enrolled as a pre-medicine student at New York University, and was awarded a fencing scholarship.

"When I was 17, I did not know what I wanted to do as a career. My dad had his friend talk to me and when I told him I wanted to be a rock star, he and my dad looked at me like I was crazy, but it felt good to say that," said Diamond on *Entertainment Tonight* in 1986.

Diamond put music first, taking his first job as a songwriter for $50 weekly in 1961, and never looked back at a career in medicine, nor did he complete his undergraduate degree.

Diamond married his high school sweetheart, a Jewish schoolteacher named Jaye Posner, in 1963, and they divorced in 1969. They had two daughters, Marjorie and Elyn. In the late '60s, Diamond's stardom was on its way with his recording of *Sweet Caroline* and *Solitary Man*, but his family life was to suffer.

"For years, Jaye complained about the inordinate amount of time we were apart. It was almost as though our destiny was preordained. We were to be married, have children and the best we could hope for was a little house on Long Island. We'd live the lives our parents wanted to live. I wanted to remove myself from that peer group and wanted greater success than this," said Diamond to Alan Grossman in *Diamond: A Biography*.

Like Jess Robbins in *The Jazz Singer*, who found more success with the the gentile girl in show business (played by Lucie Arnaz) than his wife, Diamond courted Marcia Murphy, a production assistant at ABC television, and married her in 1969. Diamond's marriage with Murphy lasted 25 years. The couple had two sons.

"Marcia was my rock. I looked up to her as my source of inspiration. I honestly blame myself for the breakup of our marriage – and my marriage to Jaye as well," Diamond told Larry King in 2002.

Diamond now has three grandsons and relishes the time he spends with them.

Although Diamond has not labelled himself as religious, he has performed for Chabad, singing *America* at the 2002 L'Chaim To Life Telethon, and has donated funds to Hebrew University at a 2003 dinner in honour of Barbra Streisand (who he sang a duet with in the ballad *You Don't Bring Me Flowers*).

"I am Jewish. I believe in God, love the traditions I learned growing up, and tend to be very spiritual. I am not comfortable with organized religion, which is created by people who are fallible," said Diamond in *Diamond: A Biography*.

Diamond's music has stretched the boundaries from rock to folk to romantic ballads, with diverse songs such as *September Morn* to *I Am I Said* in his repertoire. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1995.

Diamond performs at HSBC Arena in Buffalo on Aug. 24. For more information, call 1-888-223-6000 toll free. He performs Sept. 22 at GM Place in Vancouver. For more information, call 604-280-4444.

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Grassroots group promotes up-and-coming poets

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

If writing, reading or listening to poetry is your passion, then the Ontario Poetry Society (TOPS) is for you.

TOPS was registered as a not-for-profit literary association in October 1999.

The group's founder, poet and Thornhill resident Bunny Iskov, was a member of the League of Canadian Poets, but she felt that it only promoted established writers – "poets with books on the shelves at Chapters and Indigo," she said.

She felt that poets without published works needed an organization to serve their needs, and after doing some research, she discovered that there was no "grassroots" provincial poetry organization in Ontario.

Thanks to a one-page flyer inviting people to "join Ontario's only poetry organization," within its first year, TOPS had more than 60 members.

Today, almost five years later, there are 14 branches throughout Ontario and more than 160 members (including auxiliary members from outside of Ontario). The group also has a newsletter, which is published three times a year and contains members' poetry, news, information about markets, contests, topical articles and a recipe corner.

Throughout the year, members are invited to poetry readings at various locations, allowing them to promote their works and to gain inspiration and motivation from others.

"There is a kinship and bond through poetry," Iskov said.

In the last eight months, since the appointment of Shirley McCormack as president, TOPS has changed its look and become even more professional.

Originally, the newsletter was named *We are T.O.P.S*, but McCormack felt that it was too childish and that a more sophisticated name was needed, which is how the title *Verse Afire* came about.

As the newsletters have grown, so, too, have the organization's anthologies, with the latest being *Unlocking the Muse*.

Last year, thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, TOPS was able to produce *Cherish our Heritage*, a bilingual collection of Canadian poetry.

The organization's logo is a tree whose trunk is a person, and the TOPS slogan is "Grow a branch."

This year, TOPS held its first one-day poetry workshop in Cambridge, where lecturer and well-published author John Lee spoke.

Over the next six months, the society will be buzzing with activity.

At the moment, TOPS is running a poetry chapbook anthology contest called "Food for Thought" that is open to the public.

No previous prize-winning poems are permitted to enter, but published or unpublished poems up to a maximum length of 36 lines will be accepted, as long as the poet holds copyright.

The poems should focus on the delights of life, such as food, wine, music, romance, laughter, fun and beauty. The entrance fee is $2 for one poem and $5 for three poems.

The poet's identification should not be anywhere on the same page as the poem, to ensure blind judging, so poets should include a cover page with their full name and contact details. Deadline to enter is Sept. 30.

Prizes for the winners include money and two free chapbooks, which retail for $8.

For more information, visit the TOPS website at www.mirror.org/tops.

Bunny Iskov surveying the TOPS newsletters and anthologies. [Benji Feldman photo]

At the beginning of September, the Canadian Federation of Poets and TOPS will be co-host a "Great Outdoors Poetry Festival" in Burlington.

There will be mini-workshops, lessons and opportunities for participants to present their work. Admission is free and those interested can call 905-632-7796.

On Nov. 6 "Poetry, Pizza and Pizzazz" will be held at the Renaissance Cafe on Danforth Avenue. The $5 admission includes pizza, a door prize ticket and a gift for attendance. Attendees will hear poems by special guest poets Allan Briesmaster, Katerina Fretwell, John B. Lee and Elana Wolff.

The organization also sponsors the annual Ted Plantos Award, in memory of the organization's first life member, who died of cancer in 2001. This award of $100 in "seed money" is granted to a "starving but talented and deserving poet," Iskov said.

It's open to anybody of any age who has not yet published a full collection of poems– "just to help them to get their poetry out there," she said.

No one has applied so far for this year's award. All that is required is to submit a written request for the grant and copies of five to 10 poems before the Aug. 31 deadline.

In memory of Plantos, who Iskov describes as "an eclectic cook," TOPS published what Iskov calls a "literary gourmet" – a book of recipes and poems by TOPS members. The 2001 book contains a page with one of his recipes, submitted by his wife, May, and one of his poems, taken from his own published book.

For more information on the Plantos award, visit the TOPS website, or call Iskov at 905-738-0309.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CHAI TEA FEATURES
A CANTOR'S TALE

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival presents a "Chai Tea" afternoon with the screening of *A Cantor's Tale* and guest **Jack Mendelson** (the cantor) in attendance. The film, which was a hit at the festival, is a nostalgic and joyous exploration of one man's quest to pass on the authentic tradition of being a chazzan.

Sheppard Grande Cinema, North York. $15. Sunday, Sept. 18. Tea at 4:30 p.m., film at 5. Tickets 416-324-9121.

If you missed the festival's screening of the Italian Holocaust film *The Hungarian Servant* (subtitled), the festival and Capri Releasing are screening it again. Al Green Theatre, Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. $10. Tuesday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m. 416-452-1010 or www.caprifilms.com

* * *

TV Series on Biblical Archeology: In *The Naked Archeologist*, a documentary series to air soon on VisionTV, Toronto producer-director **Simcha Jacobovici** shows viewers biblical archeology like they've never seen it before.

Simcha Jacobovici

Shot on location in Israel, Egypt and Greece, the series probes biblical history in a way that is "fast, funny and irreverent," says the Emmy Award-winning filmmaker. "My goal is to demystify the Bible in general, and archeology in particular, to brush away the cobwebs and burst academic bubbles."

The Naked Archeologist airs on Mondays starting Sept. 5, 9:30 p.m., and repeats on Tuesdays starting Sept. 6.

* * *

Casting Call: Teatron theatre is seeking non-union actors and volunteers for two productions slated for the Leah Posluns Theatre next January and March.

Home of the Brave, by **Arthur Laurents**, is a fast-paced drama dealing with anti-Semitism in the U.S. army during World War II; the production requires six male actors between roughly 25 and 55. *The Tenth Man*, by **Paddy Chayefsky**, is a comedy about love, friendship and the supernatural, and requires a variety of characters, including several of advanced age.

Auditions take place early September. Contact Ari Weisberg, 416-781-5527 or teatron@sympatico.ca

* * *

Names in the News

• Toronto teacher-librarian **Anne Dublin** has won the 2005 IODE Violet Downey Award for her book, *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything* (Second Story Press). The book, which celebrates the accomplishments of an all-around Canadian athlete, also picked up a Canadian Jewish Book Award in May.

• **Jack Kuper**'s biographical work *Child of the Holocaust*, which has previously been translated into French, Italian, German, Polish and Japanese, was recently published in India in the Marathi language. It is therefore with a considerable sense of satisfaction that the Toronto writer-filmmaker recalls that some 20 New York publishers rejected his original manuscript in the '60s "with the excuse that it was too late after the Holocaust to attract a readership."

• A six-minute *Tomorrow Campaign* video produced by 12 Tribes Productions for the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has won an Aegis Award. The video received first prize for its outstanding production quality in the category of sales-promotional videos. This is regarded as the video industry's premier competition for video productions and non-network TV commercials.

• Toronto comic **Lou Eisen**, who performed three evenings recently at Yuk Yuk's downtown, has worked as a contributing writer on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* and appeared in *Cinderella Man* with **Russell Crowe**. He is also the producer and host of the smash hit *Yids in the Hall*, an all-Jewish comedy showcase.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The Civic Light Opera Company presents *Flower Drum Song*, the **Rodgers & Hammerstein** musical that first appeared on Broadway in 1958 and became a blockbuster movie in 1961. Songs include *A Hundred Million Miracles*, *Love, Look Away*, *Chop Suey*, *You Are Beautiful* and *I Enjoy Being a Girl*. Fairview Library Theatre, 335 Fairview Mall Dr. $20-$15. Sept. 1 to 17. 416-755-1717, www.CivicLightOperaCompanycom

• **Lyn Carter** "trolls the habitual roosts of perception, drawing on the commonplace and the mass-produced – objects that are plentiful yet, for the most part, invisible within daily life." "Incognito," an exhibition of Carter's work, is at the Koffler Gallery, Bathurst JCC, through Oct. 2.

• Would-be authors of Jewish children's books are invited to submit their manuscripts to the 21st annual Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition of the Association of Jewish Libraries. A prize of $1,000 will go to the best fiction manuscript by an unpublished author for readers aged 8 to 11. The deadline is Dec. 31. Details at www.jewishlibraries.org

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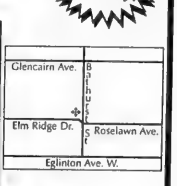

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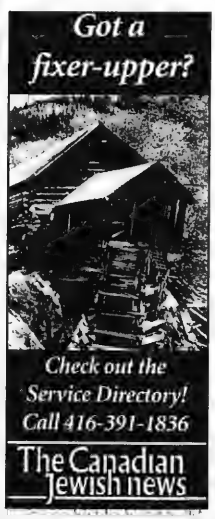

Israel & the Jewish World

Canadian held without trial in Israel

By JANICE ARNOLD and PAUL SHINDMAN
CJN Reporters

A former Montreal resident who was a known Kach activist before making aliyah two years ago will spend the next three months in an Israeli jail on suspicion he was planning to disrupt the Gaza withdrawal by attacking Palestinians.

Efraim Hershkovits, 22, was arrested and placed in administrative detention by Israeli defence officials without charges being laid last week after a recent attack by a Jewish extremist that left four Arab residents dead.

"The arrest order is for three months and will be reviewed after then," Israel Prisons Authority spokesperson Orit Shtelzer told *The CJN*, adding that the detention order might be extended at the request of the courts. Hershkovits is being held in the Ashmoret medium-security prison near Netanya.

Hershkovits and two other activists suspected of being associated with the outlawed Kach movement were arrested following the funeral of Eden Natan-Zada, a uniformed Israeli soldier who shot to death four Arabs on an Egged bus in the Israeli Arab town of Shfaram and was beaten to death by local residents after his ammunition ran out.

Natan-Zada had been staying at the Tapuah settlement north of Jerusalem, frequented by the three arrested men and known for having some radical elements.

The three are accused of planning to carry out attacks on Palestinians in a bid to disrupt the withdrawal of Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip.

The order to apprehend the young men was made by Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz. Administrative detention is an extraordinary legal measure that allows suspects to be arrested without charge or making evidence public. It was the first time it has been used in connection with the Gaza disengagement.

One of the three, who held dual American/Israeli citizenship, opted to go back to the United States for 40 days.

Israel normally uses administrative detention with suspected Palestinian terrorists, but it recently started using the practice with what the authorities consider to be Israeli Jewish extremists. Using classified materials, the government can order the arrest without trial of persons suspected of illegal activity.

The Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv was unaware of any request to send an official to visit Hershkovits in prison, spokesperson Natalie Amar said.

The use of administrative detention with Palestinians has been condemned in the past by both human rights groups and Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler. The Ottawa office of the human rights organization Amnesty International issued a statement condemning the arrest without trial and called on the Israeli government to either charge Hershkovits and the two others and bring them to trial, or release them.

Hershkovits was born in Montreal and is the middle of three children. His family lives in the eastern Cote des Neiges district and prays at the Young Israel of Montreal synagogue. He graduated from Yeshiva Gedola of Montreal and attended Vanier College.

Hershkovits' mother Deborah told *The CJN* last Friday in Montreal that she has been unable to make direct contact with her son since his arrest.

Although he is strongly opposed to the disengagement from Gaza and has been involved in protest, she believes he would not have done anything illegal. She thinks he is being detained for his outspoken views and is concerned that Israel's democracy is weakening.

The information she and her husband George (Yehuda) have about Efraim is from their daughter Sarit, who made aliyah in the late 1980s, and their son-in-law, who live in Kiryat Ata, near Haifa. She said the authorities have told them he could be held for two months.

She said Efraim is not being allowed to make calls outside of Israel. "This bothers me a lot. I really, really would love to talk to him."

Asked if she had sought assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs, she said she didn't know who to contact there.

She said as far as she knows, Efraim has not been mistreated, and has been allowed the strictly kosher food he requires and been given a hot plate that he can use during Shabbat.

She last saw Efraim in June when she visited Israel for the birth of a grandchild. Since he immigrated to Israel in July 2003, she said, she had spoken to him by phone nearly every day because he worked in an Internet cafe and had access to free long-distance calls.

She said he had not been in any trouble that she is aware of while in Israel, until now. "He is very opinionated and very vocal, and has taken part in a demonstration or two, but as far as I know, he would not hurt anybody. He's religious, a very gentle guy. I don't believe he would do anything illegal – he's smarter than that.

"I just came back from Israel June 16 and I found the situation very repressive… If you don't think the right way, they can be very, very harsh."

She said Efraim feels "very hurt" because "he loves Israel very much. He believes in his country… He gave up a good life in Canada, and now he is treated like this. This is not the way for one Jew to treat another."

She said she does not plan for now to go to Israel. "My son-in-law said it would not change anything. There is no point in going and we are not millionaires.

"I don't think Israeli security is going to listen to my pleas. I don't think Mofaz is going to tell me why he signed the [detention order]."

Efraim's 16-year-old brother Isaac said, "Of course, we are angry," but added, "We are not shocked. We knew something was going on."

Efraim led the Montreal chapter of the New Kach Movement, a spinoff off the Kahane Chai Movement, that is now on both the U.S. and Canadian terrorist lists.

A March 13, 2001, letter signed "Efraim Hershkovits/New Kach Movement" can still be found on the discussion forum of the Kahane organization's website chatroom.

The letter speaks of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin Yigal Amir as a political prisoner, as well as of Margalit Har-Shefi, who was convicted of knowing of Amir's intentions; and of Avigdor Eskin, convicted of invoking a kabbalistic curse on Rabin before his murder.

"As we all know today in Israel several Jews are imprisoned for political reasons. Such as Avigdor Eskin, Margalit Har-Shefi, and Yigal Amir. Do we ever hear from the ADL or the UJC. I don't thinks [sic] so. This is why its [sic] our responsibility to bring this to people's attention. Just as Rav Kahane brought the plight of Russian Jewry to the world."

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Wimbledon win a great career step for Levine

By IAN SADINSKY
Special to The CJN

OTTAWA — "About the size of a kiddush cup – no, maybe a shot glass," is the way tennis sensation Jesse Levine describes the miniature replica cup he and partner Michael Shabaz received for winning the boys under-18 doubles championship at Wimbledon earlier this summer.

Unranked going into the world's most prestigious tennis tournament, Jesse and his partner beat some of the world's best junior players on their way to victory, despite their unfamiliarity with the famous British grass surface.

"At first we were at a bit of a disadvantage," said the Ottawa-born, Florida-based Levine. "There aren't a lot of grass courts in the United States, and the ball comes off the surface quickly, often at very strange angles."

Playing against a British and Australian pair in the finals, Levine and Shabaz quickly fell behind 0-3. But adjusting to the surface, the competition, and the sheer wonder of being at Wimbledon, the duo pulled their game together and won the championship in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1.

"Two things probably played to our advantage," said Levine. "First, our opponents had very little experience playing together. Michael and I met at a tournament in Tulsa last year and we've played a lot of doubles since then. Second, as a lefty, I was able to hit a lot of spins that other players hadn't seen before."

Mental toughness is also a big part of an elite athlete's makeup. Jesse has done a lot of psychological training with Wentworth Sharpe from Niagara Falls, who also works with a number of Canadian Olympic athletes. Clearly, the years of preparation paid off for Levine in the big match.

Also unranked in the singles at Wimbledon, Levine advanced to the quarter-finals, knocking off a number of seeded players along the way. He and partner Shabaz are now ranked number 1 in the world in boys under 18 doubles, and Levine has moved up to number 14 in the world rankings in singles for boys under 18.

Levine has been invited to play in both the junior singles and doubles at the U.S. Open in New York next month. Last week, he and Shabaz competed in Kalamazoo, Mich., in the U.S. Tennis Association national championships for boys 16 to 18 years old. The major prize is a wild card berth in the men's division of the U.S. Open. At *The CJN*'s deadline, the pair had advanced to the tournament semi-final round.

"In the United States, you retain your junior eligibility until your 19th birthday, so a lot of 18-year-old guys who are already playing on the pro tour come to Kalamazoo trying to win the wild card spot."

Levine, who turns 18 in October, will still be able to play in U.S. junior tournaments until he's 19, but he would be ineligible for international play as a junior (e.g. at Wimbledon or the French Open) because international tennis has a different age eligibility limit.

Levine's 19th birthday will also be a pivotal date in determining a possible future career path in tennis.

With four credits left to finish high school (he studies through an online program run by the University of Miami), Levine has already been offered full scholarships to prestigious Ivy League universities such as Harvard and Princeton, as well as other schools such as the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Although the offers may be attractive to Levine, who lives with his parents Nate and Brenda and younger brother Daniel in Boca Raton, "I have until my 19th birthday to accept the scholarships." That leaves him more than a year to assess the advantages and disadvantages of going to school or turning pro.

In the meantime, Levine continues to work on his game at the world-renowned Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Fla.

"A lot of pros come to the academy to sharpen their game. I've had a chance to hit some with Tommy Haas, Max Mirnyi and Mary Pierce." Pierce is a Bollettieri product, as are other greats such as Pete Sampras, Bjorn Borg, Andre Agassi, and Venus and Serena Williams.

Although tennis takes up much of his time, Levine loves to come back to Ottawa to visit with his grandparents Morris and Lillian Kimmel.

"It's unbelievable how the community has reacted to Jesse's accomplishments," said his beaming mom, Brenda. "People have been making donations in Jesse's honour to Hillel Lodge, where both of my parents are past presidents, and to other charities."

Levine is also proud of his years at Hillel Academy, and "J Lev" as he is known to his friends, is rapidly becoming a role model for local kids, along with Argo lineman and four-time Grey Cup champion – and Hillel grad – Noah Cantor.

While in London for Wimbledon, the Levine family was filmed for a documentary that retired tennis great Jim Courier is making on the lives of junior tennis players and their families.

But what about the miniature Wimbledon cup?

"Right now, it's sitting on top of my television set," said the affable and unassuming Levine.

Maybe one day he'll use it to make kiddush.

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Maccabiah omissions and clarifications

Canada's open men's squash team, consisting of Jay Fleishman, Jeffrey Lurie and Greg Hutner, earned a bronze team medal at the recently concluded 17th Maccabiah Games in Israel.

In addition to winning a bronze medal in her age bracket (25-29), triathlete Shawna Novak earned a second bronze for finishing with the third fastest time overall, regardless of age, in the women's open category.

* * * * *

Three Jews take field for Bosox at same time

JTA

BOSTON, MASS. — Three Jewish baseball players took the field at the same time for the Boston Red Sox.

Gabe Kapler, Kevin Youkilis and Adam Stern all played the ninth inning for the Red Sox in their 11-6 victory last week over the Texas Rangers. The event will be recorded on a card in the second edition of a Jewish baseball card set, slated to be ready for Chanukah 2005.

More information about the Jewish card set will be available at Jewishmajorleaguers.org.

The 1946 New York Giants had five Jewish players on their roster, though it's not known whether all of theme ever played together on the field at the same time.

QB inducted into Pro Football Hall of Fame

CANTON, OHIO — Benny Friedman, who played quarterback in the early years of the NFL, was inducted earlier this month into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Friedman is believed to have led the NFL in touchdown passes from 1927 to 1933, though statistics for the period are spotty. He was named to the National Football League's All-Time team in 1951.

His induction comes after a long campaign by those who knew Friedman as the football coach at Brandeis University from 1951 to 1959.

* * * * *

Raptors to host Maccabi Tel Aviv in exhibition

For the third consecutive year, the Toronto Raptors will host an international team as part of their eight-game preseason schedule.

The Raptors will welcome two-time defending Euroleague basketball champion Maccabi Tel Aviv to the Air Canada Centre on Sunday, Oct. 16. Maccabi has won five European club titles and finished second on six occasions. The club has won 45 of a possible 51 domestic league titles since 1954.

"We are excited to play host to a team with such a proud tradition," said Raptors general manager Rob Babcock. "They are returning many players from last season's championship team, which should make for an exciting contest."

Should CIBC execs return Enron-era cash?

Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman, C.A.

Can executive salaries be clawed back?

NHL players recently agreed to a salary roll back of 24 per cent as part of an agreement to get back to "work." However, shareholders of CIBC were not consulted for their approval to pay $2.4 billion to settle claims stemming from the bank's (alleged) involvement in the Enron fraud. At the same time, CIBC was doling out millions of dollars in bonuses to its CEO and executive team – a team that ended up costing the bank more than an entire year's worth of profits. Should investors be entitled to recover these bonuses, and perhaps even salaries, from those responsible for such shocking ethical lapses?

Unlike the corporate world, which is bottom-line oriented, Jewish ethics is predominately centred on intent. Results are ultimately in the hand of God, so ethically it's our effort that counts most. Therefore, an advisor who gives inappropriate investment advice for a particular individual because he receives a higher commission violates Jewish ethics even if the investment doubles in six months. Yet, an advisor who gives what he believes to be appropriate advice that turns sour is beyond reproach, notwithstanding the howls of protest from the innocent investor. Thus, a CEO who makes an investment decision with the best interests of the company in mind bears no financial burden, even if that investment costs the company millions of dollars. Who should have authority for such decisions is less an ethical question than a practical one.

However, if lawful investment decisions are made for reasons other than the best interests of the stakeholders involved, a grievous ethical wrong has been committed regardless of the ultimate outcome. As we humans are unable to truly establish intent – that is for God – Jewish courts can only deal with actual wrongs committed. While it may be immoral, it is not illegal to have ulterior motives. However, income earned in an underhanded way would be subject to claw-back. Thus, a bonus paid based on profits that then turn out to be non-existent should be subject to repayment. Therefore any bonuses – cash or stock – paid to executives responsible for the Enron debacle should definitely be returned to the company.

The appropriate resolution is less clear regarding salaries earned during this time. While many find the salaries paid to bank executives to be excessive in the extreme, they do not raise ethical issues in and of themselves. Jewish ethics regulates the manner in which money may be earned, but not the amount that is earned. In the private sector, market forces determine salaries – and excessive salaries allow the ethical executive to give "excessive" amounts for charitable purposes. High salaries may not come at the expense of paying workers a fair wage, and common sense dictates that wages be set up in ways that promote corporate harmony.

Jewish law distinguishes between employees and contractors, asserting that employees are paid for their time on the job and not for their work per se. Of course, the better their work, the more valuable their time becomes. Thus, while incompetence may allow an employer to fire a worker, it does not allow him or her to withhold pay. In practice, negligence may not be grounds for withholding pay. It seems to me that only salaries earned fraudulently would be subject to repayment. This would include time spent on illegal activities, or even activities that contradicted employees' given mandate. Thus, whether the CIBC executives should be forced to return their salaries depends on whether their activities can be shown to cross the line from incompetence to illegality.

Send comments to info@torahinmotion.org

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- 1/2 teaspoon salt
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JUST FOR ME: The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, is collecting toys, pencils, and books to fill and distribute 120 full backpacks through Jewish Family & Child Service. Known as the Just for Me Backpack project, it's designed to respond to the needs of children under age 13, who, along with their mothers, have been uprooted from their homes to escape domestic violence. Pictured, from left, are Debbie Wasserman, Elaine Cooper, Marcie Weinman, Linda Steinberg, Cheryl Hochman [Benji Feldman photo]

A glezel tay

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

How would one say "living in the moment," in Yiddish? Such a phrase does not likely exist, perhaps because in eastern Europe, with their concerns about such things as feeding little mouths and the whims of unfriendly neighbours, Jews had little time to savour the present.

There may not be a direct translation for this western concept, but a Jewish image does come to mind that conveys its meaning: *a glezel tay*, a glass of tea.

Oh, our glass of tea! There it sits, dark tan in colour, its steam wafting skyward, ready to be sipped by the exhausted tailor father or fatigued mother. The image is a powerful one in my mind and conjures up memories of stillness and contentment throughout my life.

A glezel tay. When I was growing up, it was prepared very simply, generally by my mother, who did so with expertise, fluidity and great care.

First, she would heat up the kettle (on Shabbat, we used a water urn), waiting for it to whistle that its content was boiling and ready to be used.

Folks have their own way of moving to the next step. Some will make sure that a spoon is placed in the mug, especially if it's glass – saying such things as "I remember when I was a child and my father's cup exploded from the heat." Personally, I have never experienced such a crisis, though I believe that it has happened to some people. But I concern myself little with this step.

In our home, it was customary to put the tea bag in the mug prior to pouring the hot water. This approach diverges from that of friends (some of whom came from other parts of Poland than my family) who would dangle the tea bag in the hot water. Not being a maven on tea tradition, I accept that either way is fine and can produce an acceptable *glezel tay*.

I have always been curious, however, about "leave it in" tea drinkers – those who let the tea bag steep, sometimes for minutes on end, allowing the water to get darker, and the bottom of the glass murkier. This is not my way. I like my tea mild – not too light and not too rich. Strong tea, to my palate, contradicts the essence of the drink – smooth and befriending. I do, however, subscribe to the adage that there is no right or wrong when it comes to taste.

Few "tea totallers," at least those I have met, begin drinking the prepared drink right away. Generally they sit, then sit a little bit more, watching the tea as it simmers down. This is unlike coffee drinkers, who frequently take a sip as soon as the coffee is ready, as though it is preparing them for the next moment.

It seems that tea is meant to be savoured and appreciated, and like a flickering bonfire, it acts as a conduit to living in the moment. Tea drinkers embrace their time with their cup of tea, as if it were a confidant, and they take the opportunity it offers to stop or slow down time.

This is even more evident on Shabbat morning when people imbibe their pre-shul *glezel tay*.

"Ahh, a *mechiah*," my zaide used to say after that first taste. For that moment, he was blissful, time was frozen, and he was able to measure his existence and hear his own heartbeat.

A *glezel tay* – a Yiddishe way of living in the moment.

Each cup of tea represents an imaginary voyage. – Catherine Douzel

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This Week

National

Rabbi criticizes anti-pullout rally in Montreal. *Page 3*

West Wing star to help launch UJA campaign. *Page 6*

New series on Jewish teachers starts with profile of CHAT's Eli Honig. *Page 21*

Community Focus

Toronto is hardly Anatevka. But is its Jewish community like a shtetl? *Section B*

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Russian actress stars in one-woman play. *Page 34*

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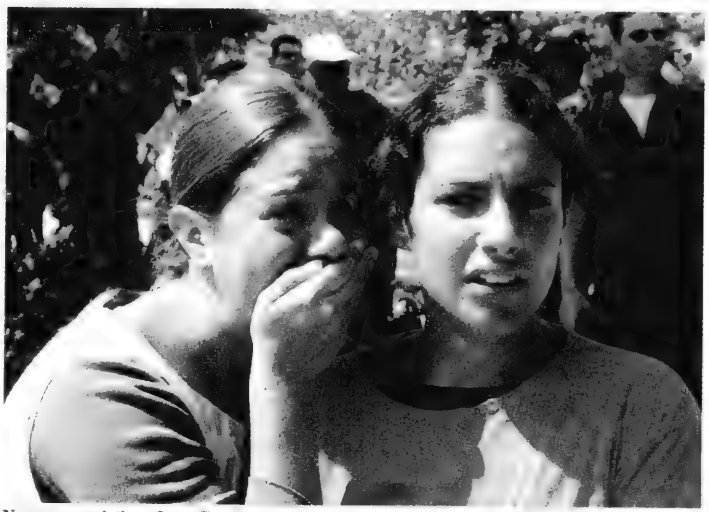

Numerous evictions from Gaza settlements took place without major violence last week, and the unarmed soldiers and police involved in the operation were praised both inside and outside Israel for their conduct. *[Israpet photo]*

Stakes high for Sharon

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA

Analysis

For better or for worse, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank is certain to be one of the defining moments of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's political career.

Sharon will be remembered as the Israeli leader who did the most to build settlements and then, when he became prime minister, tore them down.

But when the history books are written, will the pullout be seen as a bold move that saved Israel – allowing it to remain both Jewish and democratic – or as a wrong turn that divided the nation and exacerbated Palestinian terrorism?

Most Israeli leaders have defining moments associated with them. For David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, the most memorable was his decision to proclaim the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, even though he knew it would lead to a war – one his generals said the Jews had only a 50-50 chance of winning.

Ben-Gurion was active before 1967, the watershed year in Israel's political history. Since then, Israeli history largely has been the story of a debate over how to use the territorial and psychological gains of the Six Day War to win Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist and achieve peaceful coexistence.

The right wing argued for holding on to conquered territories to maintain deterrence and to go for peace only after the Arab states recognized Israel. The left favoured offering to return most of the territories to spark a peace dynamic. Subsequent prime ministers are remembered largely for their contributions to this dialectic.

Continued on page 41

Torontonian leaves home in Gaza

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Shira and Avi Persoff's home in Gush Katif remains in immaculate condition, everything in its place as if waiting for its inhabitants to return from a day at the beach.

The fridge is fully stocked and the freezer is filled to capacity. The two-bedroom townhouse was left in its usual tidy state because, as Shira, a native of Toronto, puts it, she is something of a "neat freak."

Though the chance is remote that she, Avi and their young daughter Emunah (Faith) will ever return to their lives as they once were, she is holding out for a miracle.

Shira Persoff and daughter Emunah

She never for a moment thought that God would let it come to this – Israeli soldiers breaking down their door and ordering them out of the homes they had made in Gaza.

Right to the last minute, she expected some sort of divine intervention that would open the eyes of the Israeli political elite, particularly Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and they would reverse the decision to evacuate the 9,000 Jewish settlers of Gaza.

It is an attitude common among her neighbours, Shira, 24, said in a phone interview.

Despite the unthinkable actually happening, her faith remains unshaken.

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Last Gaza settlers evacuated from Netzarim — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Libman Bows Out

MONTREAL — Robert Libman, mayor of the Montreal borough Cote St. Luc, Hampstead and Montreal West and an ex-leader and MNA of the English rights Equality Party, said he won't seek reelection in the Nov. 6 municipal vote. Libman, 44, cofounded the Equality Party in 1989 and is a former Quebec regional director of B'nai Brith Canada. He said he is leaving politics to return to architecture, his original profession.

Vandal Charged

TORONTO — A leather-clad vandal drew a swastika and anti-Semitic phrases in chalk on the sidewalk in front of a shul on Bathurst Street south of Lawrence Avenue on Aug. 15 as a group of horrified Orthodox Jews looked on. Police arrived 40 minutes after a 911 call was made. Charged with three counts of mischief is Antoniu Marcu, 32, of Toronto.

WORLD

Pope Visits Shul

COLOGNE — Christians and Jews must guard against a resurgence in the kind of anti-Semitism that led to the Holocaust, Pope Benedict XVI said last Friday during a visit to a Cologne shul destroyed by the Nazis in 1938 and rebuilt after the war. His visit was just the second by a pope to a shul. His predecessor, John Paul II, visited one in 1986. The German-born Benedict prayed at a memorial to the six million Nazi victims, then heard Rabbi Netanel Teitelbaum say Kaddish and blow the shofar.

Pullout Protest at UN

NEW YORK — Hundreds of people rallied outside UN headquarters in New York Aug. 16 against the Gaza pullout. Their signs read: "Gaza surrender endangers lives and rewards terror." The rally was organized by the Israel Concert in the Park Committee and the Zionist Organization of America.

Plotter Arrested

LOS ANGELES — A Pakistani man was arrested for an alleged terror plot on the Israeli Consulate and other buildings around Los Angeles. Hammad Riaz Samani was picked up Aug. 2, Associated Press reported. The arrest came after an investigation was launched when police found a list of targets during a search of a robbery suspect's home.

Church Raps Barrier

ORLANDO — Another Protestant church has condemned Israel's West Bank security barrier. A motion passed Aug. 13 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church's assembly denounced the barrier for causing hardships for Palestinians and urged the denomination to play a role in "stewarding financial resources – both U.S. tax dollars and private funds – in ways that support... a just peace in the Holy Land," Associated Press reported. But it did not mention divestment from Israel or companies that deal with Israel.

Not Guilty Pleas

WASHINGTON — Two former American Israel Public Affairs Committee staffers pleaded not guilty to charges of passing classified information. Steve Rosen, AIPAC's exPolicy director, and Keith Weissman, a former Iran specialist for the lobby group, were in court last week and waived their right to a speedy trial. Larry Franklin, an ex-Pentagon analyst accused of giving the two men classified documents, also waived that right. A trial is set for Jan. 3. The men were set free without bail.

Theatre Gets Grant

NEW YORK — A Yiddish theatre in New York City has received a $1.5 million (US) grant from the city. The money given to the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater will help it find a permanent home, the *New York Jewish Week* reported this month. The theatre is in its 90th consecutive season.

Bush Foe Denies Saying Son Died for Israel

CRAWFORD, Texas — The mother camped out near U.S. President George W. Bush's Texas ranch denies she said her son, who died in the Iraq war, was killed to "benefit Israel."

Cindy Sheehan, whose son Casey was killed in Baghdad last year, reportedly told a Veterans for Peace conference this month that she would tell the president, "You get America out of Iraq, you get Israel out of Palestine."

Cindy Sheehan

The Republican Jewish Coalition, which compiled the quotations, says Sheehan has aligned herself with anti-Israel "peace" groups, and several Democratic lawmakers and activists have given her support.

The National Jewish Democratic Council questioned the authenticity of Sheehan's quotes and said she should not be seen as speaking for all Democrats. Sheehan recently told CNN that she didn't say her son died for Israel. "I do believe that the Palestinian issue is a hot issue that needs to be solved and it needs to be more fair and equitable, but I never said my son died for Israel," she said last week.

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Montreal Jews demonstrate concerns over Gaza

Anti-disengagement rally criticized

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – An Orthodox rabbi who is well-known for his right-wing views on Israel severely criticized the organizers of a highly publicized outdoor rally last week against the disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank for being hypocritical and misleading.

Rabbi Reuben Poupko told *The CJN* that members of the Lubavitch community, who he noted were the event's primary organizers, should not publicly denounce the government of Israel, because, he said, the group is "anti-Zionist."

He also called print and radio advertising for the event "deceptive," because it did not identify the rally's sponsors, and because it stressed "unity and prayer" and gave no indication the main thrust would be to protest the disengagement.

"What kind of hubris can a group of people in the Diaspora, who view the creation of the State of Israel as a crime against God and His Torah, have [to be able] to take it upon themselves to attempt to dictate the security policy of the State of Israel or to a man like [Israeli Prime Minister] Ariel Sharon?" Rabbi Poupko asked.

The anti-disengagement rally, held in Cote St. Luc's Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park on the day the pullout began, drew about 400 people from different segments of the Jewish community. Several speakers, mainly Lubavitch rabbis or adherents, affirmed that Gaza and "Samaria" are integral to Eretz Yisrael and warned of the dire consequences of ceding any part of biblical Israel to the "enemies" of the modern state.

One of the protest organizers, Rabbi Asher Jacobson of Congregation Chevra Kadisha, told *The CJN* that Rabbi Poupko's comments were unfair.

"This event is intended to gather as many Jews as possible to lend their voice of support to the Jews of Gaza who are being demonized and smeared in many quarters. This is a way of saying our hearts are in the East… It's a shame it is being turned into a Lubavitch or chassidic issue. Forty to 45 per cent of Israelis disagree with disengagement."

Rabbi Jacobson did not deny that Lubavitch is not Zionist, but he noted there are more than 1,000 Chabad institutions in Israel, and that the late Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson met with all Jewish leaders, including Sharon, and encouraged Jews to go to Israel when it was being shelled by Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War.

While the anti-pullout rally was going on, Rabbi Poupko – along with fellow modern Orthodox rabbis Chaim Steinmetz of Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem and Mordecai Zeitz of Congregation Beth Tikvah – held a concurrent gathering at his nearby shul, Congregation Beth Israel-Beth Aaron.

The brief, hastily called event drew less than 100 people – both for and against the disengagement, Rabbi Poupko said – for prayer and what he called "dignified" reflection on the course the Israeli government is taking.

Meanwhile, on the sidewalk beside Trudeau Park, approximately 20 chassidic men from the anti-Zionist sects Tash in Boisbriand, Que., and Neturei Karta, based in Monsey, N.Y,. stood with placards denouncing the State of Israel as contrary to Judaism.

A heavy police presence kept the anti-Zionist protesters away from the anti-withdrawal rally, and officers quickly removed one man who tried to tear a sign away from one of the Chassidim.

At the rally, Rabbi Jacobson said: "The message is that Montreal Jewry is opposed to any future unilateral concession that would weaken the security of the Jews of Israel or around the world."

The disengagement, he said, gives the impression that Israel is a country that "runs from terrorism and is amputating itself to the forces that wish to destroy it. While Americans are losing people every day in the fight against terrorism, Israel is surrendering."

Continued from page 28

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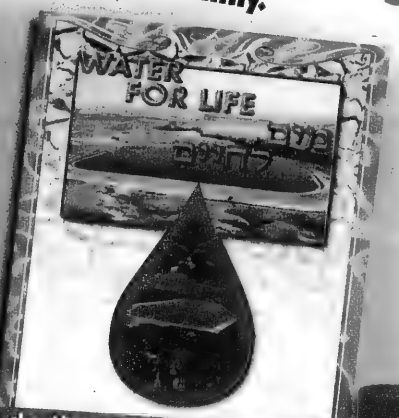

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Disengagement discussions

From the editor's desk

Great strength flows through Israeli society. We saw evidence of that strength in the fact that Israelis persisted in maintaining their everyday equilibrium during the near five-year campaign of suicide and other terror bombings unleashed against them in September 2000. Like the psalmist who proclaimed, "We shall not die, but live," they determined not to surrender their thoroughfares, streets, playgrounds and coffee houses to the assassins who exploited the openness of Israeli society.

The disengagement from Gaza and from the four northern communities in the West Bank was both a test and an affirmation of that strength.

Not every Israeli tracked the progress of the eviction process hour by hour. But every Israeli did indeed follow its progress day by day. Even if one preferred not to, it was unavoidable in this tiny, massively technowired, news-saturated, politically aggressive, emotionally intense society.

Yehezkel Dror

More than 900 news correspondents were in Gaza reporting on every unfolding detail of confrontation and compromise between the settlers and the eviction forces. No visual nuance went unrecorded nor any exchange of words unreported.

The CJN joined the large number of foreign correspondents in Israel last week but not to report on the myriad details of the disengagement. Those were available to the paper from our usual news sources.

Rather, *The CJN* met with a number of people whose work, inclination and experience are to look at the larger picture. What were some of the implications of the disengagement for Israel and the Jewish world, we asked them?

In summary, our conversations yielded the following very broad conclusions:

• disengagement was ultimately necessary;
• the wisdom of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's unilateral process, however, was questioned; and
• disengagement will cause Israel to refocus on key societal issues such as social cohesion and fine tuning its democracy.

The following is a precis of the key notes from my discussions.

* * *

Yehezkel Dror is professor of political science and public administration at the Hebrew University. His uncanny ability to see further down the road than most led to his recent appointment as the founding president of the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute, established by the Jewish Agency for Israel. The opinions he expressed were private and not those of the institute.

As difficult as the scenes of the disengagement were to observe, Dror said we must try to look past them to assess their impact.

He unambiguously supported Sharon's decision, but suggested the prime minister "did not receive the maximum payment for it."

Sharon was not forced to undertake the disengagement at this moment in time. The decision was not a function of *ayn breira*, namely, we had no choice. But Sharon changed his "basic mind set" regarding settling all of the Land of Israel.

Dror refused to speculate on the reason for the prime minister's change of mind, as many of Sharon's opponents were publicly doing. "We cannot second-guess the 'true motive' behind his decision. We have to assess our politicians by their behaviours, by their actions. Sharon, I believe, adopted a strategic, more long-range perspective."

Dror also rejected out of hand any suggestion that the process didn't conform to the rules of democratic government. Anyone who levelled the charge, really did not appreciate the varied nature and dynamics of parliamentary democracies.

"The Jewish people must support the value of law and order and the democratic integrity of the State of Israel. The right of protest must be ensured, but it must also be limited to conduct within democracy's rules.

"Disengagement is more than a turning point," Dror said. "It is a tipping point, a radical shift in Zionism and initiates a change in the outlook for all parties that settlement of all of the Land of Israel cannot be fulfilled."

He pointed out that if settling all of Israel is no longer viable, religious Zionists will have to reflect hard on their new, evolving roles. "Zionism will now have to provide compensating motives – a refounded Zionism – which would include new projects for our shared common values, among them rebuilding the Negev, the Galilee and Jerusalem."

It was too early, however, to make predictions about the long term peace process.

"The future depends largely on the Palestinians. Disengagement provides them with their third chance in the last decade (after Oslo and Camp David) to shape their own future.

"If Palestinians resort to terror, it will cause them serious damage. They are more vulnerable than they wish to admit. To the extent that they believe that the disengagement resulted because of Israeli weakness, they are deceiving themselves. Israel is not weak… The first obligation of the Palestinians is to ensure that there should be no terror.

"But if they act moderately, it will lead to more changes to their benefit. Conclusions at this point though," Dror said with marked emphasis, "are nonsense."

Even if disengagement goes badly, Dror was of the belief that it had to be tried. It was a reasonable step in the circumstances.

* * *

Uzi Arad

Uzi Arad is the head of the Institute for Policy and Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. With extensive past experience in the Mossad, Arad's expertise is unequivocally in matters of national security.

He echoed Dror's observation regarding the unilateralism of disengagement, but in much harsher language describing it as "an extremely flawed policy. It was sloppily conceived and will create new problems."

He elaborated.

"When Sharon initially announced the plan, he glorified the unilateral aspect of the pullout. But very quickly, the U.S. put conditions on the prime minister's unilateralism, namely, Israel had to perform all the obligations within the 'road map' [peace plan], cultivate Abu Mazen [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas] and talk to the Europeans.

"Thus, Sharon's unilateralism quickly disappeared."

But it wasn't the loss of Sharon's control over the initiative that most bothered Arad. It was the precedent, according to Arad, Sharon established.

"Two principles have always governed Israel's approach to [negotiating] peace with the Palestinians: [i] give and take – the classic formula of Security Council Resolution 242 – and, [ii] leave to the very end, Phase 3 of the 'road map,' the question of the removal of large settlements. This way Israel could maintain more leverage in the negotiating process."

"But Sharon has drastically broken both of the negotiating principles. He conceded large chunks of territory for nothing, and he removed a large bloc of settlements now, not later."

When asked why Sharon had departed from past precedent, Arad could only speculate, as others also have, that perhaps it was " a panicky reaction" to the cumulative effect of the generally positive response to former Knesset member Yossi Beilin's Geneva peace initiative, the worldwide condemnation of Israel and of the prime minister personally."

Continued on page 30

Since the earliest time of our history we have revered our teachers as our parents. Indeed, such is the close connection between teaching and parenting that in Hebrew, the words for both share the same etymological root. To pay tribute to the people who teach our children throughout the Jewish school system, broadly defined, we launch a monthly feature to honour them. These are our teachers…

Ministers reject Elmasry claims about advisers

By JANICE ARNOLD
and PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporters

Two senior cabinet ministers have rejected a suggestion by a Canadian Muslim leader that they remove a pair of Jewish advisers for being too "pro-Israel."

Spokespeople for Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety Anne McLellan said they had full confidence in the ability of the two advisers to advance views that are in Canada's best interests. They said there is no basis for the stated concern that the interests of Canada's Muslim population would be harmed by the appointments.

In an Aug. 15 news release, the Canadian Islamic Congress said the appointment of Jonathan Schneiderman as Pettigrew's Middle East adviser and of former senator Leo Kolber to chair a new advisory council on national security matters "could herald bad news for Canada's 750,000 Muslims."

The two ministers should re-examine the "two new Liberal appointments. Strong pro-Israel voices in foreign affairs and national security [are] making Canadian Muslims' 'nervous,'" the group said.

"With the Muslim community's vulnerability to negative attention since 9/11 – a situation exacerbated by last month's 7/7 bombings in London – there is understandable nervousness at the news that two of Canada's most active supporters of Israeli domestic and foreign policy will now have key voices in Canadian security and foreign policy decision," said Mohamed Elmasry, the group's national president.

He called for more suitable candidates to fill the positions, which he said require "a broader, less partial and more equitable approach to the welfare of all Canadians."

Alex Swan, McLellan's communications director, rejected the contention that Muslims should be worried about Kolber's appointment.

"The suggestion that Muslims should be concerned is groundless and that kind of language is not helpful at a time when we're trying to promote dialogue between communities," Swan stated.

Jamie Christoff, a spokesperson for Pettigrew, said that "[Schneiderman's] advice to the minister has always been balanced and educated and his professional conduct has been beyond reproach."

He also noted that, contrary to Elmasry's assertion, Schneiderman is not the minister's adviser on the Middle East. That post is held by Jim Anderson, while Schneiderman serves as senior adviser with a specialty in Canada/U.S. relations.

"But he also provides valuable input on the Middle East file, as do others in the office," Christoff said.

Kolber, 76, refused to comment directly on Elmasry's comments, except to suggest they must be viewed in light of the Muslim leader's remarks on television more than nine months ago. As a panelist on the *Michael Coren Show* on Crossroads Television System last October, Elmasry argued that terrorism against all Israelis over 18 is justified since they are eligible to serve in the army.

"Just check on the man who said them. I don't remember the exact words, but he was basically urging the killing of [Israelis]," Kolber said.

Kolber has been a strong supporter of Israel since its inception and a close friend of Shimon Peres for 55 years. Kolber's son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren live in Israel.

However, he has also publicly disagreed with policies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government. At a B'nai Brith dinner in his honour in December 2003, he criticized the Israeli government's reprisals against Palestinian civilians, the settlement policy and the security wall.

Schneiderman, 43, would also not comment on Elmasry's claims. "I don't think my comment would help in any way… I'm not the spokesperson for foreign affairs."

Schneiderman, who had previously served as a special assistant to Prime Minister Paul Martin, said his position with Pettigrew's department has not changed since his appointment in September 2004 as senior adviser to the minister.

Involved in the federal Liberal party since the late 1970s, Schneiderman has been active in the Jewish community and until recently served as president of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal. He is also a past regional director of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, a former spokesperson for the B'nai Brith League for Human Rights, and the manager of Thomas Hecht's unsuccessful bid for the national presidency of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Jewish groups reacted angrily to Elmasry's statement, suggesting it was a thinly veiled effort to keep Jews out of key positions because of their religion.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Canada-Israel Committee, the community's main lobbying arm on Israel, said Elmasry's views "are as offensive as they are illegitimate. It recalls the opposition to the appointment of Norman Spector as ambassador to Israel, as if the fact he's Jewish disqualifies him from his responsibilities of doing his duties and advancing Canada's interests."

Leo Adler, director of national affairs for Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said Elmasry's comments resemble anti-Semitic claims that "Canadian Jews have no loyalty or integrity and would abuse their status by subverting Canada's well being in favour of conspiracies and plans that favour Jewish or pro-Israeli interests."

Adler noted that after his controversial TV remarks, Elmasry, a professor of engineering at the University of Waterloo, apologized to the university for conflicting with the school's values. The university accepted Elmasry's apology. He suggested that the public petition the university and other professional institutions where Elmasry is a member "to denounce him and refuse to allow him to continue as a member."

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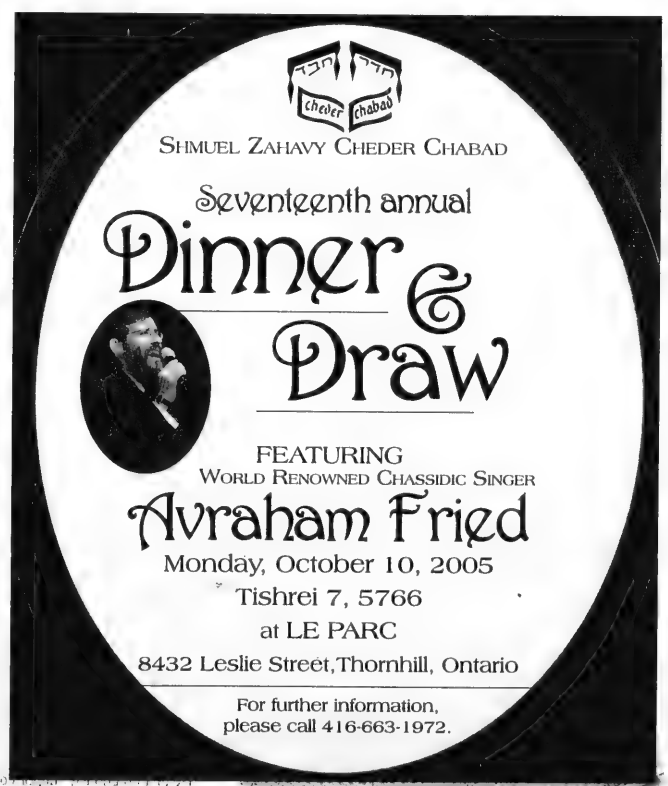

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Greater Toronto Area

West Wing's Malina to help launch UJA Federation campaign

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Joshua Malina's first day of work on the set of the *West Wing*, where he plays White House speech writer Will Bailey, fell on Rosh Hashanah. Malina chose to observe the holiday instead.

"Being Jewish is really important to me in a daily way," the 39-year-old actor said last week in a phone interview from his home in Malibu.

Career and religion began to intersect for him four years ago when he became a regular on the Jewish speaking circuit. On Sept. 1, he will talk about "Being Jewish in Hollywood: A Look Behind the Scenes" at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 2006 campaign launch at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Israeli musician David Broza will perform at the same event.

In 2001, Malina took part in a Los Angeles rally supporting Israel. He was very disappointed – "appalled," he said – at the dearth of Jewish celebrities on the dais, and said so in an interview with the *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles* that kick-started his Jewish speaking involvement.

The rally, he said, "wasn't really a political event. Israel has a right to exist. It wasn't about supporting [Israeli prime minister Ariel] Sharon or [a particular] government policy."

Malina – who is also passionate about poker and is executive producer of *Celebrity Poker Showdown* – said he has many friends and colleagues "whose inclination is in support of Israel, but who sometimes feel a little cowed, or daunted, by the type of things they hear that are critical of Israel."

He feels it's important to become educated about Israel. "Anyone with any kind of sophistication realizes it's not black and white. There's a way to care about Israel and still have opinions about what's going on... Let's start from the point that Israel has a right to exist in a peaceful way."

Malina, who majored in theatre at Yale University, expressed some hesitancy about his role as a spokesperson – he's an actor, not a Middle East affairs expert, he pointed out. But, he said, "for better or worse," people will seek out his opinions because of what he does for a living. "I've realized that there's an up-side. I have an opportunity to support Israel in a public way."

A Jewish day school alumnus who grew up in New Rochelle, N.Y., Malina and his wife, who have two young children, keep a kosher home and put up a sukkah at Sukkot.

Joshua Malina

Their lifestyle is not incompatible with his career, he said. "We don't live a very Hollywood lifestyle." On the few occasions he has had a conflict with a Jewish holiday, his employers have always accommodated him, he said.

In June, Malina visited Israel with his father. He said he felt comfortable immediately. It was his first trip there in 11 years, and he figured it was time to put his money where his mouth is, as he put it. Although others were concerned for his safety, he said that if he made it to the Los Angeles airport, he would have made it through the most dangerous part of the journey.

CIC Advocacy poster competition deadline set for Sept. 30

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

With the deadline fast approaching, Canadian residents aged 14 and up should be doing the touch ups on their posters for the Canada Israel Committee (CIC) Advocacy's poster competition.

Posters can be in either French or English, hand-drawn or computer generated, but entrants should focus on finding a fresh image of Israel that is both thought provoking and visually engaging.

Posters may highlight the common values of Canadians and Israelis or showcase Israel's innovations and contributions to the world.

A jury composed of four judges appointed by the CIC will review all the entries received.

The jury will be composed of a communications specialist, journalist, university professor and representative of State of Israel Bonds Canada. The jury, in its sole discretion, will select the winning entries from all eligible entries submitted based on technical ability (25 per cent), originality (25 per cent), strength of message (25 per cent) and creative/artistic merit (25 percent).

The entry must be an original work and must not have been entered in any other competition. The entrant must be the exclusive owner and have all rights, title and interest in and to the entry. Should the entry include the image of a person or persons, such person or persons shall have authorized the use of his/her image.

The top 25 entries will be awarded a copy of the newly published book *Israel in the World: Changing Lives Through Innovation.*

The prizes for the top three are courtesy of State of Israel Bonds Canada and include $1,000, $500, and $250 (all amounts in U.S. dollars) for first, second and third prizes consecutively. In the event the Israel Bonds are not available, State of Israel Bonds Canada will provide a prize of equivalent value.

The winning poster will also be published in *The Canadian Jewish News.*

The deadline for entries is Sept. 30, 2005 and all entrants must clearly state their name, age (if under 18), permanent home address, phone number and e-mail address and send their entries to: CIC Advocacy Poster Competition, 100 Sparks St., Suite 600, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5B7. Or e-mail: postercompetition@cicweb.ca

For a complete breakdown of the rules, entrants can log onto www.cicweb.ca/postercompetiton.

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Now, the PA's turn

The border to Gaza had been closed to Israelis barely hours before some of the editorialists in the international media began to hector Prime Minister Ariel Sharon about his further responsibilities to the peace process. Gaza was merely the first step, intoned the editorial in the *International Herald Tribune* (published by the *New York Times*), Tuesday, Aug. 16.

"Sharon should be cheered for taking this step. But he must also be forewarned: if there is to be any chance for peace, there are many more steps that must be taken."

That the *Tribune's* editorialist could "forewarn" the Israeli prime minister about the country's future, even as Israelis hovered on the brink of a potentially wide societal precipice was uncharitable, to say the least. Some might say it was an affront to common decency.

Merely three days later, with the tearful images of the unfinished disengagement still pressed into the hearts of all Israelis, the *Tribune* decided to drive its hectoring point home further with a lead editorial titled "Gaza reality check": "But it's past time – 38 years past, to be exact – to give the Palestinians there a chance at a better life."

One editorial during the painful week may have been condescending. Two were simply mean-spirited. They were also devoid of any fair-minded, balanced historical context. And the effect of the editorials was the familiar and ultimately dangerous message that we have heard for so many years.

In defiance of all the facts, they exculpate the Palestinian leadership for any part of the Palestinians' past misery in Gaza. And they effectively absolve that leadership of any responsibilities towards the Palestinians' future.

In his address to the nation last week, Sharon understandably, and most would agree reasonably, placed the burden for the next step of the peace process on the Palestinians. "The world awaits the Palestinian response – a hand offered in peace or continued fire. To a hand offered in peace, we will respond with an olive branch. But if they choose fire, we respond with fire, more severe than ever."

Israel's disengagement from Gaza may indeed be only "the first step." But it now falls to the Palestinian Authority to take the next step. Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of the PA, must prove that the PA can govern Gaza according to the norms of civilized government, namely with the rule of law and control over its armed forces.

The future of the peace process depends very clearly now upon the Palestinian leaders. No amount of mean-spirited moralizing by distant western editorial writers can change this.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

- Richard Allen, foreign policy advisor to U.S. presidential hopeful Ronald Reagan, warned that the 1980s would be a volatile time in the Middle East. He advocated establishing military bases in the area featuring rapid deployment forces.
- Otto Frank died in Switzerland at age 91. He turned over all the profits from the publication of his daughter Anne's famous diary to the Anne Frank Foundation and to charity.
- A front page story told of a crisis in obtaining kosher chicken feet. It was unclear if the problem was a result of new technology or butchers simply not trying hard enough.

Dry Bones
FIRST, THE SAD SYMPHONY OF SEPARATION
THEN, THE LOUD CLASH OF THE EXTREMISTS
GOSH WHAT'S NEXT?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S EITHER OVERTURE TO PEACE...
OR THE POUNDING DRUMS OF WAR.

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Honour sacrifices made by settlers

Once the dust of the disengagement has settled, there should be a national holiday declared to honour the settlers, who, in some cases, sacrificed their lives to follow the call of Zionism in its true pioneering spirit.

These settlers did no wrong – they settled on land that was given to them by the government and they broke no laws by settling in Gaza.

Former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin gave back land to get peace and now Prime Minister Ariel Sharon gives back land to get security. Hard as it is to accept, in the future the sacrifices made by these settlers will be appreciated as their children will hopefully live in an Israel that is stronger and more secure and, most important, they will live in peace.

Howard Wolle
Toronto

* * *

Gerber selective on gay marriage

Jean Gerber's column on gay marriage attempts to twist the Torah to suit her concept of what is important ("What we should really worry about," *CJN*, Aug. 11). She mentions that the Torah condemns homosexuality, but then attempts to negate that prohibition by claiming that "the world of then… is not the world of now," and that the references in the Torah on this matter are small. She claims that admonitions that we pursue justice and "care for the widow and orphan" and social needs are mentioned "a thousand thousand times" more in the Torah. She says, "That is where Judaism, rabbinic ethics and our own moral centre should be focused, not on whether Jules marries Jim."

If Gerber chooses to use the Torah and the Jewish prophets to support her views on social justice, she can't select the parts of the Torah that support her views and belittle or ignore those that do not. The Torah is the word of God. Yes, the Torah deplores social injustice and oppression of the poor. But it also condemns homosexuality. It's a package deal.

Michael Mirsky
Thornhill, Ont.

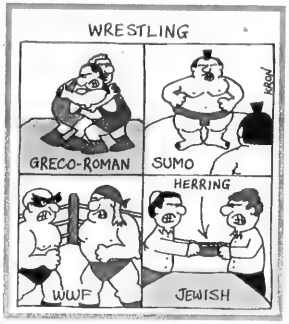
* * *

Federal gov't and Jewish education

I believe *The CJN* missed an important opportunity to bring up an issue of vital importance to the Jewish community in the interview with Canada's minister of social development, Ken Dryden ("Dryden defends gov't record on Israel, day care," Aug. 18). The issue of discrimination against religious minorities in education funding is a federal responsibility as a result of a United Nations Human Rights Commission finding that the province of Ontario discriminates by being the only jurisdiction in the free world that funds one religion (Catholic) to the exclusion of all others. As a signatory of the International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights, the federal government is required to correct findings of human rights violations, which our government has failed to do.

By failing to bring this issue to the attention of our politicians, *The CJN* sends the message that this discrimination is acceptable. We need to bring this up repeatedly so that Jewish education will be within the reach of all members in our community. A great disservice was done to the many members of our community who want to give their children a Jewish education but can't afford it.

Sheldon Basch
Thornhill, Ont.



* * *

Response to young offender's letter

Are we to feel sorry for this young offender ("Young offender's apology," letter, *CJN*, Aug. 11) because we now realize how ignorant he is both in spelling and actions? If he is truly repentant, and who am I to judge, he must be forgiven because that is my faith.

The poor fellow says he "didnt know the history behind your peoples sufering" and that he intends to fight "against hate instead of promoting hate." It's incumbent upon us to help him achieve his righteous goal and provide him with the education he is so sadly and surprisingly lacking. Invite him to attend Holocaust Education Week and offer him the opportunity to do community service in the Jewish sector.

JoAnn Gold
Toronto

* * *

Response to Miller

I find it astonishing that *The CJN* would publish Frank Miller's letter, filled with such remarks as "the fundamental aims of Islam[are] world domination and the destruction of the Jewish entity, among others" (Aug.18). Miller over-generalizes throughout, placing all Muslims and indeed Islam itself into one and the same category.

Bernard Katz
Toronto

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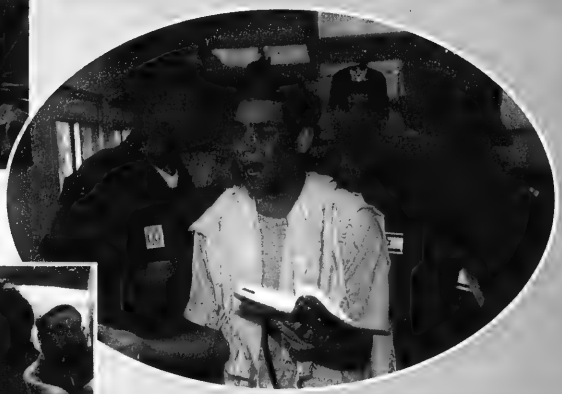
Settlers say goodbye to Gaza



As the pullout began from Gaza last week, Israeli reaction took many different forms, from quiet acceptance to loud protest.

[Isranet & Israel Sun photos]

Opinions

Extreme makeover, soul edition

I haven't had plastic surgery – yet. I've managed to hold out, despite a barrage of TV shows promising salvation by scalpel.

Actually, I have no problem with plastic surgery. An improved physical appearance can improve one's job prospects and possibility of marriage. Cosmetic surgery is just another example of human ingenuity enhancing quality of life.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

However, society's fascination with plastic surgery is exaggerated. The aforementioned shows breathlessly tout plastic surgery as a vehicle for personal redemption. Attractiveness is seen as being next to godliness. Aspirations of the soul, such as identity and meaning, are now fulfilled through liposuction. Unfortunately, this is absurd: plastic surgery is, by definition, skin deep.

I'm not naive: I know you won't see a TV show featuring rabbis performing advanced Torah implants or prayer lifts or charity peels anytime soon. That's a shame, because our souls can get just as torn and worn as our bodies. Years spent in the dog-eat-dog work world, coupled with excess consumption, can erode even the most spirited youthful idealism. Cynicism and the pursuit of comfort can transform idealists into sarcastic, brandy-sipping, golf-playing sellouts.

So how do former idealists get their souls back? With an extreme makeover for the soul.

Soul makeovers come in many different varieties. Sometimes you need to go on the road. Comfortable environments can lead to spiritual decay. You need to leave home in order to challenge your soul again. Find an appropriate spiritual retreat and break away from the daily grind.

Sometimes, you need to just do it. We all say we want to spend more time with family, volunteer more and study more. But on any given night, it's too hard because we're tired, had a rough day at work, or need to take care of some errands. Our great goals end up sliding away, one night at a time. So just do it!

Sometimes, you need to go home. There is an amazing amount of spiritual insight in our own backyard. Yet we ignore this treasure and search for fool's gold. It astonishes me that some Jews, with the oldest and most influential religious tradition in the world, still run after every bizarre new fad. The best place for a soul makeover is at home.

A member of our synagogue travelled with me on a trip to Israel. It was his first visit, and he was overwhelmed by what he experienced. The history, religion and culture transformed his entire outlook on life. At the end of the trip, he said: "Before coming to Israel, I was of the Jewish faith. Now, I'm a Jew."

This is what a spiritual makeover is all about. You just do it – break away from the old grind, then return home. You end up with your life transformed, and even with a more beautiful soul.

It's time for others to defy conventional wisdom

This past spring, a sign at my children's Jewish school proclaimed: "Wanted: Settlers." Shocked by this bold political statement in a moderate, apolitical environment, I looked closer. My daughter's Grade 4 class projects were celebrating 19th-century pioneers who settled North America.

Gil Troy in Montreal

This summer, people watching events in Israel have experienced a similar play on their perceptions. Israeli settlers, frequently caricatured as gun-toting hooligans, have been protesting angrily but denouncing violence repeatedly. When one Israeli army deserter murdered four Israeli Arabs, not only did the settler movement repudiate him, the leaders of the settlement where he had lived refused to bury his body there.

Media caricatures of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon have proved equally inaccurate. Long denounced as bloodthirsty, long cheered by settlers as their champion, Sharon infuriated the settlers and charmed the world with his plan to leave Gaza. He even enjoyed a warm Parisian reception from French President Jacques Chirac, after a sustained Gallic chill.

Israeli democracy itself has proven more resilient than expected – and less explosive than its caricature suggests. While Israeli police have been lamentably heavyhanded with some dissenters, and some "orange" fanatics were violent and treasonous, numerous peaceful protests took place – 30,000 people protested at Kfar Maimun, 100,000 prayed against disengagement at the Western Wall and 150,000 gathered in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square. The anti-disengagement forces can mourn their campaign's outcome, but they have been heard – as they should be.

Ads on buses in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem have urged Israelis: "Let's just make sure we don't disengage from each other." Despite the intense debate, judging by the festive, summertime atmosphere on Israel's streets, thus far, the rule of law has held and democracy has triumphed. Israelis remain passionately engaged, sometimes enraged, but not violently estranged from each other.

Alas, while Israel defies conventional wisdom – to its credit – its neighbours and allies behave all too predictably, and destructively. Rather than using Israel's Gaza departure to evolve from demagoguery to statesmanship, from terrorism to diplomacy, from targeting a viable democratic neighbour to building a stable democratic state, Palestinians have continued to attack Israel rhetorically and militarily.

Forgetting that Israel won the war and defeated their "intifadah" by demonstrating collective civilian grit and creative military effectiveness, the Palestinians have continued launching rocket attacks, attempting terrorist incursions, and demanding Israel's destruction.

True, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas appears moderate when compared to his predecessor Yasser Arafat, but experts debate whether Abbas is too impotent to control terrorism or, like many of his colleagues, too addicted to the Palestinians' culture of terrorism. Regardless, Hamas seems ascendant among Palestinians, with extremism and terrorism continuing to eclipse moderation and compromise.

World leaders, remaining true to form, are feeding Palestinians' addiction to terror. Canada, the United States and the Europeans are pumping billions of dollars into the Palestinian Authority without guaranteeing that the money will not be diverted once again to evil terrorists' coffers or corrupt leaders' Swiss Bank accounts.

Even U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has pressured Israel to concede ever more to the Palestinians, arm them with more weapons, and act with a generosity and restraint that no other country is expected to display. Instead, she should warn the Palestinians that they should not greet the Gaza withdrawal with a resurgence of terror, or they will suffer the consequences.

World leaders, who for years have been demanding an Israeli withdrawal from territories, can help during this delicate time. If the United Nations and the West proclaimed that zero tolerance for terror worldwide includes Palestinian violence, and that Israel will be encouraged to retaliate aggressively if even one mortar falls or one suicide bomber "succeeds," the message would be clear: the world community wishes to encourage progress in the Middle East.

By remaining silent, world leaders implicitly empower Hamas, as well as demonstrate their typically one-sided disdain for Israel, and they wait for the disengagement to fail so they can blame Israel. Every Palestinian rocket launched and every terrorist attack attempted bolsters the critics of Sharon's gamble to redraw the regional map and find stability, if not peace.

This summer, the settlers and their fellow Israelis have defied conventional wisdom and behaved better than most observers imagined they would. Now, it's the world's turn. In fact, such farsighted and balanced moral leadership from Canada, Europe and the UN is long overdue.

Israel's other *matsav*

You will often hear Israelis refer, with exasperation or despair, to the *matsav* – literally "the situation." They use this term to refer to the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and, more broadly, to tensions among different factions in Israel regarding this conflict. There is an urgency to discussions about the *matsav*, because it pertains to the survival, continuity and self-definition of the country.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

But there is another *matsav* – another situation – this one internal and domestic, but no less crucial to the country and its inhabitants. Somewhat differently, but no less importantly, this other *matsav*, too, pertains to the survival, well-being, and identity of the Jewish state.

Even today, as media attention is focused almost exclusively on Israel's wrenching disengagement from the Gaza Strip, it does not take long for Israelis to begin discussing, in worried tones, the other *matsav*: profound internal social problems that threaten the morale of citizens and the moral fibre of the country – problems we tend to associate with North American inner cities, not the bucolic Holy Land.

Violence in schools is on the rise. Teachers have told me that even in good schools and in decent neighborhoods, students bring knives to class. One teacher in Be'er Sheva told me that at the local high school, two girlfriends began arguing over a boy they both liked. Finally, one of the girls pulled a knife from her shoe and stabbed her friend several times.

"Can you imagine?" the teacher said to me. "A knife! In her shoe!" Such incidents are not isolated, I am told repeatedly, but symptomatic.

The teachers I spoke to blame large class sizes and the challenges of new waves of immigrants. But they stress that such violence – including youth gangs – is not simply an "immigrant" problem, but one that also involves native-born Israelis. They cite a growing cynicism among the youth, as well as their sense of corruption at high levels and a general level of tension in the country, as affecting the students they teach.

As vast financial resources have been directed to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its fallout, school budgets have shrunk. In recent years, funding for schools and after-school programs has dried up. Many schools have been forced to cut out parts of the curriculum that are not seen as vocational and pragmatic. Thus, literature, art and music have been eliminated from many schools. Such budgeting is short-sighted, as it's precisely these areas that can help students learn to reflect upon, express, and work out the conflicts and tensions under which they live.

And problems are not only evident among the youth. Domestic violence is up, and more and more you read of people going outside the law to resolve their issues. People also complain about the uncertainty of the future and what they see as the government's intrusion on basic freedoms.

In discussions with Israelis across political and ideological lines, the other *matsav* keeps surfacing. Right, left and centre, Israelis speak in terms of a battle for the national soul, although they sometimes disagree on some of the symptoms and the elements of a solution. Some speak of a return to basic Jewish values, others to further democratization of a pluralistic society, and still others of the need for both.

Yet it's clear that a wide spectrum of Israelis agree on much of what is problematic in their society. Amid the divisive issues that they contend with, these tough domestic issues present an opportunity to join forces and forge a renewed sense of national purpose, thereby strengthening the social fibre of modern Israel.

Although ideological opponents may sometimes be hard-pressed to acknowledge it, there is a commonality to many of their concerns that may yet open up a path for national unity, even in the midst of ongoing political differences on other matters. Supporters elsewhere should help this effort, rather than focusing on the hard issues that divide left from right, blue from orange.

Funding is needed for schools and youth programs, and better resources for those seeking shelter from violence. This, more than the exact contour of national boundaries, will determine the survival of the Jewish state in a meaningful way.

The Kirshner File

Palestinian property claims: a touchy issue

If Israel and the Palestinian Authority ever reach the point where core unresolved issues can be discussed seriously and at length, the toughest one probably will be the festering Palestinian refugee problem.

Sheldan Kirshner in Toronto

Approximately 700,000 Palestinian Arabs left their villages and towns in what is now Israel from late 1947, when the United Nations passed a historic Palestine partition plan, through 1948, when Israel declared statehood and the first Arab-Israeli war erupted. Some Palestinians departed voluntarily, expecting to return after the fighting died down. Still others were driven out by Jewish militias and the Israeli army.

The refugees, who largely fled to neighbouring Arab countries, left behind land, homes and factories. Their properties doubtless helped Israel absorb a wave of new Jewish immigrants. The Israeli government promised to compensate the refugees for their losses, but compensation never took place, mainly because this highly charged subject became enmeshed in the thorny political dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

From the outset, Israel insisted that the plight of the refugees could not be settled unless Jewish refugees from the Arab world were also compensated. Israel claimed that compensation was part of a wider peace process under which Arabs would accept its existence and place in the region.

Convinced that Israel was born in sin, and reluctant to embrace it as a neighbour, the Arabs countered that the flight of Arab Jews had been voluntary, and that the Palestinian refugee problem was a humanitarian one that lay outside the bounds of politics and could only be solved with the mass return of the refugees to their original homes.

Cognizant that the "right of return" would eventually alter its fundamental character and reduce it to a non-Zionist binational state, Israel rejected Arab demands for the unrestricted flow of Palestinian refugees into its territory. To this day, Israel's position remains the same.

These critical differences have created an impasse of immense proportions that may yet foil all well-meaning efforts to defuse the dispute.

Michael Fischbach, a professor of history at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, has stepped into this minefield with an important book, *Records of Dispossession: Palestinian Refugee Property and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Columbia University Press).

In the course of his research, Fischbach delved into the Central Zionist Archives and the Israel State Archives in Jerusalem, the British Public Records Office in London, the United Nations Secretariat archives in New York, the United States National Archives and Records in College Park, Maryland, the Jordanian National Library/Center for Documents and Documentation in Amman, and the Institute for Palestine Studies in Washington and Beirut.

Fischbach, in other words, has done his homework. And fortunately, he writes in a cool, scholarly, impartial style – free of polemics and rhetoric.

As early as December 1947, literally within days of the UN's decision to partition Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state, Palestinians began leaving their homes in Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem. Many were well-to-do merchants and professionals confident they would come back. Rural dwellers whose villages were levelled were the next to leave, voluntarily or otherwise. Both sides agree that several hundred Palestinian villages – from 360 to 429 – disappeared during Israel's War of Independence.

Documents Fischbach examined at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs suggest that 3.6 million dunams of land (one dunam is equal to about 900 square metres) were abandoned by, or seized from, the Palestinians. Using data amassed by scholar Yusif Sayigh, Fischbach concludes that Palestinian refugees lost 173,000 buildings. Prior to 1948, Jews owned 6.59 per cent of the surface area of Palestine.

Israel, though not the Zionist Revisionists, accepted the principle of partition. But when the War of Independence broke out, some Israeli political figures, including the foreign minister, Moshe Shertok (Sharett), revised their views.

When it became clear to him and others that 45 per cent of the population of the nascent Jewish state would be Palestinian, Shertok observed that the flight of the refugees would present Israel with opportunities for "a lasting and radical solution" to its looming demographic dilemma.

Even as battles raged, Jews began moving into abandoned Palestinian homes. My wife's parents, Bulgarian immigrants who arrived in Israel in 1951, lived in such a dwelling in Jaffa for a few years.

Fischbach claims that Holocaust survivors broke into abandoned Palestinian homes in Haifa's Wadi Nisnas neighbourhood. They did so because barracks that they were assigned on kibbutzim reminded them of their quarters in Nazi concentration camps.

By the autumn of 1948, he adds, the Jewish Agency formally began allowing Jews to take up residence in abandoned refugee homes in Jaffa, Lydda (Lod) and Ramla. One-third of all new immigrants resided in such buildings by the early 1950s.

In June 1948, the Israeli cabinet passed the first of a series of laws and regulations that laid the legal basis for the expropriation of refugee land and its eventual disposal. Fischbach explains that the purpose of these edicts was to stop the spontaneous seizures of Palestinian land. The Jewish National Fund utilized these lands for settlement, agricultural, commercial and industrial purposes.

A Palestinian refugee

David Ben-Gurion – Israel's first prime minister – agreed in principle to compensation. But he soon clarified his position, restricting the land for which he was willing to pay compensation.

Israel subsequently declared that the Arab economic boycott, as well as Egypt's closure of the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping, had hurt its economy and thus its ability to compensate the refugees.

This was an issue that came up in secret talks between Israel and Jordan in the aftermath of the War of Independence. But as Fischbach points out, the assassination of Jordan's King Abdullah in 1951 quashed all prospects for Israeli compensation to refugees living in Jordan.

Nevertheless, Arab states continuously raised the issue and urged Israel to halt seizures of Palestinian property. According to the Arabs, the value of the refugees' property ranged from $3 billion to $5 billion in U.S. dollars.

Israel, rightly, claimed that the Arabs were cynically using the refugees to perpetuate the Arab-Israeli dispute. There was an attempt, at the 1949 Lausanne conference in Switzerland, to come to grips with the problem, but fundamental procedural issues blocked progress. Israel wanted to discuss compensation arrangements only within the context of peace talks, but the Arabs balked. Furthermore, they categorically refused to consider the resettlement of the refugees in the Arab world as an alternative to repatriation.

The United States exerted pressure on Israel to make a gesture to the refugees. In response, Abba Eban, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, announced Israel's readiness to funnel 11 million British pounds into a special compensation fund.

In general, Israel was prepared to pay compensation only for cultivated land, provided it was released from the obligation of making further payments and compensation was part of an overall peace accord with the Arabs.

Israel raised counter-claims. As a result of the 1948 war, Jews lost 16,684 dunams in the West Bank – particularly around Jerusalem, Hebron, Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarm – and bits of land in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Fischbach zeroes in on these long-forgotten places.

In addition, Israel brought up the still burning issue of Jewish property losses in Arab countries such as Iraq and Egypt. But as he observes, some Jews from Arab lands were less than pleased that their expropriated properties were being used as a bargaining chip with the Arabs. What they wanted was hard, cold cash, not protracted negotiations.

In terms of its importance to other issues, the refugee problem took a back seat after the 1956 Suez war. But in 1957, Israel informed the United States that it would pay compensation to refugees in Jordan on the condition that they would be resettled in Iraq. Nothing came of that overture.

During the early 1960s, U.S. envoy Eric Johnson grappled with the issue. But in the end, after a ferocious Israeli diplomatic campaign against Johnson, the Kennedy administration let his mission lapse.

The refugee issue sank into further obscurity in the 1970s and 1980s, a UN General Assembly resolution notwithstanding, and would not be revived until the Oslo peace process. But at the 2000 Camp David summit and the Taba talks that followed, it proved to be a deal breaker.

One day, Israel and the Palestinians may devise a formula that will satisfy both sides. But for now, as Fischbach amply illustrates, the incendiary refugee issue poisons their relations.

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Torontonian volunteers for the Jews of Poland

University graduate joins Joint Distribution Committee project that helps Jews world wide

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

Not many university students choose to spend their summer holidays volunteering their time in Ghana and Ukraine, for Torontonian Jennifer Cole, it was something that just made sense. It was only fitting, then, that after graduating from University of Western Ontario in London, she accepted the challenge of working on behalf of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) - an overseas partner agency of UJA Federation - as a community developer in Poland.

As part of the JDC's Jewish Service Corps, seven North American volunteers have taken up posts around the world, and out of over 50 people who applied, Cole was the only Canadian chosen.

"I was really lucky; this is an amazing opportunity," Cole said when reached by phone in the southern mountain range of Poland last week. "I knew I wanted to do a year abroad after university, and I wanted to work with the Jewish community. My time in Ukraine when I was volunteering with the International Jewish College Corps, during summer holidays motivated me. This project was the right fit."

Cole has been living in Poland, with Warsaw as her base, for the last six weeks, traveling around the country, meeting with Jewish community members who are in need of advice and developing strategies for them which over the last few years has become increasingly directed toward celebrating Jewish heritage.

"Basically, I am here to work with the Polish Union of Jewish Students, helping them with their organization," she explained. "I am here to empower them, give them the tools so that when I leave they will have the resources to run Jewish programming activities without me."

In her short time in Poland, Cole has already made some interesting discoveries which have dispelled many of her preconceived notions.

Jennifer Cole (pictured in the back row, second from the right) met with the six other JDC volunteers in New York in June for an orientation before they embarked on their one year assignments around the world.

"Poland is not any more antisemitic than any other country I have visited," she said. "And that's not what I expected. I've also learned to question my perceptions of who is a Jew. Every day you meet people who are only now discovering they have Jewish roots. People here choose to be Jewish; they haven't been brought up with it, which is very different from my own life experience. It is very inspiring to see."

JIAS and Beth Tzedec team up to help new immigrants

The stereotype of the wandering Jew was born from the tragic history of the Jewish people. Yet, in the 21st century, Jewish immigration still continues with Toronto considered a prime destination.

Over the last four years, increasing numbers of Argentinean Jews have been immigrating to Toronto and with the help of JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto, Beth Tzedec Congregation, and Toronto philanthropist Harold Wolfe, this new community is receiving a wonderful welcome.

Moved by the plight of Argentinean Jewry he witnessed on a recent trip to Buenos Aires, Wolfe looked for a way to help make their transition to life in Toronto as easy as possible.

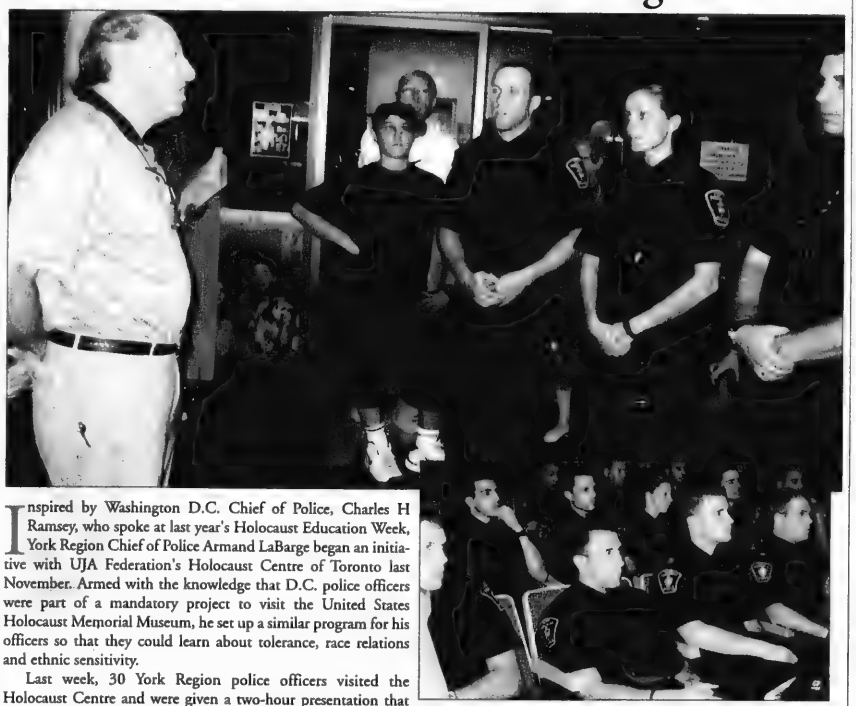
"I realized there was much I could do," said Wolfe. "The primary problem recent immigrants face is establishing social contacts with local Jews. While these contacts may or may not lead to long- lasting friendships, they, at least, help newcomers find out ordinary things and become self sufficient."

In order to link Argentinean Jews with others in the community, Wolfe worked with JIAS – a partner agency of UJA Federation - on a special Shabbat service and lunch at Beth Tzedec. The event would act as a catalyst for the Argentineans to meet community members and create a new network so desperately missing in their lives.

"What Harold and Carole Wolfe are doing gets to the heart of what is needed for new immigrants," said JIAS executive director Janis Roth. "New immigrants want to become self sufficient. They want to work and contribute to the society that granted them a safe place to live. These kinds of initiatives, and others from the Toronto Jewish community, which offer a newcomer an opportunity to network, really tip the balance in the right direction and can make all the difference."

Shopkeepers of a shoe store without credit or customers reflect Argentina's poor economic situation, one of several factors causing Jewish families to emigrate. (2005, Kimberly Butler/UJC)

Police armed with knowledge



Inspired by Washington D.C. Chief of Police, Charles H Ramsey, who spoke at last year's Holocaust Education Week, York Region Chief of Police Armand LaBarge began an initiative with UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto last November. Armed with the knowledge that D.C. police officers were part of a mandatory project to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, he set up a similar program for his officers so that they could learn about tolerance, race relations and ethnic sensitivity.

Last week, 30 York Region police officers visited the Holocaust Centre and were given a two-hour presentation that included a tour of the museum and a discussion with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipciger (pictured in forefront above). Born in Poland, Leipciger survived five different concentration camps including Auschwitz and Dachau. This was the second group of officers who have visited the centre this year. Several more are being planned.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Israeli superstar David Broza set to rock campaign launch

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

It's not every day that a campaign launch presents a top-tier musician and recording artist. But come September 1, David Broza will be entertaining participants at the launch of UJA Federation Campaign 2006 at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

With a career that spans over 30 years and 23 albums, Broza has become synonymous with the best in Israeli music.

Broza is a complex musician, part poet, part troubadour, part rock and roller all rapped into one individual with a social conscience, known for playing for Israeli soldiers in bunkers on the front lines, the wounded in hospitals, and those suffering from shock and pain.

David Broza

"Music brings excitement when someone is in shock. Music is a healing factor," Broza said in a recent telephone interview from Israel. "Music energizes through emotion. It takes away the misery and can inspire."

If the daily grind of the entertainment business has worn him down over the years, it does not show. Although incredibly busy recording, performing, writing and creating, Broza is still compelled to help those who may be lost or in need.

"I am lucky as an artist that my one simple act of playing music for someone who is suffering can become so meaningful," he said. "Ten or 15 minutes can change someone's life and give hope. I have to do it; there is no choice."

With his musical influences ranging from Jimmy Hendrix to Bob Dylan and fellow Israeli artist, Shalom Chanoch, Broza has been performing in Canada for years and is quick to note his appreciation for his Toronto fans.

"I really enjoy coming to Canada, to have the interaction with the audiences there," he said. "I always get a great reaction from Toronto. I like that contact with them."

The Campaign Launch will also feature Josh Malina, a star of television's weekly drama, *The West Wing*.

For tickets to the launch of UJA Federation Campaign 2006, call 416.631.5700.

New community security director a former member of IDF

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation has implemented a prime recommendation of its task force on community security.

Enter Doron Kay, the new community security director.

The Canadian born Kay, 40, was raised in Jerusalem, joined UJA Federation earlier this month following stints in New York, Miami, Europe and Israel, where he was also involved with community security. In addition, Kay started his own business, Global Impact, which specializes in crisis and emergency management and terrorism consulting.

Doron Kay

In his new role, Kay will be responsible for establishing and implementing new security standards, procedures and policies, as well as monitoring and assessing any potential threats to the Jewish community. He will also be in regular contact with federal and local law enforcement officials when needed.

"The worldwide Jewish community - including Toronto - has always been under threat," says Kay who has been a security specialist for the last 20 years and served in the Israeli Defence Forces where he was a decorated soldier. "One of the most important aspects of security is to counter chaos with reason and order. We need to be vigilant and always maintain a security presence which must be a collective effort by the community which is an act of will. Then, in times of any real threats, we will have the necessary tools in place."

Chaired by Warren Kimel, the UJA Federation Task Force on Community Security - formed in the fall of 2004 - commissioned a thorough study of existing security measures at Toronto's Jewish schools. A series of meetings with school officials has been set up to review the findings.

The Task Force's next step will be to study security at agencies, synagogues and other facilities throughout Toronto's Jewish community.

"In today's environment and the global war on terrorism, unfortunately security plays an integral role in protecting the quality of life that we have worked so hard to achieve and which we must continue to protect," says Kay.

Jewish teachers graduate from special course

According to many Jewish educators, the experience of teaching children with special needs at a day or supplementary school is distinct and accompanied by its own set of unique challenges. With this in mind, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education's Tikun Chaim initiative joined forces with York University to create a certificate in Special Education designed for teachers in the Jewish school system. The program is the only Ontario Ministry of Education accredited course that is offered to all Jewish day and supplementary school teachers.

Certificate program participants may expand their own teaching skills in order to address the needs of exceptional students within the classroom. Teachers learn new strategies to adapt and tailor general, Hebrew, and Judaic studies curricula to the diverse needs of their students.

"No child should have to leave the Jewish day or supplementary school system because of his or her special needs," explained Dafna Ross, special education consultant and certificate program director. "The system should meet the needs of every child so that all children can benefit from a Jewish education."

An added advantage of this course was the creation of a network of supportive colleagues. Carol Green, senior kindergarten and grade one teacher at Netivot HaTorah Day School was very motivated by what she learned.

"This certificate course was incredibly helpful because I was able to meet many other resourceful people who will enable me to better problem solve issues as they arise," she explained. "I also learned the tools needed to advocate for students with special needs, to set down objective insights so that I can present their case, and create an effective plan to ensure their educational success."

The twenty-three teachers who will be graduating from the course on August 28th, will take these new tools with them into the classroom.

"We are all different, with different talents," Ross said. "This certificate program offers every teacher in the day and supplementary school systems the same opportunity of understanding this concept and celebrating it in the classroom. It is in this way that we are enriching our students and that certainly is a good thing."

Twenty-three teachers will graduate from the BJE's Tikun Chaim certificate program in special education in a joint venture with York University. (photo by Debbie Gladstone)

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Jerusalem Foundation revives Canadian branch

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

The Canadian branch of the Jerusalem Foundation is being revived.

With a new Canada desk in Israel, under Steve Solomon and two new executive directors, Mindy Avrich-Skapinker in Toronto, and Monica Berger in Montreal, the organization has some exciting projects on the horizon.

But the question many would ask is, when there are a myriad of other Jewish organizations and projects needing support, why revive the foundation now?

Statistics indicate an ongoing trend of Jewish migration from Jerusalem – 18,500 left in 2004, an increase of 13,300 from 2003. People are leaving because there are better job opportunities and more affordable housing available outside the city.

At the same time, the number of Palestinians in the city continues to rise. Thirty-four per cent of the city's 700,000 residents are Palestinian and 66 per cent, Jewish.

Over and above that, there are many myths propagating Jewish rights to Jerusalem and the "Islamatization" of Jerusalem is becoming a real problem, says Avrich-Skapinker.

"Jerusalem is becoming more and more inaccessible to non-Palestinians."

She stressed that Jerusalem needs to be built up with a strong Jewish presence to ensure it remains the Jewish capital.

After years of promises, in June of this year, the Israeli government approved a series of economic benefits aimed at spurring development in Jerusalem.

The 280-million-shekel package (approximately $62 million US) includes incentives for young couples buying apartments, as well as perks for companies relocating to Jerusalem.

Avrich-Skapinker, who has her PhD in eastern European Jewish history from the University of Toronto, was a member of the Canadian government's immigration and refugee board for 10 years.

Berger is the wife of former Canadian ambassador to Israel, David Berger, and is what Avrich-Skapinker describes as a "high energy French Canadian, well-networked in Montreal and Ottawa." Berger helped to run the Canadian embassy in Israel for 4½ years, while her husband was the ambassador.

The Jerusalem Foundation is an independent, non-partisan, community organization that was started in Israel in 1966 by the first mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, together with a group of his friends from around the world.

He had a dream of building a pluralistic city where all of its citizens could live together equally – the religious and the secular, native Israelis and new immigrants, the rich and poor, and Arabs, Christians and Jews.

He wanted to improve educational opportunities, close the gaps between the city's different sectors and create a city that would serve all its citizens in the best way possible.

Almost 40 years after its founding, the Jerusalem Foundation is run by international chair Dan Meridor and president Ruth Cheshin, who has held the position since the organization's inception.

It supports projects in the areas of social services, youth and education, diversity and tolerance, arts and culture, parks and recreation, and history and heritage.

Since its establishment, the foundation has contributed to 2,000 projects – from small neighbourhood parks to world-renowned landmarks.

They include the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Jerusalem Music Center, Tisch Family Zoological Gardens, the Tower of David Museum for the History of Jerusalem, the University Botanical Gardens Jerusalem, the Via Dolorosa – renovations and the YMCA Peace Kindergarten for Jewish and Arab children.

At the time of the foundation's inception, Kollek said, "We created an opportunity for Jews and non-Jews from around the world to play a significant role in shaping Jerusalem's future – we established the Jerusalem Foundation."

Canada has a strong link with the foundation as Kollek's brother was Canadian and Kollek spent a fair amount of time visiting and establishing networks here.

But over the years, the foundation stopped operating in Canada, with the last foundation project completed 10 years ago.

Mannie Batshaw, 90, volunteer president of the Canadian Jerusalem Foundation said, "Jerusalem has nourished the Jewish people for 2,000 years and now it's our turn to nourish Jerusalem."

In June, Berger and Avrich-Skapinker, on a mission to Israel, saw what the foundation had done there. On their return, they began to establish a new national board for the Canadian Jerusalem Foundation.

"We are trying to achieve a balance of people on this board – some people with a high profile and influence in the community, some with academic and ideological interest in the issues concerning Israel, and then, also some younger people who are committed to the city of Jerusalem and Israel as a whole," said Avrich-Skapinker.

Berger and Avrich-Skapinker also invite people in the community to join the advisory committee and to help to organize fundraising events.

The first event takes place on Sept. 20 at the Bluma Appel Theatre, where Nalaga'at, a deaf and blind theatre group from Israel will be performing a school matinee and an evening show.

"The foundation is looking for volunteers and now, more than ever, needs to set its sights on building and improving the city of Jerusalem to make it a strong Jewish capital," Avrich-Skapinker says.

For more information, e-mail jerusalemfoundation@sympatico.ca.

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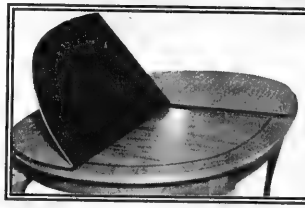

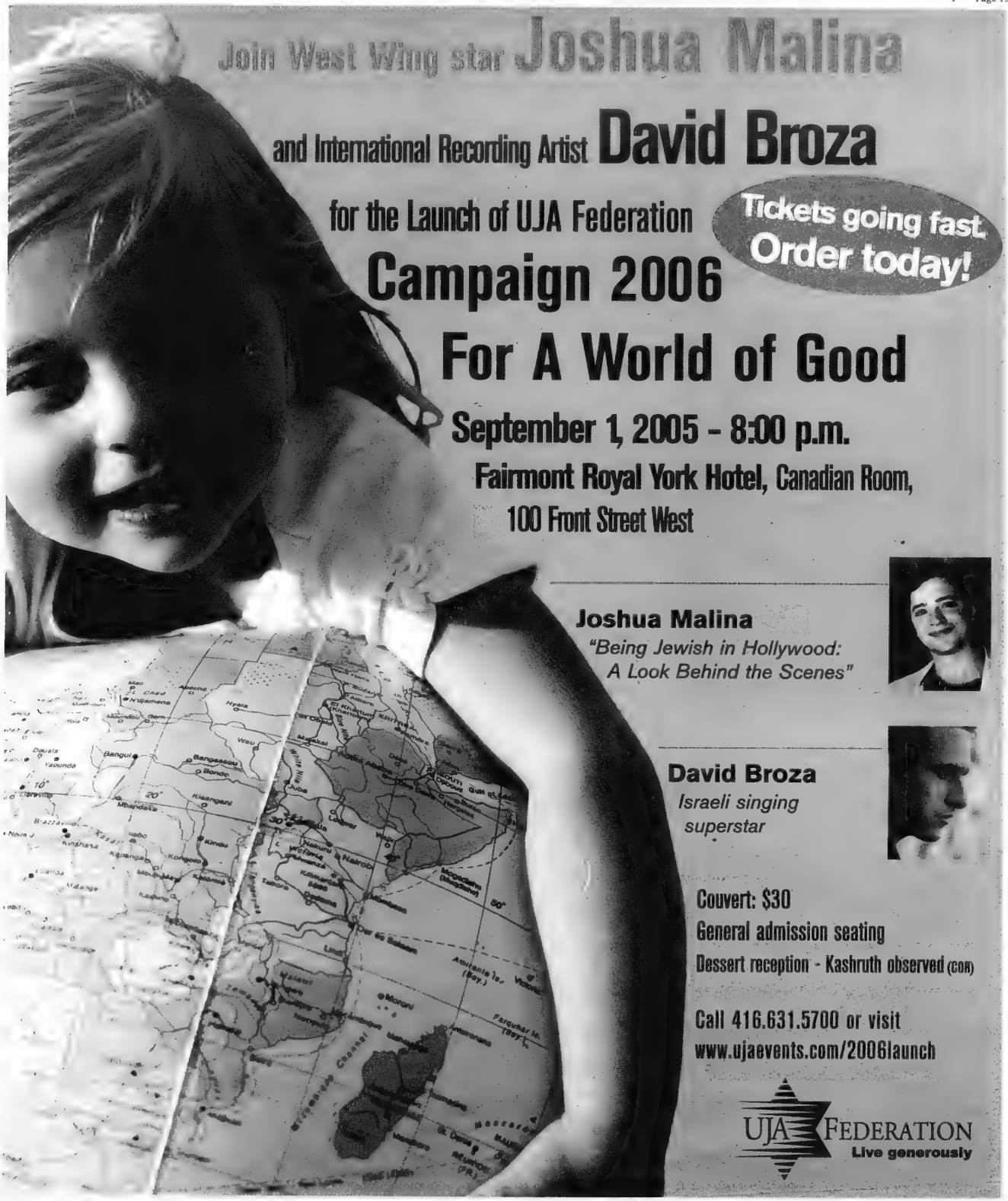

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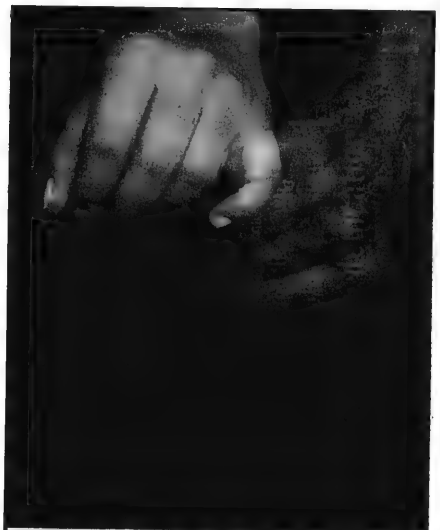

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By MIRIAM STUCKY
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

I've been seeking a spiritual home – a place of kindred spirits, shared meals, shared spiritual observance, and conscious commitment to respecting people and the earth. Recently, this search lead me to Elat Chayyim, a Jewish Renewal retreat centre in the Catskills of New York State.

For years, friends have participated in retreats at the centre and described it as a place to renew their relationship to Judaism, community and the earth in a safe and supportive environment. The beginning of a new "eco-apprentice" program and the second year of a residential community (something the centre's director Bennett Neiman referred to lightly as a "Jewish ashram") at the centre were enough to have me New York bound.

The morning after I arrived, I took part in davening like none other – full-throated, full-hearted group prayer led by rabbi-in-residence David Ingber. At times, I found myself able to pour myself into the experience, to contribute my own whole heart, through my voice, into this new, joyful experience. Participants included about 30 people from the residential community, as well as summer interns and students in two week-long training programs (including one group learning to be community chant leaders).

Members of the residential community labour alongside paid staff in the day-to-day work of the centre, but I did manage to sneak in a woodland walk with Simon Abramson, a resident and one of the organizers of the eco-apprentice program. He's one of those rare people gifted with being both laid back and focused. He came to Elat Chayyim last fall through a confluence of personal clarity, timing and mazel. In its search for organizational renewal, Elat Chayyim is granting real responsibility and opportunity to several people in their early 20s to develop new programs. Along with an occasional lack of organization and a narrow focus (at present the residential community is only for people in their 20s and 30s), the young leadership gives a lovely, creative energy to the centre's undertakings.

Friday afternoon brought preparations for the mikvah. The learned woman leading the ritual explained the process for the experienced and uninitiated alike. She welcomed women of all ages and shapes to be comfortable, present and free.

But as the time to enter the pool drew nearer, my eyes darted again and again toward the gate to the pool – where were my people? Where were the beautiful, capable young women I'd been getting to know through the week? Had they gathered elsewhere? Were they somehow disassociating themselves from this gathering? Though long surrounded by, and exceedingly comfortable with, women 10, 20 and 30 years my senior, I craved the company and nearness of women my age, of like minds and hearts. Though dozens of women were present, the ritual felt incomplete without the young women who were coming to matter to me. I felt incomplete entering the mikvah without them. And as they began to appear (late – who knew how like me they were), I smiled at the inner learning that was taking place within me, of the realization of what constitutes "community" for me.

Shabbat was not my usual Ontario Saturday, trying to observe most of the day's prohibitions and feeling restless, dissatisfied and alone. Instead, it was a taste of what (my) Olam Haba would offer: a sumptuous lunch buffet, including dessert, as well as frisbee in the warm rain and being lifted in the air in an impromptu dance jam. Heaven on earth.

Did I find my spiritual home? Will I move to Elat Chayyim in the fall? No. My spiritual practice isn't as devoted to daily prayer and study as that of this community. My need for intergenerational community, for existing friends and family, is strong. I will, however, be more active in my growing local Jewish community. I will make an effort to gather with others and study issues of social justice and spiritual practice. I will certainly seek out lunch buffets with dessert, frisbee and improvisational dance, and will keep up on developments in the Neshamah Fellowship in Jewish Spiritual Community and upcoming programs, including a conference on Judaism and activism.

For more on Elat Chayyim, visit www.jewishretreatcenter.org.

Miriam Stucky is an environmentalist and freelance writer in Peterborough, Ont.

Modern-day idol worship

By RABBI DAVID BAUMAN

Rabbinic Reflections

In his Mishneh Torah, Maimonides describes a phenomenon that was true in the days leading up to the life of Abraham and is still true today. "In the days of Enosh, the people fell into gross error, and the counsel of the wise men of the generation became foolish… Their error was as follows: 'Since, God,' they said, 'created these stars and spheres to guide the world, set them on high and allotted to them honour, and since they are ministers who minister before Him, they deserve to be praised and glorified, and honour should be rendered them; and it is the will of God, blessed be He… When this idea arose in their minds, they began to erect temples to the stars, offered up sacrifices to them, praised and glorified them in speech, and prostrated themselves before them… In course of time, there arose among men false prophets who asserted that God had commanded and expressly told them, 'Worship that particular star.'"

Similarly, in our age, many people have shifted their attention from God to modern-day idolatry. I realized this when my electronic organizer crashed recently and I lost much of my stored information. How many of us record our every move in such a device? Whether we use a Palm or Blackberry, or whether we still use paper, essentially, we worship and are enslaved to technology. Yet I wonder whether the information we spend time detailing is ultimately very important.

Parshat Ekev teaches us a transcendent lesson about Jewish living. Long before day-planners, the rabbinic interpretation of the Torah enabled Jews to schedule their lives in an orderly fashion and remind them of what is truly important in their lives. The Torah in Deuteronomy commands that after marking a period of the day by eating, Jews must give thanks to God "for the good land which He has given you."

This verse is the basis for *Birkat Hamazon*, the grace after meals, which enables us to reflect daily on four transcendent Judaic themes that are communicated through the four core blessings of the liturgy. The first reminds us that God is ultimately responsible for our nourishment. The second draws our attention to the Land of Israel and the uniqueness of its produce. The third reminds us of our yearnings for a religious centre for the Jewish People, recalling the kingship of David and the Holy Temple. The fourth completes the message by reinforcing that God is good and spreads his goodness.

Sefer Abudraham discusses a custom that reinforces the essence of the four themes. "There is a common practice when we recite the *Birkat Hamazon* that we remove the knives from the table." Quoting the Talmud, it explains the reasoning thus: "At the time that the Holy Jerusalem Temple stood, the altar atoned for our sins. Now that the Temple is no longer in existence our table [the one that we eat at] atones for us… All who lengthen our table lengthen his days and years because when we lengthen our table, the poor will come and will benefit from the same table. There is no justice greater than this, as Proverbs teaches justice will save [us] from death."

Today, advances in technology can help us improve God's world and not continue its destruction. But as in the days before Abraham, humanity has been sidetracked, albeit this time by gadgets. The Jewish People must be a light unto the nations. We can do this by focusing on Judaism's core values: God, Israel, and the belief in a messianic time and the goodness of God's world. Removing knives from our tables before *Birkat Hamazon* reminds us that violence will not help usher in the messianic period. As the *Aleinu* prayer says, may we merit to see "the day when the Lord is acknowledged as King of all the earth. On that day, the Lord will be One and His name One."

Rabbi Bauman is assistant rabbi at Toronto's Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Jewish Life

Elul and the journey of return

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Soon we will enter the month of Elul and our preparations for Rosh Hashanah and all the High Holy Days will begin. During Elul, each person can begin the process of reviewing their year. We search inwardly, as difficult questions are raised about how we made our choices this year and whether or not we have advanced or retreated in our development. With honest assessments, Judaism considers that we have laid the foundation for the repentance that is to follow.

Interestingly, the word in Hebrew for repentance is "tshuvah," which comes from the root word that means "to return." In English, the word repentance means to feel remorse for a past act. It is most commonly connected with a Latin root that means "to creep along the ground." The implication is that a person is ashamed of his or her past action and is prostrating themselves on the ground in remorse. It has a sense of the past catching up to the person and the emotional focus becomes the present moment. The person is now regretful.

Yet in Hebrew, the process is somewhat different. Tshuvah implies that a person is to first return, meaning stepping backward. There is not yet a sense of remorse or regret, but a first step of investigation. It is only once we begin this return that we might be led toward an understanding of our choices. We are not yet regretful, since we have only begun our exploration.

But to what is the person returning?

On the one hand, there is the concept of returning to God. Many Jewish philosophers have written about how the bad choices we make can distance us from God. In that sense, tshuvah would refer to the process by which we are to return our hearts toward God, making it easier to make better choices in the future. The road of return is a journey back to the Source.

But there is another aspect to the return that is expressed in the Talmud. According to our sages, as we are carried in the womb, each of us has an angel that teaches us the entire Torah. As our bodies are developing and we gain our physical characteristics, at the same time our souls are developing and the teachings of Torah are being incorporated into our essence. The sages continue that while we are being born, our angel taps us on the mouth, leaving an indentation on our upper lip. This causes us to forget everything we have been taught at the instant we take our first breath.

In other words, once Torah is coded into our very beings, it sits at our core throughout our lifetime. When we are born, it is the journey that becomes important and, therefore, we forget the conclusions. However, every correction we make within ourselves throughout our lives is in reality a return to a "womb wisdom" that we have always possessed.

At times we feel that something is wrong. Unable to put words to the feeling or to explain why it would be wrong, there is nevertheless something inside that does not sit right. According to the Talmud, every person is equipped with all the information they need to make moral choices throughout their lives. The question is whether or not we connect with these truths – whether or not we return.

The month of Elul ushers us into a process of discovery and of re-discovery. Before we begin the New Year and our thoughts turn toward the future, we have a month to start the process of tshuvah, the journey backward to connect with both God and the essence of ourselves.

Back-to-school sites

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week I introduced you to sites for Jewish families who are interested in homeschooling their children. Even if this kind of education isn't for you, you can benefit from some of the great educational sites that homeschoolers find themselves coming back to. As everyone gets ready for another school year, here are some recommended back-to-school sites, most geared to kids, some to parents and teachers.

Jewish Funland is a place to play a game, listen to some music, have a laugh – and learn at the same time. Do you know the difference between a "para" and "parpar"? The Animal World Match game will help teach you the Hebrew words for cow, butterfly and dozens of other animals. There are online crossword puzzles and an Israel Prime Minister Word Search Game. **[http://tinyurl.com/ahcet]**

Akhlah: The Jewish Children's Learning Network is a huge site with activities about the Jewish calendar, Israeli geography and Jewish heroes. Its Aleph-Bet section has colouring pages for every letter in the Hebrew alphabet, as well as printable flash cards, practice pages and a button to hear how the letter pronounced. **[www.akhlah.com/]**

Torahtots is full of stories, games and colouring pages. One of the central points of the site is an explanation of the current week's Torah reading in Parsha On Parade. The songs are lively and have names like *Totsland*, *Skibble Dibble* and *Hodu HaShem* (*Praise God*): "Every soda pop, every clip that clops, every two fives for a 10, every ring around the collar, and the medicine you swallow, proclaims, Hodu L'HaShem."

I must admit that I do find the audio welcome at the Torah Tots home page a bit overwhelming. You can bypass it by going straight to the site-map page. **[www.torahtots.com/sitemap.htm]**

Zigzagworld has put together a wonderful collection of online games such as Dress The Torah, Why Don't Zebras Play Chess? and the frustrating AlefBetGo! Their Hebrew For Me section includes their own games, which teach vocabulary for breakfast, at a picnic and in a sukkah. And for more advanced students who want to learn how to type in Hebrew the proper way, there's the Hebrew Keyboard Tutor. You'll see a miniature Hebrew keyboard on your screen, and when you type *A, S, D, F,* you'll see *shin, dalet, gimel, kaf.* As the zebra hangs Hebrew letters on a clothesline, you are prompted to tap the corresponding key. Congratulations to anyone who makes it to level five. **[www.zigzagworld.com/]**

For parents and teachers, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) site provides suggestions, articles and links about a wide variety of topics. They range from the traditional (experiential curriculum for the Tishrei holidays and essays on Jewish early childhood education) to the contemporary (Jewish response to the tsunami and Jewish views on end-of-life questions and euthanasia). To help foster dialogue about youth violence, CAJE created a 16-page document called Do Not Separate Yourself From The Community. **[www.caje.org/learn/fs_curricular.html]**

And finally my favourite site, J – Jewish Education and Entertainment. Jacob Richman is one creative guy. Richman has created several wonderful games that will keep kids (and their parents) busy for hours. You can try some challenging Jewish trivia quizzes (Jewish holidays, Israeli geography, entertainers, and more.) He provides Hebrew song lyrics as well as a Jewish Clipart Database with more than 150 lovely pictures that children can copy and use in school assignments. And he has designed a lovely little program that allows site visitors to type and print signs in Hebrew, even without Hebrew fonts installed on their computers. **[www.j.co.il/]**

And as hockey fans are gearing up for a long-awaited NHL season, here's a question from one of Jacob Richman's quizzes.

Who is the all-time leading Jewish scorer in NHL history?

a) Steve Dubinsky
b) Mathieu Schneider
c) David Nemirovsky
d) Ronnie Stern

[http://tinyurl.com/a6eg4]

(The answer is b.)

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.

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Pullout coverage surprisingly good – but not perfect

"When the withdrawal is complete, Israel will be the darling of the world." (Yoel Marcus, *Ha'aretz*, Aug. 12)

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The amount of media attention given to Israel's disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank has been staggering. It reflects the intense concentration of approximately 2,500 members of the media who have flooded into Israel, in addition to those already based there, to witness a momentous event in Israel's history and one of the most significant developments in recent Mideast politics.

In the week leading up to the Aug. 17 deadline for settlers to voluntarily vacate their homes, much of the media provided detailed portraits – many of them surprisingly sympathetic – of Jews being forced to give up property they've owned, in many cases, for decades.

As the evictions began, cameras captured the agony when the men, women and children who had not already left voluntarily were physically removed. Crying, screaming, and pleading, the settlers were often moved out by soldiers and police who were equally distraught by the nature of their task.

Yet the predicted wide-scale violence did not occur; nor did the greatly exaggerated predictions of "civil war" come to pass. Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that while Israel may be divided politically, it is united democratically (BBC, Aug. 16). The general orderliness amid the non-violent resistance confirmed his statement.

The settlers, who had been so frequently demonized by the media as a monolithic, rapacious lot, were now seen in human terms as victims of forced evacuation – this time at the hands of other Jews. Still, a few negative trends started to emerge in some major media reports. On BBC World, which the CBC had been airing after locking out its unionized workers, Orla Guerin said night after night that the settlers thought they would stay forever on "occupied Palestinian land" and that "the international community thought they should never have been here in the first place."

Gaza settlers were convinced that they had a right to the land, some of which had been purchased before 1948 when they fled before the invading Egyptian army. Terence Smith of PBS' *Newshour* got it right when he said "The densely settled 139 square mile stretch of land at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea has been disputed for decades (Aug. 15)." The fact is, the precise status of the territories remains to be determined through negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's motives have also come under intense media scrutiny. Many critics feel Sharon is giving up Gaza in order to secure Israel's grip on the West Bank.

But Tom Clark, host of CTV's National, cast no doubt on Sharon's motives when he introduced Janis Mackey Frayer's Aug. 15 disengagement story: "From the Middle East tonight, a historic withdrawal meant to advance peace." Frayer herself said: "It's at least hoped the pullout could provide peace talks here, so Ariel Sharon says it's now up to the Palestinians that if they choose to extend an olive branch, Israel would do the same."

On the question of Sharon's motives, former U.S. chief Mideast peace negotiator Dennis Ross had the best reply (BBC World, Aug. 15):

"Here, after all, is the father of the settlement movement – and he's facing such opposition from his own base precisely because he's withdrawing from settlements that he encouraged to be there. I think one has to be a little bit cautious about being so certain that they know what Sharon's next move will be.

"If the Palestinians make Gaza into a model of what they in fact are prepared to do in terms of good governance and security, and fulfillment of responsibilities, then it seems to me that it creates its own dynamic, its own set of pressures to do something on the West Bank as well, even from Sharon's standpoint. And if they don't, it takes all the pressure off Sharon and anybody else in Israel to do more in the West Bank."

Now, as to Yoel Marcus's prediction which prefaces this piece, let's simply say "Not so fast."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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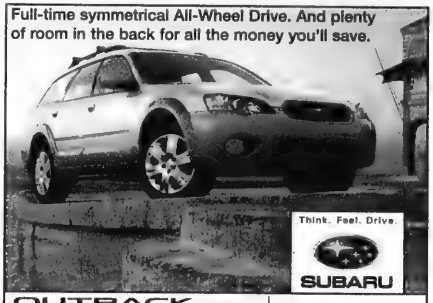

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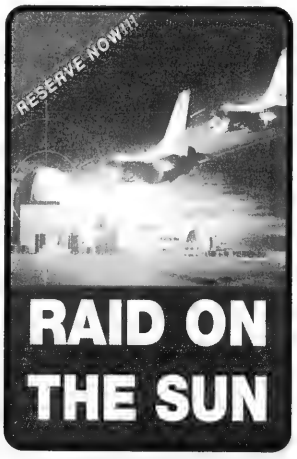

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Jewish special education teachers tour Israel

By SUZANNE WINTROB
JTA

With a dozen years of teaching behind her, Sheri Kravetsky knows that each child relates to learning differently.

That's why she's constantly on the lookout for the latest special-education techniques to help her preschoolers thrive.

"Each child approaches their classroom expectations in a different way," says Kravetsky, who has spent the past nine years as a preschool teacher at Eitz Chaim Day Schools. "They may be auditory learners, tactile learners or visual learners, yet it's up to the teacher to be able to adapt to each in a multisensory fashion so as to maximize the child's potential."

On Aug. 28, Kravetsky and 22 other Jewish day-school and supplementary-school teachers will receive a certificate in special education from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Board of Jewish Education and York University.

The year-long Tikun Chaim program, which the board says is the first of its kind in North America, covers all aspects of special education.

For a final assignment, students prepared a research and practicum project. Many based their projects on their classroom experiences, producing reading programs and insightful theories on education for gifted children.

The course culminated in the Jewish Agency for Israel's first trip for special-education teachers to Israel, which Tikun Chaim director Debbie Gladstone said reinforced what had been learned in the classroom.

The trip was co-sponsored by the Jewish National Fund and the federation's Partnership 2000 program.

About half of the matriculating students, including Kravetsky, toured Israel to hear from academics and observe innovative special-education programs in action.

Tikum Chaim program first of its kind in North America

Kravetsky says she initially signed up for the course to find strategies to help her preschoolers succeed in the classroom. But the Tikun Chaim program also taught her how to identify behavioural disorders, recognize special-education candidates, conduct assessments, advocate for students and handle administration and parents.

She also learned about the government's role in special education and about services available in her area.

"I came back from every class exhilarated," says Kravetsky, 43, a mother of five. "I brought it back to my classroom right away – whether in how I organized my day, how I related to the students, or even how I interacted with my co-workers and the school administration."

But it was the Israel experience that brought it all together, she says. In Eilat, Toronto's sister city, the group visited a therapeutic horse ranch and discovered that children who don't like to talk can climb on a horse and feel comfortable being vocal. They also observed children with physical disabilities, aided by a therapist, swimming with dolphins.

The group also visited Kishurit, a community in the Galilee for special-needs adults, and went to Beit Issie Shapiro in Ra'anana, which each year serves nearly 7,750 children and adults with developmental disabilities. At Beit Issie Shapiro, they toured a sensory-treatment room for introverted children and saw how flashing lights and soft music can stimulate a child's senses.

At Havat Hashomer, an army training base in the Golan Heights, the Tikun Chaim group learned about disadvantaged youth who get extra training, remedial education and ongoing assistance to help them succeed in the army and enhance their future prospects. They also went to Etgarim, an outdoor sports and recreation centre in Tel Aviv, where they learned about wheelchair-bound people who are able to rappel down a wall.

The Tikun Chaim students were particularly intrigued by the teacher-parent interactions they witnessed. Many Israeli teachers they spoke with visit their students' homes to get a complete picture of the child, something Canadian teachers rarely do.

"It showed such dedication, that they're always willing to make connections with the child whatever way possible, so they can promote the child's success," Kravetsky says.

"The entire experience has made me think in a much more creative and industrious way when it comes to practising in the classroom," she said. "It's not about the teacher standing up there being the authoritative figure. It's about the child participating in the learning process as well."

A second group of 26 teachers, representing Jewish preschools, elementary, middle and high schools, began their Tikun Chaim studies this month.

Gladstone hopes the course will run for a third time next year.

"They came out feeling really great," she says of the program's first graduating class. "They learned a tremendous amount and they have made huge changes" in terms of "how they view kids and how they view themselves working in the classroom. One of the teachers said the word 'lazy' has come out of her vocabulary. It's quite spectacular."

For more information on Tikun Chaim, visit www.bjetoronto.org.

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Group launches matching grants initiative for Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A U.S.-based organization with members in Canada has launched a new program to support non-profit projects in Israel.

The Jewish Funders Network, with headquarters in New York City, has started what is describes as a matching grants initiative.

"We've been active in Israel for many years, but this is the first time we have taken such an active role in trying to stimulate philanthropy there," the group's Canadian-born president, Mark Charendoff, said in an interview last week.

Mark Charendoff

"Part of our motivation is the success we have had in our first matching grants program, which was focused on Jewish education," he added.

"Part of it, though, was prompted by recent studies that showed that young American Jews are losing interest in Israel as a place to focus their philanthropy."

The Jewish Funders Network has set aside $2 million (US) in capital in the form of matching funds for first-time grants of $25,000 to $50,000.

It is doing so in partnership with the Sacta-Rashi Foundation, one of the leading private family funds in Israel dedicated to helping the underprivileged.

Charendoff, a former Torontonian, said that grants will support non-profit projects in four areas: bridging social and economic gaps, health care, education about the environment and education to further coexistence.

Proposals will be considered through Oct. 31, 2005.

The need to bridge social and economic gaps in Israel is urgent, the group says.

It notes that thirty per cent of Israeli children live at or below the poverty line, and almost half of Israeli Arabs and more than seven out of 10 Ethiopian Jewish families are impoverished. As a result, the poor have gone without care due to the cost of medical services.

Meanwhile, Israelis requiring special care, such as people with physical and mental disabilities, often cannot meet their medical needs.

Water pollution and water scarcity threaten Israel's ecological well-being. Today, Israel ranks 88th out of 122 countries in terms of water quality, lower than Egypt and Bangladesh. Israeli environmentalists are attempting to reverse current trends, but they may be fighting a losing battle unless they have access to more funds.

Twenty per cent of all Israelis are Arabs, and one out of three citizens is a new immigrant. With this in mind, the Jewish Funders Network wants to promote tolerance, equality and trust among Israel's citizens so as to enhance its social fabric.

Founded 15 years ago, with about 850 members around the world, it consists of family foundations, public philanthropies and individual funders dedicated to advancing the quality and growth of philanthropy rooted in Jewish values.

Charendoff, a graduate of the Associated Hebrew Schools, said his organization works closely with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"Canadian Jews enjoy a far closer relationship with Israel than do their cousins south of the border," he said. "We are really looking to the Canadian Jewish community to continue their leadership in this respect.

"Our hope is that they will inspire some of the young Jews of wealth in the United States by their example and help us foster the next generation of Jewish philanthropists who will be dedicated to making a difference in Israel and in the lives of Israelis."

Na'amat's Club Masada celebrates 60 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After 60 years, members of Na'amat Toronto's Club Masada are not resting on their laurels.

In the past year, the group of mostly octogenarians raised about $76,000 for the organization, whose mission is to enhance the status of women, children and families in Israel and Canada.

Over the years, "guesstimates" Pearl Mekler, a founding member, they have raised at least $2 million. "In 1945, we raised $305, and in the '90s we peaked at $100,000."

They're also proud that they have retained a membership of 60. In the '60s they had 60 dues-paying members, and "we have 60 dues-paying members now. We've lost some along the way, but we've always picked up more."

At the club's 60th anniversary celebration chaired by Bess Direnfeld-Plosker, a founding member who also chaired the club's 50th anniversary celebration, more than 100 people turned out to acknowledge the club's accomplishments.

They have travelled a long way together, she said. "We were young, mostly newlyweds, ambitious, hard-working, coping with the economics and hardships of the early war years and postwar years. We were convinced that peace and the Zionist dream were attainable."

Mekler joined Na'amat, she said, because she grew up "steeped in labour Zionism."

Her parents, members of Farbund, were founders of the Farbund Folks Shule, which later evolved into Bialik Hebrew Day School. She is a life member of the school's board and has been national president of Na'amat.

Continued on page 22

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Physics teacher is tuned into new ideas

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Eli Honig, a popular, white-bearded physics teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, is using a Slinky toy to demonstrate "sympathetic vibrations" to a visiting reporter.

"They are our teachers..."

The Slinky is one of Honig's many teaching tools – and it's "cool," he says, using vernacular more common to his high school students.

Honig, who has a PhD from New York University, also teaches at the University of Toronto, with which he has been associated since 1973.

He made the transition to high school teacher in 1984 after a friend suggested he apply to CHAT. "I didn't know what I was getting into," he recalls. "Actually, I was very fortunate. I enjoyed it a lot. The kids that year were wonderful – flying off the walls practically, [but] bright. I had a great time."

Also, he noted, his new colleagues helped him learn the ropes.

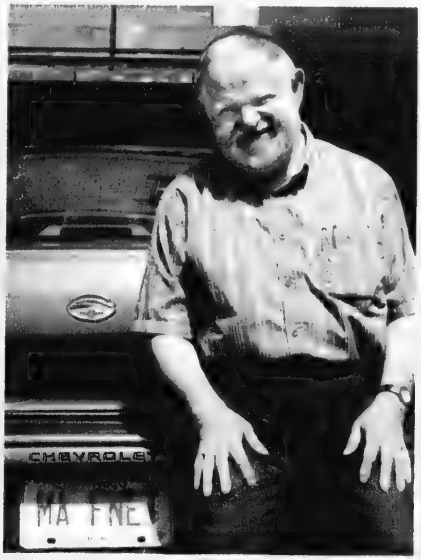
In 2004, he won a teacher of excellence award, a private award for teachers at Toronto Jewish day schools, and this year he received CHAT's Aviva Heller Memorial Award from its student council.

The 62-year-old educator, who has four grown children, was born in France and immigrated to Montreal with his mother and two sisters at age six. His father perished in Auschwitz; the others stayed in hiding with the help of a French family.

A graduate of Montreal's Baron Byng High School, Honig also attended Lubavitch Day School from grades 5 to 8, a significant factor in his becoming Orthodox.

At CHAT, Honig is known for his connection to Canada's Wonderland. In the late 1980s, Honig spoke of the Vaughan theme park during a class, telling his Grade 13 students that if they went there, they would see an example of a principle he was explaining.

One student called out, "Why don't we take a field trip?" Honig's reaction was a neutral comment. "Interesting idea," he said, not taking it seriously at first.



Eli Honig's licence plate, a gift from one of his classes, proclaims Newton's second law of motion: mass times acceleration equals net force. [Benji Feldman photo]

But after thinking it over, he approached his principal to make a case for visiting the park. "That was certainly not conventional at the time," he recalls.

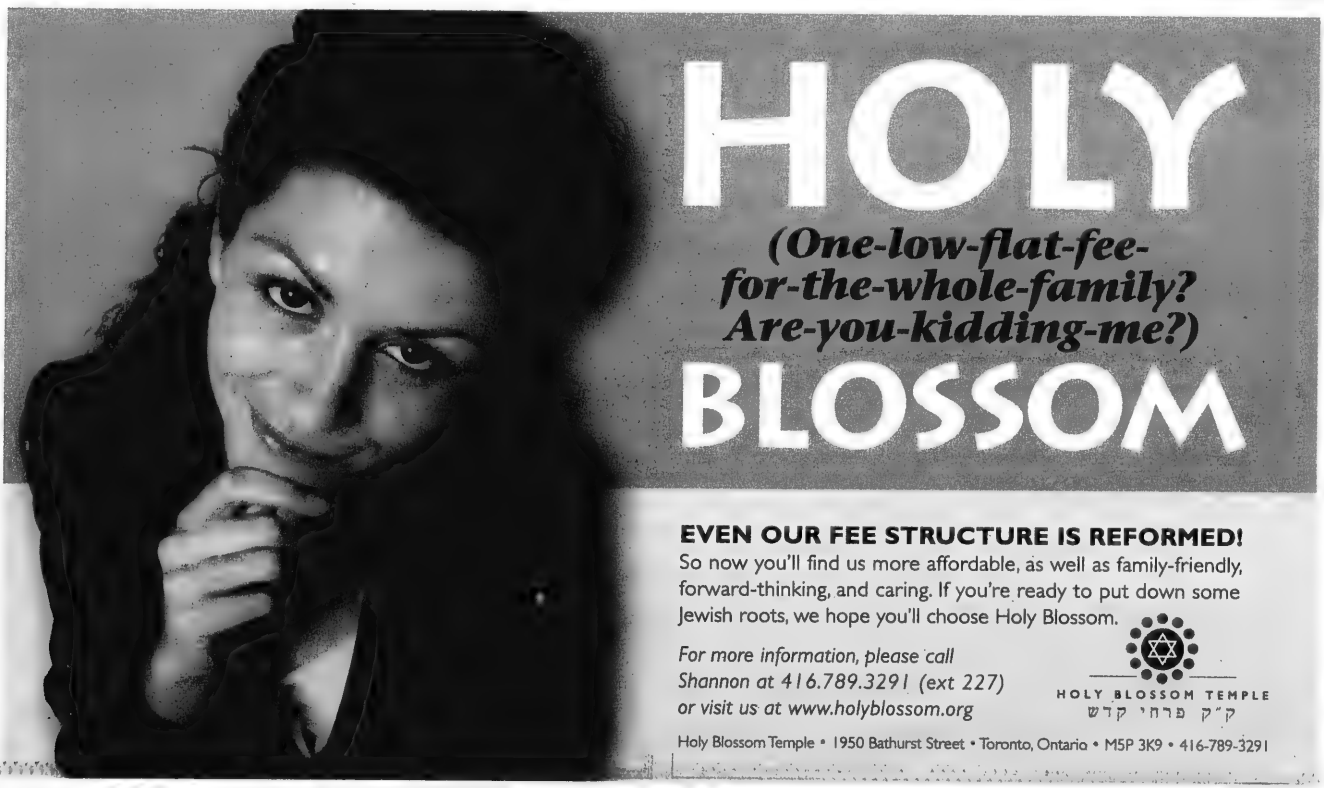
The trip turned out to be a success. After the group met with Wonderland's then chief engineer, Honig showed students how the rides exemplified their lessons. Those who wanted could go on the rides and "study the physics from within." Some students built ride models, a project Honig eventually assigned all his students.

He also became involved in organizing an annual high school physics day at the park.

To create some fun in the classroom, teachers have to have a sense of humour, Honig said. "You have to like kids, and opportunities will present themselves. Of course you plan your lessons, and try to come up with new ideas.

"My wife knows not to throw out stuff in the house, because it may be useful," he said, noting that he had used a cardboard roll from a package of aluminum foil, along with a tuning fork, to demonstrate resonance.

"I don't plan these things," he said. "They just happen to catch my eye. It's serendipity."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Na'amat president a 'new' member

Continued form page 20

"I belonged to Habonim Dror, Na'amat's youth organization, as a youngster, and I met my husband there. I would have been a traitor had I not joined. It was in my genes."

Current president Tillie Margolis, who is also president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, is a "new" member who joined in 1950. She says the group has lasted all these years because the members have dedicated themselves to a cause. It becomes a way of life.

"We've given a lot: our members were instrumental in developing some major Na'amat projects. We have received back even more, however."

With the fundraising skills she developed through her chapter, she said, she went on to become fundraising co-ordinator for the Canadian Cancer Society.

"We learned to do public speaking, to be organized and to mediate. When you deal with a lot of people, you learn to be diplomatic. If you run an organization, you can certainly run a business."

The social aspect is also important, said Margolis. "We are bonded together through friendship and through the cause."

Mekler said that due to their achievements, "people listen to us when we speak, and young groups have respect for us.

"When we were a young group, we would emulate the older members. Now, the younger members are emulating us. That is the way things work."

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ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

זעכציק יאָר נאָך דער ערשטער אַטאָם באָמבע

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

לעצטנס זיינען אָפּגעמערקט געוואָרן אין דער מערקיִ די 60־יאָריקע דאָטעס פֿון דער באָפּרייִנג פֿון די קאָנצענטראַציע־לאָגערן, ווי אויך פֿונעם סוף פֿון דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה און די גאַנצע וועלט — די יידישע און נישט־יידישע — האָט מיט פֿרייד אויפֿגענומען די דאָזיקע נייעס. מוז מען אָבער אויך אָפּמערקן, אז אין היינטיקן חודש וועלט 60 יאָר ווי מען האָט אַראָפּגעשליידערט די ערשטע אַטאָם־באָמבע. דאָס איז שוין נישט קיין פֿריידיקע נייעס. צו זיין פֿרעציז לאָמיר צוגעבן די יענעזיע דאָטעס: דעם 6טן אויגוסט, 1945, האָט דער ב־29 באָמבער־עראָפּלאַן „ענאָלא גיי" געוואָרפֿן די ערשטע אַטאָם־באָמבע אויף הירָאָשימאַ; דעם 9טן אויגוסט — אויף נאַגאַסאַקי, וואָס געהערט צו יאַפּאַן.

איצט מיט 60 יאָר שפּעטער קען מען מיט זיכערקייט זאָגן, אז אָט דער טאָג האָט אויף אייביק גע־ענדערט די קריגס מעטאָדן צווישן פֿעלקער. די צוויי באָמבעס האָבן צעטריסלט די וועלט און פֿאַרשפּרייט איבער איר דאָס געשפּענסט פון טויט...

די קרבנות צווישן דער ציוויליזער יאָפּאַנעזישער באָפֿעלקערונג זיינען געווען אומגעהויער גרויס. באַלד אויפֿן אָרט זיינען אין ביידע שטעט אומגעקומען איבער 150 טויזנט מענטשן. אַ סך פון די לעבנגעבליבענע — צווישן זיי גאָר אַ גרויסע צאָל קינדער — לייַדן נאָך ביזן הייַנטיקן טאָג פון קראַנקייטן, וואָס זיינען פֿאַרבונדן מיט די טויטלעכע אָטאָמישע שטראַלן. במשך די 60 יאָר זיינען טויזנטער אויסגעשטאָרבן און טויזנטער נע־פּינען זיך נאָך אין שפּיטעלער, ווו זיי ווערן אָן ספֿק פֿאַרבלייבן ביזן סוף פון זייערע לעבנס.

כּמעט באַלד נאָך דער באָמבאַרדירונג האָט זיך אָנ־געהויבן אַ דיסקוסיע, וואָס ווערט נאָך געפּירט עד היום. איז געווען נייטיק צו ווַארפן די באָמבע אין יענער צייַטן איך וועל נישט אריינגיין אין דעטאַלן מכוח דער דאָזיקער דיסקוסיע. אָבער די, וואָס פֿאַרטיידיקן דאָס ווַארפן די באָמבע דערקלערן עס מיטן פּאָקט, אז עס האָט שנעלער געענדיקט די מלחמה און ס'זיינען גערא־טעוועט געוואָרן אַ סך מענטשן, וואָס וואָלטן אומ־געקומען, ווען די מלחמה וואָלט זיך פֿאַרצויגן לענגער.

די צרה איז אָבער, וואָס דער דאָזיקער, אַזוי־גערו־פענער, „הומאַניטאַרער" אָקט האָט געהאָט אַ שטאַרקע נעגאַטיוועַ ווירקונג אויף דער צוקונפֿט. אין די פֿאַרגאַנגענע יאָרן האָט זיך די פּראָדוקציע פון נוקלעאַרן וואָפֿן איבער דער וועלט שטאַרק צעפּעלאָקערט. כּמעט יעדע מלוכה האָט חשק איינצוקויפֿן אַדער אַליין אויס־אַרבעטן נוקלעאַרן געווער פֿאַר זיך, אַדער אַפֿילו צום פֿאַרקויפֿן.

לעצטנס איז די מעדיַע זייער באָמרוּיקט פון די נייַעסן, וואָס קומען אַרויס פון אירָאַן און צפֿון־קאָרעַ וועגן זייער אויסאַרבעטן אייגענע אַטאָמישע געווערן. זיי ווערן אַרויסגעהאַלפֿן פון אַזעלכע מדינות, וואָס האָבן שוין לאָנג דעם אַטאָמישן וואָפֿן, ווי רוסלאַנד און אַנדערע, וועלכע ווילן דערביי פֿאַרדינען גרויסע געל־טער. אויך די פּירערס פון דעמאָקראַטישע לענדער האָבן זייער מורא פֿאַר דער צעמערונג פון נוקלעאַרן געווער. ספּעציעל איז דאָ די מורא, אז דאָס קען אַריין־פֿאַלן אין הענט פון טעראָריסטן און די שאַדנס, וואָס זיי קענען מיט דעם אָנמאַכן אויף דער וועלט.

איז וואָס וועט זיין דער סוף? . . . וועט אָמאָל קומען אַ סוף צו דעם, וואָס עס האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן מיט 60 יאָר צוריק? . . . מיר לעבן מיט האָפֿענונגען

On Campus

U of W medical student writes more than just prescriptions

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

Playwright and doctor are two adjectives that are not usually used to describe one person, but in Josh Landy's case, they fit the bill.

Josh Landy

Landy, an aspiring physician about to begin his fourth year in medical school at the University of Western Ontario, has found a way to marry his two passions: medicine and writing.

When he became interested in medical ethics, he decided to do a research project that gave him the "chance to do some writing and thinking – it was important to do some research in a field that gave me that freedom."

Landy spoke to Dr. Jeff Nisker, the medical ethics co-ordinator and professor of obstetrics-gynecology and oncology in the Schulich School of Medicine at UWO, who encouraged him to apply for a grant from the Associated Medical Services.

"I applied for a studentship and they awarded me a grant for my proposal to write a play about medical students and the ethics we face as students.

"The application also discussed my plans to develop the play as a tool to help contextualize a lot of the didactic ethics that we meet in school," said the 24-year-old Thornhill native.

Nisker suggested Landy look to the medical ethics projects of the second- and fourth-year students for inspiration.

Landy explained that the second-year projects, which are part of the ethics curriculum, are put together by groups of eight to 10 students "and they are presented in any fashion about any medical ethical issue that doesn't sit right."

He said that the topics ranged from end-of-life care to screening patients.

The fourth-year projects were accounts of personal experiences from the ward – the students wrote about any situation that made them feel ethically uncomfortable.

"Some of these writing samples were able to elicit such a visceral reaction from me, they conjure such vivid images," Landy said.

"Basically, *Morning Grounds* was inspired by what makes us, as medical students, uncomfortable."

On the surface, Landy said, the play is about two medical students who set up a coffee stand in the hallway of a hospital. Throughout the play, the characters run into people they know while serving coffee.

"Ethically, it's about the decisions we make as medical students and how those choices affect the way we change our perspectives through school. It's about that adaptation, and how medical school changes people."

He first presented his play at the Ontario Medical Educators Network conference in London, Ont., last May and got a reaction he didn't expect.

"I truly expected polite applause and a hasty exit from the crowd," he recalled. "I was shocked by the genuine enthusiasm and the lengthy [question and answer period] that followed. Teachers were asking *me* about these issues. I felt so humbled by that experience."

He then took his play to another forum, Congress 2005, the annual conference of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, held at UWO from May 28 to July 5.

He explained that each evening, one of the selected humanities projects were performed. "Most of the projects were single effort at things like poetry and music, but the play was a nice change because it had a cast of 12 characters and it drew interest from both the students and the conference."

Landy, who went through the Jewish school system, first at Associated Hebrew School, then at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), said he didn't always want to be a doctor.

"It's been my goal since I've been in high school. I got a C in science in junior high. That was a rough patch for my relationship with science. We've been close ever since," Landy said, displaying his sense of humour.

Continued on page 28

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Guest Voice

Rabbi Witty: in appreciation of a dear friend

By RABBI ERWIN SCHILD
on behalf of the Toronto Board of Rabbis

I cannot recall my first meeting with Rabbi Yitzchak Witty, of blessed memory. I assume it took place soon after he became director of the Toronto Board of Jewish Education. A much more recent encounter always comes up in my mind when I think of him, and the encounter had nothing to do with our respective positions in the Jewish community.

My wife and I were spending a Shabbat in Bergenfield, N.J., visiting my nephew David Schild and his family. Entering shul on Friday evening, a few minutes before the start of the service, I saw a gentleman sitting in a quiet corner, obviously engrossed in a book, his face averted from my perspective. He looked unmistakably like Yitz Witty, with his ample proportions and posture, but as we were 700 kilometres away from Toronto, I thought it could not possibly be him. Well, it was, my nephew assured me: Rabbi Witty had a daughter in Bergenfield and was, therefore, a frequent and appreciated guest of the community.

We greeted each other with the special kind of exquisite joy that one experiences only at a moment of surprise when one unexpectedly meets a good friend far from home. I felt the openness, the cordiality, the unreserved friendliness, the genuine reaching out to others so characteristic of his personality. He was not only a revered colleague, but a dear friend.

An obituary of Rabbi Witty in the press designated him as "the father of Jewish education in Toronto." That accolade was incorrect. The fathers (and mothers) of Jewish education in Toronto predated Rabbi Witty by at least one generation or two. Rabbi Witty was the champion, the advocate, the developer, the propulsive energizer of Jewish education in our community. Yet, like most of the great pacemakers and leaders of the public, he stood on the shoulders of devoted predecessors.

It was Dr. Joseph Diamond who created and shaped the Toronto Board of Jewish Education (BJE) as its first director. He won for Jewish education the priority position on the agenda of the organized Jewish community that it still occupies. Diamond was an authority in the field of Jewish learning and education and, most importantly, a pioneering and demanding administrator. But while Diamond was respected in the boardrooms of the community, he remained somewhat aloof and remote, whereas Rabbi Witty was a people person – warm, effusive, gregarious, outgoing and, well, likeable.

Rabbi Witty could have had a brilliant career as a congregational rabbi. He loved people. He was a genuine scholar of Torah and well versed in many academic disciplines. He was an eloquent speaker who could hold an audience. He possessed a terrific sense of humour and would delight friends, colleagues and audiences with a wealth of stories and anecdotes. He had initiative and endurance, was creative and original. He was charming, persuasive, sensible and sensitive, resourceful and dedicated. He was popular and beloved. He exemplified many of the virtues that characterize a true scholar, a *talmid chacham*: he was modest and moderate, peaceful and helpful, unassuming and gentle, truly devout and steadfast.

However, much as he loved humanity, the Jewish people, God and Torah, his passion was Jewish education for all Jewish children. With a large measure of success, he dedicated himself to the creation of an educators' community beyond the formal constituents of the board, a community that included teachers, students, principals, rabbis and patrons.

Without sacrificing his own principles or compromising his convictions as an Orthodox Jew, Rabbi Witty was able to serve

Rabbi Irwin (Yitzchak) Witty

the entire community, irrespective of ideological or theological differences, with love and boundless dedication. In the same transdenominational spirit, Rabbi Witty was a loyal and active member of the Toronto Board of Rabbis (TBR). It was in this context that I came to know, appreciate and admire Rabbi Yitz Witty and to enjoy his unconditional collegiality and friendship. What a wonderful, talented, erudite *rav* and *chaver* he was!

For reasons that I understand and respect, but do not endorse, Toronto's Orthodox rabbis have chosen not to join their Reform and Conservative colleagues on the TBR. Yitz Witty was the only exception, save one other Orthodox rabbi who served a Conservative congregation. It was not the communality of his office as director of the BJE that made Rabbi Witty join: for many years, he was the active secretary of the TBR and quite plausibly its leading spirit, able to weld together the sometimes fractious and always busy members of the TBR and to spearhead their collective activities. His unique position, and unimpeachable Orthodox credentials, allowed him also to serve as a bridge between the TBR and the Orthodox rabbinate when communal needs required it. His commitment to the TBR exemplified the width of his vision and the scope of his devotion to the community as a whole.

With great pleasure, I recall Rabbi Witty's weekly talks on Zelda Young's Jewish Hour. Whenever I had the chance to listen to him, frequently en route to a gravestone unveiling on a Sunday morning, I enjoyed his erudition, wit, insight and scholarship as he so effectively delivered his informative and fascinating mini-lectures.

Even after his retirement from the BJE, Yitz Witty did not curb his dedication to the needs of the global Jewish community. I recall his several visits to Australia as a lecturer and his years of service, at great personal sacrifice, to the Jewish community of Milwaukee, Wis. As director of the Albert Latner Jewish Library in his later years, Rabbi Witty brought a new sense of vitality and relevance to this important, but undervalued, institution.

Yitzchak Witty's commanding presence at a meeting, in the pulpit, or at a convivial gathering, was matched by his role as a private individual and family man. His presence was inseparably tied – soul to soul, as the Torah calls it – to Shulamit, his wife, partner, companion and caregiver. In the name of my colleagues on the TBR, I would like to convey to her the sympathy and solidarity of a shared loss, shared sorrow and shared affection. Our condolences reach out also to his children and grandchildren. Those who brought him joy and happiness in his lifetime will continue, we pray, to bring perpetual lustre to his memory.

For the TBR, the remembrance of Yitzchak Witty will always be a challenge to realize his goal of a united and effective rabbinate.

Rabbi Schild is rabbi emeritus of Adath Israel Congregation.

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Coast to Coast

Bertrand charged for comments

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The Quebec Bar Association has charged lawyer Guy Bertrand with two violations of the profession's code of ethics in connection with his defence of Rwandan exile Leon Mugesera before the Supreme Court of Canada.

The charges were laid by the syndic of the bar, which has been investigating Bertrand since the Supreme Court condemned Bertrand in June for employing anti-Semitic sentiment in his attempt to stay proceedings against his client. The Supreme Court called it "scandalous" to allege that "influential members of the Jewish community manipulated the Canadian political system and the country's highest court for the sole purpose of having Mugesera deported."

The bar's two charges are that Bertrand made a public statement "prejudicial to a case pending before a court" and "lacked moderation by making arguments and statements that were irresponsible, excessive and unjustified by the set of circumstances and facts."

If the charges are upheld by the bar's disciplinary committee, Bertrand faces sanctions ranging from a reprimand to a fine to, in the worst case, expulsion for life.

No date has yet been set for the bar's disciplinary committee to begin hearings against Bertrand, an outspoken Quebec City lawyer who has been practising for some 40 years.

Bertrand was defiant at a press conference he called to react to the bar's decision. He said that he looks forward to the opportunity to explain what happened and to defend his conduct.

He denied that he ever spoke of a "Jewish conspiracy" or made any other anti-Semitic remarks, but rather denounced the action of a "lobby group," referring to Canadian Jewish Congress. He said the court appeared to have picked up the conspiracy theory from an editorial in the *Globe and Mail*.

He also charged that the Supreme Court exceeded its power in condemning his handling of the Mugesera case. The judges "abused their enormous power" in condemning him without going him a hearing or opportunity of appeal.

"These judges… knocked me and attacked my honour and my dignity without any of them thinking of giving me at least the benefit of the doubt, good faith or the presumption of innocence."

He was also critical of the bar. Its refusal to defend him after the Supreme Court judgment, Bertrand said, raises the question of whether lawyers in private practice should form a professional association or union to protect themselves.

He said lawyers are becoming reluctant to take on controversial cases for fear of being "crucified" by the court for something they might say and then they have no recourse of defence.

The Canadian Jewish news

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In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

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Subscription will begin two weeks after receipt of information.

If you wish, please enclose a photo - we'd be honoured to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Congratulations once again to my Stellar Young Ladies!!!!

AMANDA AND JORDANA IRWIN

They did it again!

Amanda (soon to be "Ratner") recently earned her Master's of Science Degree in Speech Therapy and Jordana was called to the Ontario Bar.

NOT BAD FOR TWO BABIES THE SIZE OF LITTLE LOBSTERS WHEN THEY WERE BORN!

I am SO proud of what you have achieved and who you are becoming.

Love, your Mom,
Monique Irwin

Mazel Tov

Maureen and Harland Staviss and Judith and Jacob Bloomberg are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children...

Marcus & Honey

Mazel tov to Karin Salzman & Amir Dodick, who were married May 29.

Mazel tov to David & Maki Klotz who were married on June 12.

Zaldin - Matthew & Tammy (née Urbach) are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Samuel Nathan (Shmuel Naftalie), on July 27th. Mazel Tov!

Hailey Foreman is helping her brother Josh Foreman celebrate his 12th birthday at Camp Walden. Picture taken by aunt Robyn Beder.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos, keeping wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

What's New deadlines: Monday, Aug. 29, is the deadline for the Sept. 8 issue, Wednesday, Aug. 31, is the deadline for the Sept. 15 issue and Monday, Sept. 12, is the deadline for the Sept. 22 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Aug. 25

COLORECTAL CANCER

The Canadian Cancer Society offers a support group for people who have been newly or recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 620 Wilson Ave. suite 501. A meeting takes place tonight, 7-9 p.m. For information, call 416-638-0771.

Sunday, Aug. 28

SINGLES BRUNCH

Join Dynamic Singles for brunch at Adath Israel Congregation. 11:30 a.m. $15 if prepaid by Aug. 25, $20 at the door. To reserve, call **Rachel** at 416-635-5340.

SINGLES CRUISE

Toronto Networking Cruise for Jewish Young Adults and Professionals (20-35) hosts a cruise. Departure at 7:30 p.m. $30. Light refreshments will be served on board. To reserve or purchase tickets, call 416-428-8255 after 6 p.m. or e-mail sec_toronto@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, Aug. 30

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women holds its last garage sale of the summer, with new and used items. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4700 Bathurst St. Free parking and admission.

MELTON INFO NIGHT

Melton information night will be held at Beth Emeth Synagogue at 7:30 p.m. The evening includes a sample class. Melton Mini School offers 30 weeks of text-based learning at three locations in Toronto. Call **Loretta Tanenbaum** at 416-789-7400 for registration information.

Wednesday, Aug. 31

SAR-EL INFO SESSION

Find out about volunteering on an Israeli supply/maintenance base. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or visit www.serve.com/cvi.

Other news

EMBRACING ELUL

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women presents Embracing Elul: Four Thursdays in September, an opportunity to explore ideas that can make the High Holidays more meaningful: "The King Is in the Field: Elul in Hasidic Thought" with **Rabbi Joe Kanofsky** (Sept. 8); "The Rosh Hashanah Roller Coaster: Song, Repentance and Transformation" with **Ilana Sober** (Sept. 15); "And the Lord Remembered Sarah: Insights in the Rosh Hashanah Torah Reading" with **Judy Snowbell Diamond** (Sept. 22); and "The Artistry of the High Holiday Prayers" with **Rivka Sonenberg** (Sept. 29). 9:15–11:15 a.m. Series $36, $10 each. For locations and registration, call 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

NEW GROUPS FORMING

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, is looking for women who are interested in making new friends, listening to dynamic speakers and making a difference in our community. Women of all ages, married or single, are invited to call for information on NCJW programs and on getting involved in one of the new groups. Call **Rita** or **Flo** at 416-633-5100 or e-mail info@ncjwc-ts.org.

JWI REUNION

Don Mills chapter of Jewish Women International of Canada, formerly B'nai Brith Women, invites all former members to a reception on Tuesday, Sept. 20. For more information, call **Cathy** at 416-633-6920.

Continued on page 27

London Jewish Campus Services

Come check out all that Jewish Life on Campus has to offer through the many programs and services of HILLEL and the Israel Action Committee

Contact us for an appointment or for further information!
519-642-3256
western-hillel@rogers.com
www.westernhillel.com

Watch for these great programs & more!
Sept.12: YIDFEST-Block Party BBQ Blowout
Sept.23: Hillel Shabbat Dinner
Sept. 26: First Year BBQ

The London Jewish Community Also Welcomes Students!

What London's Jewish Federation has to offer:
Shabbat Dinners at the JCC * Social Worker Services Available
Free Lectures * Exercise Classes * Volunteer Opportunities
And much more....!

Unable to make it home for the holidays? We can help!
Attend one of our three synagogues for services.
To arrange to share a holiday meal with a London family,
call the JCC at 519-673-3310

בע"ה

MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION OF CANADA

In conjunction with

Clanton Park Synagogue,
Emunah Women of Toronto,
Dr. Abraham Shore Shearim Hebrew Day School
Sarah & Sam Hennick Education Centre,
UJA & Toronto Jewish Federation,
Yeshivat Or Chaim-Ulpanat Orot Girls' School,

Will sponsor a

Shloshim Service

To commemorate the passing of

Rabbi Yitzchak Witty ע"ה

Monday Night, August 29, 2005
Mincha 7:45 p.m.,
Shloshim Program 8:00 p.m.
Yeshivat Or Chaim,
159 Almore Ave.

Including an address by,
Rabbi Marvin B. Pachino,
A colleague and friend for many years.

For more information, you may call 416-630-9266

What's New

Continued from page 26

SINGERS WANTED

Beit Rayim's travelling choir is looking for new members. Come out and sing with them on Tuesday nights beginning in September. 7:15 p.m. at the synagogue. No auditions required. Call 905-770-7639, ext. 31, for more information.

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir invites singers to join them for their 80th season. The mixed choir, men and women, begins rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. New members are welcome. For information, call **Barbara Blaser** at 416-398-3405 or e-mail tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca.

The Choralairs of North York start their new season on Tuesday Sept. 6 at 8.15 p.m. at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre, 4169 Bathurst St. New members are welcome. No auditions are required. Rehearsals take place Tuesday evenings 8:15-10 p.m. Repertoire includes pop, Broadway and folk songs. Membership fee. Choralairs have been singing in nursing homes and seniors residences for the past 43 years. For more information about the choir, call **Brian Slepchik** at 416-631-0029 or 416- 540-7106.

LEARN HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for fall session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 6. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

Temple Har Zion offers a "Hebrew Reading Marathon," an opportunity to start reading Hebrew before Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. This is an adult program for beginning prereaders and those who want to familarize themselves with basic Hebrew. Members $20, nonmembers $30. Pre-registration required. Call 905-889-2252, ext. 5.

BOOK AND FILM CLUBS

Beth Tzedec Book and Film Club meets on six Mondays through from September through May. Works to be discussed include *Leaving Earth* by **Helen Humphries** (Sept. 19); *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by **Azar Nafisi** (Nov. 14); *The Plot Against America* by **Philip Roth** (Nov. 28); *The Dark Room* by **Rachel Seiffert** (Feb. 27); *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by **Amos Oz** (March 27); and the film *Walk on Water* (May 1). 1:30 p.m. Cost for the six sessions is $55.00 or $14 at the door. To register, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25, or 416-781-3511.

Critic's Choice Book Club members discuss four books this fall on Wednesdays and Thursdays with **Elaine Newton** facilitating. 2 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. The schedule includes *Gilead* by **Marilyn Robinson** (Sept. 7 & 8), *Saturday* by **Ian McEwan** (Oct. 18 & 19), *Never Let Me Go* by **Kazuo Ishiguro** (Nov. 2 & 30), and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Clear* by **Jonathon Safron Foer** (Nov. 30 and Dec. 1). 2 p.m. Series is $80. For more information, contact **Greta Gray** at 705-445-1912 or grayg@rogers.com.

The Older Women's Network Feminist Book Discussion Group begins its season on Sunday, Sept. 4, with *Tuesdays with Morrie* by **Mitch Album**. 1:45 p.m. at a private home. For details, call **Marge Mintz**, 416-783-3940.

Holy Blossom Temple Book Club meets on Monday, Sept. 19, for a discussion of **Matt Cohen**'s *Nadine*. 10 a.m. Free. Open to the public. For more information, call **Anne** at 416- 789-3291, ext 235.

The Adath Israel Sisterhood Book and Film Review Series meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. Works to be discussed this year are *Natasha and Other Stories* by **David Bezmozgis** (Sept. 20), the film *Hotel Rwanda* (Nov. 8), *Transmission* by **Hari Kanzru** (Dec. 13), *Small Island* by **Andrea Levy** (Jan. 24), the film *Walk on Water* (Mar. 7), and *Sweetness in the Belly* by **Camilla Gibb** (May 16). Member $10 per session, non-members $15 per session. For information and registration, call 416-495-9281.

DEMENTIA EXAMINED

Baycrest Centre presents the premiere public screening of *Memory, for Max, Claire, Ida and company*, a documentary by **Allan King**, Thursday, Sept. 22, 6:30-9 p.m. The following day Baycrest presents a Social Work Clinic Day,"Talking Person to Person: Dementia Reconsidered," 8 a.m.-4 p.m., with keynote speakers **Anne Bastings**, **Maura McIntyre** and **Ardra Cole**. For information and registration, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2358.

LIFE-DRAWING CLASSES

Fall registration has begun for figure and portrait drawing, Thursdays at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. For information, call **Shelley**, 416 663-6309 or **Maya**, 416 736-6709.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

JEWISH 411

Single and looking to meet people? Log onto www.jewishtoronto.com and follow the links to Community Directory to find the greater Toronto Jewish Singles Directory. This directory is published by Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto. 416-635-5600.

BOWLERS WANTED

Seniors who enjoy playing five-pin bowling are invited to join a group every Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at Bathurst Bowlerama, Bathurst and Glencairn Ave. First-time bowlers welcome. Call **Ben** at 416-633-2428.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Emeth's Chai Shalom holds its summer dance Sunday, Aug. 28, at 7:30 p.m. Singer and actor **Wen Atmadja** provides the entertainment. Members $7, non members $10. Tickets available in the synagogue office or from **Helen Schwartz**, 416-633-4111, or **Mildred Persofsky**, 416-633-2436.

Mixed Senior Bowling League, which meets every other Saturday night, has openings for new members. For information, call **Sydney Fox**, 416-633-7305.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Aug. 25, picnic at Earl Bales. 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park. Casino Rama, Wednesday, Sept. 7. Casino Niagara/Fallsview, Wednesday, Sept. 21. Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino in Michigan, Nov. 8-11, members $435, non-members $455. Conversational Hebrew classes, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. Bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call about these and other programs, 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Wagman annual barbecue takes place Thursday, Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. Members $8, non-members $12. Purchase tickets in advance.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Incognito," an exhibit of new and recent works by Ontario artist **Lyn Carter,** is on display through Oct. 2 in the Koffler Gallery.

You can now register for all BJCC/Koffler Centre programs through centralized registration. Bring registration form and payment to BJCC information and registration area, call ext. 235, fax 416-636-5813 or mail form to above address.

The Family Resource Centre located in the Promenade Mall is taking registration for fall parent and tot programs and parenting workshops. New drop-in hours begin Sept. 1. Visit www.thefamily resourcecentre.ca or call 905-882-8509.

The Koffler School is accepting fall registration for babies and preschool music, special education music, Suzuki violin, private lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and saxophone, kidz band class, guitar ensembles and recorder classes. For information, call ext. 228.

Registration for morning preschool and full-day day care: a morning school "Tic Tac Two" program, 9-11:30 a.m; a morning nursery school two, three and five days a week, 9–11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and morning junior and senior kindergarten, 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The full-day day care is for toddlers 18 months through senior kindergarten and includes music, fun centre gym, swimming, Hebrew for groups three years of age and up and discovery museum for preschool and up. For more information, call ext. 248.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

The fall program schedule is now available online at www.mnjcc.org or at the JCC. Register online or call ext. 0.

The Yitzhak Yadid Trio, a trio of Israeli and Israeli Arab musicians, perform a concert of contemporary world jazz on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Al Green Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets, $25, members $20, students $15. For tickets, call ext. 0 or purchase tickets at the JCC and at Israel's Judaica, 870 Eglinton Ave. W.

SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN.

OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Ester Colovic	Aug 6/05	125 Neptune Dr
Ruth Leroy	Aug 9/05	3800 Yonge St
Hans Gold	Aug 8/05	73 Brucewood Cres
Harry Goldstein	Aug 10/05	6 Kimbergate Way
Michael Wuls	Aug 10/05	53 Bannockburn Ave
Jack Leneck	Aug 10/05	271 Ridley Blvd
Helena Fishman	Aug 12/05	155 Kendal Avenue
Mikhail Ostritsky	Aug 12/05	7460 Bathurst St
Catherine Rimler	Aug 12/05	989 Eglinton Ave W
Gerszon Dorchik	Aug 13/05	4383 Bathurst St
Jack Milgrom	Aug 13/05	131 Torresdale Ave
Jennie Promislow	Aug 13/05	429 Walmer Road
Aaron Kestenberg	Aug 13/05	80 Antibes Drive
Sarah Indaig	Aug 13/05	880 Lawrence Ave East
Sheila Goodman	Aug 13/05	503 Spring Gate Blvd
David Magder	Aug 13/05	18 Donnalyn Drive

HEBREW BASIC
TRADITIONAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Sigmond Kuperstein	Aug 7/05	343 Clark Ave. West
Ignats Hauser	Aug 7/05	2338 Dufferin Street
Ange Kraicer	Aug 10/05	47 Addington Avenue

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Kaminski, Hana	Aug. 7/05	Private
Borovitch, Ruth	Aug. 7/05	205 Cummer Ave
Gryfe, William	Aug. 8/05	10 Senlac Rd
Kaiser, Bertha	Aug. 8/05	81 Sultana Rd
Nagy, Sidonia	Aug. 8/05	3560 Bathurst St.
Krawczynska, Nadia	Aug. 9/05	Private
Benchitrit, Esther Aida	Aug. 10/05	4 Goldfinch Crt.
Abramovitz, Milan	Aug. 12/05	Montreal
Klein, Martin	Aug. 12/05	81 Shelborne Ave
Roudinitsky, Sarra	Aug. 12/05	Private
Meltz, Sylvia	Aug. 13/05	None
Rogow, Alex	Aug. 13/05	569 Sheppard Av W
Klein, Shirley	Aug. 14/05	27 Campbell Ave

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL JASKULKA ז"ל
father of Hilda Pisarek, Irene Jaskulka & Erin McBratney
will take place
Sunday, August 28th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Stashiver Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RUTH & ERNIE WAXMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 28th at 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Wilson Avenue, east of Keele Street
Chevra Mischnais Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ALEX GELBERGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
TILLY ROGOZINSKY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Court Topaz Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARAH HELLER ז"ל
will take place
Friday, Sept. 2nd, 12:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave. - Meeting at the Gate
Friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY SCHWARTZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 10:45 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK ROWAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 28th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
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Coast to Coast

Peaceful rally held in Montreal park

Continued from page 3

He called the pullout a violation of human rights and of Jewish law, which he said forbids endangering any Jew by giving back land that was given to them by God for eternity.

"I have heard many arguments that we should not be here, that it is too late. But it is not any more late than going to a shivah," said the event's MC Murray Dalfen, who said terrorism should not be "rewarded" and no further territorial concession should be made.

"They say we have no right because we do not live in Israel… But we are asked at other times to raise money for Israel and to speak publicly on her behalf, to show an interest in our homeland. Tonight, we are expressing our deep concern for what is happening in our homeland," Dalfen said.

"A Palestinian state in Gaza will be a terrorist entity, with the sole purpose of capturing Eretz Israel, and [it will be] an anti-American dictatorship."

Rabbi David Sabbah, who is regarded as the spiritual leader of much of the Sephardi community, circulated a signed flyer stating that "it is forbidden, under any circumstances, to hand over parts of Israel to the Arabs."

It cited a passage from the *Shulchan Aruch* (Code of Jewish Law) that permits Jews to desecrate Shabbat and use weapons against "heathens" invading a border area.

The event in the park was peaceful, a mixture of the solemn and almost festive, with a barbecue and infants in strollers. A few people in the crowd wore orange, the colour of the pullout resisters.

Several people interviewed said they had come out of sympathy for the settlers, not as a protest. "I support the Israeli government and believe in respect for the rule of law," said Aaron Remer. "But we still have an obligation to publicly express our feelings for those Jews whose lives are being uprooted."

There were no Israeli flags, nor was *Hatikvah* sung. The evening concluded with the singing of *Sheybaneh Beit Hamikdash*, which expresses the hope of rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem.

The most forceful speaker and the one who received the most applause was Rabbi Avrohom Jacks of Congregation Zichron Kedoshim, who painted a disturbing picture of the crackdown on resisters and the physical removal of residents. "This is the first time in history that synagogues have been destroyed by Jewish soldiers."

He alleged that the Israeli government has spent $3 billion on the disengagement, money that has been taken away from social spending, resulting in "thousands of abused children being returned to their homes."

Landy hopes to keep writing

Continued from page 23

Landy, who will be graduating in May 2006, has an ambition to specialize in general internal medicine, a field that specializes in diseases involving internal organs and the interactions they have with each other.

But that doesn't mean he is going to stop writing plays or promoting *Morning Grounds*.

"I'm working on something right now that isn't ethics-related. I will continue to work on *Morning Grounds* because I would like to see it taken further into the medical community," he said.

"The reason why this play is so important to me is because there does not exist a curriculum of medical ethics that is built with the students in mind. We can't be taught as doctors because we're not doctors. Not yet. The student perspective is different and it is an important one."

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Residents mark final hours at Netzarim, last Gaza settlement

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NETZARIM — Residents of Netzarim, the last of the 21 Gaza Strip settlements to be evacuated, gathered in their synagogue Monday morning for a final service before leaving the enclave later in the day.

The era of settlement in the Gaza Strip was to come to an end with the evacuation of the embattled settlement, the target of countless Palestinian terror attacks and the enclave which many had believed would be dismantled before all others.

In the synagogue, residents prayed together with the soldiers who guarded them over the years, before leaving with the Torah scrolls cradled in the arms of Netzarim old-timers.

The settlers then carried the synagogue's menorah – which had earlier been removed from the roof – on their shoulders through the streets of Netzarim.

At the conclusion of the service, they were to board armoured buses that were initially to go to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The settlement had 80 veteran families, along with 20 families of newcomers, about 500 people in all.

Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Dan Halutz visited Netzarim early Monday to meet with leaders of the settlement, who promised to work to prevent violence during the evacuation.

But the settlement officials added that there was a group of youths who had infiltrated into the settlement, and that the young protesters might not abide by the "ground rules" agreed upon by the army and the residents.

Settlers called police overnight to arrest and eject three activists who had written slogans on walls, including: "Sharon, Hitler is proud of you" and "[Rabin assassin] Yigal Amir, we need you."

The three, who were found with paint, flammable liquids and tire-puncturing spikes, are a part of a group of up to six activists who apparently entered the settlement in the trunks of cars.

Netzarim has long been a symbol and flashpoint for Israelis and Palestinians. Isolated and hard to defend, the enclave at times experienced daily Palestinian rifle and grenade fire. Settlers placed signs throughout Israel proclaiming, "It is at Netzarim that Israel will triumph."

In the first month of the intifadah, Netzarim junction was the site of an Israeli-Palestinian exchange of fire that claimed the life of 12-year-old Muhammed Dura, the central Palestinian icon of the uprising.

Netzarim was also seen as significant because of a public statement made by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon prior to the announcement of the disengagement plan, when he said, "The fate of Netzarim will be the fate of Tel Aviv."

"We knew this day would come, but we will get over it and move on," said Netzarim Rabbi Eyal Vered of the evacuation. "We will win, but not with force. God forbid that blood will be spilled."

IDF Maj.-Gen. Dan Harel, overall military commander of the Gaza Strip pullout, indicated that he believed the Monday evacuation of Netzarim would proceed smoothly.

"Its brave residents have withstood years under the threat of terrorism, shoulder to shoulder with us. Both the residents of Netzarim and we paid with lives in defending the settlement," Harel said in remarks broadcast Monday.

"I am acquainted with the people of Netzarim. They are excellent people, people with values, and I know that the evacuation will be dignified, in a manner which is worthy also of them."

The army and police Sunday completed the evacuation of settlers from Slav, Katif, Dugit, Neveh Dekalim, Atzmona, Elei Sinai and Nisanit. The security forces did not meet any major opposition from the evacuees.

Residents of Katif, along with the soldiers who came to evacuate them, held a tearful final worship service Sunday before boarding buses and cars to leave the settlement. A parallel prayer service was held at the settlement of Atzmona, at the southern end of Gush Katif.

One of those who took the Torah scrolls out of the synagogue at the conclusion of the prayers was school principal David Hatuel, whose wife Tali and four daughters were killed in a Palestinian terror ambush last year.

Soldiers who arrived at Katif in the pre-dawn hours found the gates locked, as youths smoking cigarettes loitered around piles of flammable materials such as hay, tires and wooden planks, preparing for resistance.

Despite massive bales of straw set ablaze at the entrance to Katif in a bid to delay the evacuation, columns of police entered the settlement with the help of a bulldozer at around 10 a.m. Sunday.

On Katif's gate, scorched from a large protest fire that blazed in the morning, residents hung a sign that read: "We shall return soon."

Stiff resistance had been expected from some 1,000 residents and hundreds of illegal infiltrators still in some of the settlements, but no major opposition was met by the forces.

Closely following the evacuations, bulldozers Sunday razed more than 30 homes in Nissanit and Dugit in the northern Gaza Strip, marking the first large-scale demolitions during the disengagement.

Shortly afterward, house demolitions began in the Gush Katif settlement of Pe'at Sadeh.

More than 200 bulldozers are now in Gush Katif awaiting demolition orders.

'All for some divine purpose'

Continued from page 1

She believes that all that's happened – the trauma of evacuation, the broken homes, the lives torn asunder – are all for some divine purpose.

Perhaps, she suggests, it is to show Israelis they should not be doing this to fellow Jews. "It might be the pain of losing this land will teach the Jewish people that this is not the way to give away land. Only when there is a leader who is truly Jewish and truly cares about the way of God will Israel be a safe country and Israel can live as it's meant to live, without fear," she said.

The same faith that sees a silver lining in the evacuation was what brought her and Avi to Gush Katif in the first place. Persoff, who grew up in Toronto as Shira Tepperman, attended Ulpanat Orot high school. She first moved to Israel seven years ago with fellow classmates to continue their studies for an additional year. Unlike her contemporaries who returned to Toronto, she decided to stay.

"I fell in love," she told her parents, Shauna and Jerry, but not with a boy. "I fell in love with the country."

While she was continuing her studies to become a teacher, her friends arranged a date with another student, a native of Jerusalem who was studying in Gush Katif under Harav Shmuel Tal, the rosh yeshiva there. Romance blossomed, and 2½ years ago they were married in Kedumim in northern Samaria, where Shira was studying. They later moved to Gush Katif.

"I was more than a little bit nervous to go to a place that was kind of dangerous," she admitted. "But I was in love with my husband. I trusted him and his judgement."

Life in Gush Katif had its blessings – many, she said. Not only were the people warm and welcoming, but they felt part of a community that formed around her husband's yeshiva. What's more, they had a nice apartment, something like a Toronto townhouse, they could see the Mediterranean and they could feel the sea breeze.

While Avi continued his studies for a sixth year, Shira settled in as an English teacher. She admits the danger of living in Gaza sometimes got to her. She hasn't had a good night sleep in quite a while. Palestinian missiles frequently targeted the community. One landed in her backyard and the shrapnel took out the air conditioner. Her neighbour's home was hit by a projectile. One neighbour was hurt, another killed.

When people asked why they remained in such a dangerous place, her answer was: "When you are doing something that is a mitzvah from God, that's the most important thing. We trust God that whatever happens was meant to happen."

As farmers grew produce in soil that local Arabs and Bedouin called "the land of ghosts, because nothing would grow there," she thought the Jews' agricultural success came because they were fulfilling biblical prophecy in tending the land.

Thirty years ago, the Israeli government encouraged settlement of the area. The house the Persoffs lived in was built when Sharon was the minister in charge of housing and construction.

The country had once supported the Gazans' efforts and she felt that prayer and an education campaign, embarked upon by settlers a year ago, would convince other Israelis to see the biblical reasons for remaining in Gaza. Sharon, she hoped, would have to backtrack.

Today she is disappointed, but not in the people of Israel. They are not to blame for the evacuation, she said. The country's elite – the prime minister, most of the Knesset, the judiciary – favour it, while most Israelis are uninformed of the religious reasons to remain in Gaza, she added.

Shira said she felt shock and pain at the realization she and her husband would have to leave their home. In a display of passive resistance, they did not open the door when 17 soldiers arrived to demand their departure. "We decided beforehand that if the soldiers came, we'd sing [*Ani Ma'amin* (I Believe)] and lock the door and they'd have to feel the pain a little bit for what they were doing," she said.

Two female soldiers entered and told them to pack up. After saying goodbye to their neighbours, Shira, who is expecting a second child soon, grasped Emunah and left unescorted. Avi, meanwhile, sat limp and forced two soldiers to carry him out, one propping him up under each arm.

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'Israel is a very strong democracy'

Continued from page 4

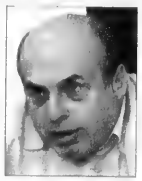
Abandoning the quid pro quo approach, Arad suggested, will "raise Palestinians' expectations for more Israeli concessions, relieve the Palestinians of the need for reciprocity, and encourage them to 'stick to their guns.'

"Any new prime minister who wants to revert to negotiations based on the immutability of the two principles will now have a hard time."

Arad stated that he is not opposed to disengagement. "We could have gained certain quid pro quos that would have made disengagement worthwhile. This disengagement process was a bad deal."

A self-styled, hard-boiled pragmatist, Arad could not find any constructive message out of this disengagement process other than perhaps the general observation that going through hardship usually hardens and makes the sufferer wiser. "But why," Arad asked rhetorically, "did we have to inflict such hardships upon ourselves to become smarter? Let's wait and see. The jury is still out."

David Horovitz



Natan Sharansky

On the emotional debate raging around the disengagement Arad, spoke with an eye to history and to the Tisha b'Av observance that had concluded earlier in the week. "Infighting has always cost us dearly in our history. Jerusalem fell because of fratricide, Those of us who want to preserve the 'third temple,' i.e., Israel, are trying to encourage healthy and democratic debate. We have to preserve that which unifies rather than that which divides us."

* * *

The need for social cohesion was a theme that former cabinet minister in the Sharon government, Natan Sharansky, now a Senior Fellow at the Shalem Center, an academic research institute in Jerusalem, would speak about as well.

Sharansky left the cabinet to protest the disengagement plan. Not surprisingly, he expressed his concerns to *The CJN*.

"Disengagement will bring an increase in terror and it delegitimizes our case regarding the settlements. Under the Oslo Accords, settlements were to be dealt with as the last item."

Sharansky emphasized that he believes in a democratic state for the Palestinians, "but unilateral moves by Israel do not help them achieve that goal."

When asked why Sharon decided on his unilateral course of action, Sharansky said the prime minister "felt desperate because of the injustice of the world's reaction to Israel."

I asked Sharansky whether he agreed with disengagement opponents who said the process was undemocratic. He responded emphatically.

"I do not agree with those who claim that the disengagement proves Israel is not a democracy.

"Israel is a very strong democracy. The people believe in democracy. Indeed, the groups demonstrating against the disengagement are among the champions of that democracy.

"The issue of democracy turns on the question whether we have the tools in our system to fight for our views.The tools do exist, but they were not used. Some of the people who were opposed to him refused to stop him. Israel does not lack for the proper instruments of democracy."

Though disappointed, the former minister for Diaspora affairs did not appear stymied or at a loss in defining the next major challenge to Israeli society.

"After a period of time, when these stormy days subside, we must engage in self-searching concerning our relations to each other. There is also room now for an analysis of the criteria for refining the democratic process, for example, introducing greater accountability for the members of parliament.

"We must remember that we are still in the process of rebuilding ourselves as a nation. Working together and respecting each other is very important. Both 'camps' have to make concessions towards each other.

"We can survive only together and we can survive only if we stick to our Zionist ideals.

"What unites us is by far more important than what divides us. Those who separate themselves from one group of Jews will one day separate themselves from the entire group."

* * *

David Hazony

Yossi Klein Halevi

David Horovitz, the energetic editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, also spoke of his concern for the stresses and strains upon Israel's society.

"Sharon made a lot of mistakes in the political process, failing to act in the spirit of democracy, as some of his accusers said. The decision [to disengage from Gaza] was certainly democratic but the process raised questions.

"On the other side, however, some people led an unconscionable campaign. 'One Jew does not expel another Jew' was an unsubtle call to disobey orders. That was a terrible mistake. If their opposition had been merely non-violent, without resort to the call to disobey orders, it would have been an affirmation of shared values."

But of course many of the anti-disengagement opponents clung fiercely to the hope that soldiers would refuse to obey orders. And this caused Horovitz to worry about the consequences.

"Israel has withstood horrible terrorism and all manner of external threats during these past years, but the internal threat is the most dangerous.

"We must respect each other's differences. Israel and Diaspora Jewry agonize because the dilemmas we face are so acute, so compelling. We must respect the fact that people with whom we disagree are also interested in the well-being of Israel.

"The consequences of tearing ourselves apart are far greater than the consequences of the physical dangers we face."

* * *

David Hazony, the young editor-in-chief of *Azure: Ideas for the Jewish Nation*, a quarterly publication of the Shalem Center, echoed Horovitz's observations but was able to find some encouraging signs emerging in the disengagement fallout.

"A lot of bad tactics [were used] by both sides in the debate.

"The settlement movement failed in trying to bring mainstream Israelis along to understanding their concerns and the government failed to take advantage of full democracy. A referendum could have been persuasive to those who were not unalterably opposed to withdrawal under any conditions.

"Sharon is not a glowing example of a 'democratic' leader. For him, politics is a way of setting up a mechanism, and he takes advantage of the mechanism to achieve his purposes. He is a roughshod person."

But Hazony sees the emergence now of what he called "a pro-unity backlash." He pointed for example, to a campaign of ads that have appeared in *Ma'ariv*, featuring the slogan *ovrim et zeh b'yachad* (we will get over this together). "The ad reinforces the unity of the people.

"We have scared ourselves," Hazony said. "This is something that is excruciatingly painful. And certain historical memories such as Tisha b'Av and the Altalena incident, are driving the agony of fear of anything that might look like civil war.

"There is a massive centre in the country that wants to do anything and everything possible to avoid such a thing.

"With the collapse of the Oslo Accords, the ideologies of both national camps – of the right and the left – started to come together. Each camp compromised. There would not be an Eretz Hashlema [a Greater Land of Israel] nor peace at all costs.

"Proof exists even in today's crisis, with the blue banners that say, 'We are separating from Aza but returning to Zionism.'

"The balloons of both camps have been deflated. And the government, media and the left have stopped demonizing the settlers.

"No doubt this has been a major wound, but I believe there will be healing and I see the beginning signs of that healing."

* * *

On the day that the forced evictions of settlers began, I met with Yossi Klein Halevi, a Senior Fellow at the Shalem Center, and an author and commentator whose powerfully insightful essays appear in *The New Republic* and other prestigious publications.

When we met, he had just heard the news that a woman had immolated herself to protest the disengagement. Tears welled in his eyes as we spoke. It was clearly a hard day for him, as it was for most Israelis on either side of the disengagement debate. During our conversation, he received two calls from a friend and colleague who was in Morag, one of he communities being evacuated in Gaza.

"He was crying," Halevi said of his friend. "He described how he had just helped one of the settlers leave, how he embraced him, how they both walked together arm on arm."

As Halevi spoke, he sighed, stopping to find just the right word to explain the emotions obviously swirling within. He was worried for the future of the country and said so.

"I don't understand the images I see on TV. We are living in a time where anything can happen… It is part of the dread. There is a profound alienation and cynicism in the country that are terrifying."

But the soft-spoken writer has not yet surrendered to that cynicism. "I still trust Sharon. Average Israelis have not forgotten who Sharon is. But at crucial moments he acted out of interest for the country and at crucial moments he acted to save the country."

The more Halevi spoke about his anxieties, the more he was able to recover his emotional compass and find the uplifting language and bull's eye insight that have become his trademark.

"It is one of the privileges of my life that I live here, to be part of this society, to understand, to empathize [with fellow citizens], to try to repair the pain, lift the hardship, simply contribute to the overall well-being."

* * *

Later that evening, Rabbi Haim Sabato, the head of the Yeshiva Bircat Moshe in Ma'aleh Adumim, expressed in theological terms the same thought as Halevi had

The cherubic teacher/scholar is an award-winning author, whose books are very popular throughout the population at large.

He refused to speak directly on political subjects, per se. But he spoke eloquently, even poetically about his confidence in the people of Israel to rise above any and all travails. He searches the past for encouragement in the present.

Rabbi Haim Sabato

"The people of Israel have returned to the historic Land of Israel to build a home in the land of its birth. This journey of return has brought with it many trials, but it has brought with it many celebration as well.

"The process has been one of renewal. From the depths of the Shoah to the rebirth of the people in its own land. The latter represents the pinnacle, the heights of achievement.

"We have confronted evil. And we have had to endure all manner of hardships and difficult moments. We have relied on our faith and our beliefs."

Rav Sabato is confident that the differences among the conflicted groupings within the country will be resolved.

"Our common underpinning – Jewish history, the vision of the prophets, the literature of our sages – is much stronger than all the external threats and internal struggles.

" I have no doubt that our fundamental internal sense of unity will triumph over the external factors that threaten to tear us apart."

He recalled the atmosphere of the country before the 1967 war. "The people were divided. But in one instant, everything changed. We became united. The liberation of Jerusalem united us even more.

Sabato recalled the revolutionary aspect of those heady days after the Six Day War. "People began to speak in terms of faith and use expressions of belief and spirit. Distant people became closer."

Seven years later, he participated in the Yom Kippur War. "We fought together, shoulder to shoulder, hesder yeshiva soldier alongside the non-observant kibbutznik to defend the people in its land. We also prayed together and recited chapters of Psalms together.

"I saw with my own eyes this sense of untiy and togetherness. I know for certain that this will be the same during these days [during and after disengagement]."

"Who we are as a people is not necessarily how we are portrayed in the media. The images are often contradictory – one of ugliness as opposed to one of beauty, a beauty instilled in us over generations through the values of our faith as conveyed to our children through education.

"Education is a long, hard road, with disappointments, frustrations and tensions along the way, but it is the only way to direct the people to its Jewish sources and through the Jewish sources to build a society based upon honesty, justice, purity of the soul and *temimut* (total sincerity).

"I know that I risk being criticized as being naive, but I believe that unbending belief in our morality and ethics as individuals and as a people is the great strength we summon to overcome all problems."

Israel Briefs

Blame me, Sharon says

Ariel Sharon begged Gaza Strip settlers not to scuffle with Israeli forces who evict them. "I would like to appeal to everyone not to attack the police and soldiers and not to blame them or make things difficult for them," the Israeli prime minister told reporters last week as the army began forced removals of Gaza settlers. "I am responsible for this. Attack me. Blame me," he said. Sitting with Sharon, President Moshe Katsav interjected that by "attack," Sharon meant verbal criticism. Sharon said the sight of settler evacuations was "heart-rending" for him, and he praised the majority of settlers who did not resist violently.

Rocket lands in Eilat

A Katyusha rocket, one of three launched from Jordan, landed near the Eilat airport last Friday. The rocket created a small crater on a local road, but didn't explode. Another rocket landed near a U.S. Navy battleship docked in Aqaba, Jordan, killing a Jordanian soldier. No Americans were hurt. Jordanian and Israeli police investigated the incident together. The attack was launched from a warehouse rented by four people holding Egyptian and Iraqi citizenship, Associated Press reported. An Al Qaeda-linked group claimed responsibility.

Settler kills 4 Palestinians

An Israeli settler killed four Palestinians in the West Bank last week as Israel continued its withdrawal from Gaza and part of the West Bank. Police said the man grabbed a gun from a security guard in the industrial zone of the settlement Shiloh Aug. 17 and opened fire on Palestinian workers, killing four and wounding one. The man, a resident of the nearby settlement Shvut Rachel, was arrested and disarmed. He told police he hoped his attack would stop the pullout. Hamas threatened retaliation. An aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon contacted the Palestinian Authority to condemn the attack and ask the PA to help keep calm in the territories.

Immigrants heckle Olmert

North American immigrants to Israel heckled Deputy Prime Minster Ehud Olmert when he met them Aug. 17 on their arrival in Israel. The immigrants were protesting Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. The 250 immigrants arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport in the latest wave of what is predicted to be the most North American immigrants to Israel since 1983. The flight was sponsored by Nefesh b'Nefesh and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Settler sets herself on fire

An Israeli woman set herself on fire to protest the Gaza withdrawal. The West Bank settler, said to be in her 50s or 60s, doused herself with gasoline and ignited herself at a police checkpoint in southern Israel on Aug 17. A police spokesperson said she was admitted to a hospital with 60 per cent of her body burned, and described the incident as a politically motivated suicide attempt. Also last week, a woman stabbed a soldier with an IV needle near a shul in the settlement of Morag, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Hamas gloats over pullout

Hamas said the Gaza Strip withdrawal is the "beginning of the end" of Israel. "Today it is Gaza, tomorrow it will be the West Bank, and later it will be all of the land," Khaled Meshaal, the politburo chief of the Islamic terrorist group, said in an interview with London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper published Aug. 16. "It is the beginning of the end of Israel." Hamas scaled back its attacks at the behest of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, but it vows new violence after the pullout. Meshaal ruled out disarmament, in defiance of the "road map" peace plan.

Sharon, Israel draw praise from world leaders

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CRAWFORD, Texas — The White House last week praised Israel's pullout from the Gaza Strip as a bold move that will strengthen ties between Israel and the United States.

U.S. President George W. Bush sympathizes with settlers who are being forced to evacuate their homes, said White House spokesperson Dana Perino, adding that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was "very courageous" to carry out the withdrawal.

"We agree that the disengagement will make Israel stronger," Perino told reporters. "We agree with Prime Minister Sharon on that and the president has also said that this will bring our two countries closer together."

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that while she feels for the settlers, Israel will be expected to make further concessions that will ultimately lead to a Palestinian state.

"Everyone empathizes with what the Israelis are facing," Rice said, adding, "It cannot be Gaza only."

In an interview with the *New York Times*, Rice said the Palestinian Authority must move quickly to disarm Palestinian factions intent on breaking the current ceasefire with Israel.

She also said she expects Israel and the Palestinians to take further steps toward the creation of a Palestinian state, including loosening travel restrictions in the West Bank and withdrawing from more Palestinian cities.

Rice called the pullout "quite a dramatic moment in the history of the Middle East" and said Sharon is "enormously courageous."

Rice has visited the region twice recently to ensure the withdrawal proceeds smoothly.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew praised both the Israeli and Palestinian leaders for showing "very mature leadership" during the pullout.

"These are very important days, historical days, that could really lead to substantial progress," he told Canadian Press last week after a speech to the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair also praised Sharon.

"I greatly admire the courage with which you have developed and implemented this policy. I believe you are right to see disengagement as an historic opportunity to pursue a better future for Israelis and Palestinians," Blair wrote in a letter to his Israeli counterpart.

In South Africa, President Thabo Mbeki congratulated Sharon.

"We salute your courage and assure you of our support as you dismantle the Jewish settlements in Gaza and the West Bank," Mbeki said in a letter to Sharon. He added that the sacrifice of the settlers, "painful as it undoubtedly is, opens the way to the implementation of the critically important Israel-Palestine 'road map' to peace, co-operation and friendship. It must surely strike a mighty blow for an end to the violence that has claimed too many Israeli and Palestinian lives."

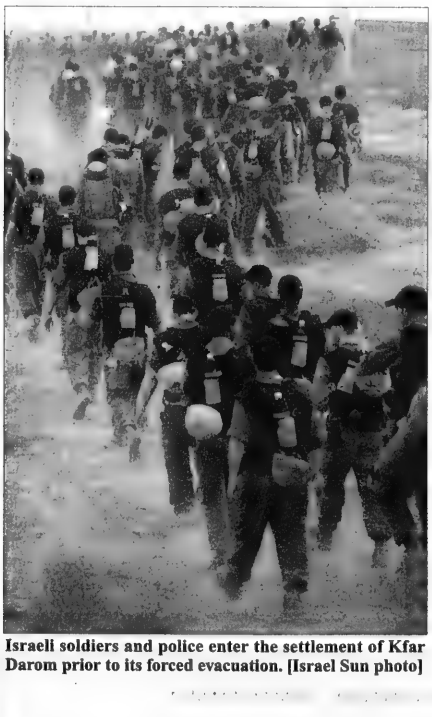
Looking beyond Gaza, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan lauded Sharon and said the next step is to bolster the Palestinian Authority.

"I would like to commend the courage and determination of the Israeli government in formulating and implementing the disengagement process from its inception, as well as your personal involvement and leadership," he wrote to Sharon.

"Creating an atmosphere of security and the rule of law in the Palestinian areas, building the necessary infrastructure, improving the Palestinians' quality of life and implementing the reforms in order to lay the foundations of a democratic state — these are the challenges that must be dealt with together."

Meanwhile, Iran credited the Palestinians with forcing Israel to withdraw from Gaza. "The evacuation shows that what was taken by force would not have been retrieved without resistance," Iranian state radio quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi as saying. He referred to armed Palestinian attacks during the intifadah as "legitimate resistance."

With files from JTA.



Israeli soldiers and police enter the settlement of Kfar Darom prior to its forced evacuation. [Israel Sun photo]

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Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Klein ז"ל

Our condolences go out to the entire family. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

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Community activist 'the epitome of selflessness'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Staff Reporter

Benjamin Shekter, a 90-year-old retired lawyer who has spearheaded many initiatives in the Hamilton Jewish community, has turned down multiple invitations to be honoured for his volunteer activities because he never wanted any accolades.

Now living in Toronto, Shekter told *The CJN* he was very enthusiastic about community-oriented projects for children, the elderly and the entire Jewish community of Hamilton.

"I was privileged to be there when I could help, from young children all the way to the seniors," he says, looking back on 65 years of community service.

"For me," says his daughter Rhona Shekter, "my father has been the epitome of grace, intelligence, selflessness and an unrelenting dedication to the Jewish community – he gives 100 per cent and more."

Shekter's father, James Schachter, was born in Austria. He went to New York, but wanted to settle in Montreal. Shekter says that when his father got to the border at Niagara Falls in 1908, he had only 75 cents in his pocket. The money would only take him as far as Hamilton, where he settled.

He brought his Romanian-born wife-to-be to Hamilton, and they were married in 1910.

Living through the depression, anti-Semitism and poverty, Shekter put himself through school and helped out his family by working as a musician.

As a child, he met Dorothy Taylor who lived half a block away. They went through school together and graduated from McMaster University. Dorothy went on to graduate as a social worker and Benjamin entered Osgoode Hall Law School.

"I married the love of my life in 1942 because I never wanted anyone else to be the mother of my children," Shekter says.

Benjamin Shekter

He says his parents set the pattern for his sense of communal responsibility.

"They were ardent Zionists and communal workers. I remember when Golda Meir once stayed in our home." His father started the Hebrew Free Loan and the Talmud Torah in Hamilton in 1915.

In 1940, Shekter's father had a massive stroke. "I left law school and took a job selling sewing machines door to door on commission." Within the first year, he became an assistant manager. He recalls that the company wanted him to become a manager, "but when the head office found out that I was Jewish, they turned me down and I quit."

He returned to law school after 2½ years away, earning money by playing the saxophone at the Royal Connaught Hotel in Hamilton from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. He would go to bed at 2 a.m., then get up four hours later to run to the CN station to take a train to be at Osgoode in Toronto by 9 a.m.

At 6 p.m., he would return to Hamilton for a fast meal and then head back to the hotel to perform.

He was called to the bar in 1944 and opened a general practice law office in Hamilton.

"In those days, in one day, I could deal with family law, real estate deals, incorporations, and every type of law."

In 1945, he started a floor covering business, Canadian Floor-Tex which grew to encompass many home products.

In the mid-1940s, Shekter took his first communal position on the Hamilton Jewish Social Services Agency of the Jewish federation. He became the agency's president in 1948. Two years later, he became president of the Jewish Federation of Hamilton.

His activities in Hamilton are legendary. He accepted a leadership role in the building of the Hamilton Jewish Community Centre, he organized Girl Guide groups, and in 1957 he established the Beverley Golf and Country Club, since no other golf club in the area would accept Jews.

He says his greatest challenge came in the early 1980s when he realized that his disabled father required 24-hour care.

In response, he spearheaded the building of the Shalom Village retirement home. The 52-apartment building is now a highly respected facility.

"They told me that we couldn't have a basement. So without permission, we excavated down 12 feet and the basement became the activity area for many programs. And we never heard from the government."

In 1990, the board did receive permission from the government to build a 60-bed nursing home beside Shalom Village, and Shekter became the home's first president.

He notes that it has Hamilton's only kosher restaurant.

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Books & Authors

A Polish view of I.B. Singer

Lost Landscapes: In Search of Isaac Bashevis Singer and the Jews of Poland **by Agata Tuszynska (William Morrow). Translated by Madeline Levy.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
Special to The CJN

Agata Tuszynska is well-known in Poland as part of a younger generation of cultural workers and intellectuals who are striving to not only rethink Polish history, but also to imagine a direction that Polish national culture might take.

She is a poet, a writer of books of non-fiction, and the recipient of the Polish Pen award for reportage. Among her interests is the tangled relationship – in history, in memory and in contemporary life – between Jews and Poles. It is this concern that is central to her excellent memoir, *Lost Landscapes: In Search of Isaac Bashevis Singer and the Jews of Poland.*

Norman Ravvin

The book is a hybrid of genres, with equal parts biography, personal memoir, ethnography and social history, spanning the years shortly before World War II until the early 1990s, when Tuszynska did much of her research. I.B. Singer, born near Warsaw in 1904, left Poland in 1935 with the help of his elder brother, who was already in New York. Although Singer escaped the events that destroyed Jewish Poland, Tuszynska points to the irony in the story of an escapee who continued to recreate, in work after work, the place he'd left behind, and who, in his "inner self… remained a perennial refugee, never able to abandon the two suitcases he had brought with him from Poland."

Tuszynska uncovers a similar predicament among the Holocaust survivors she talks with in Manhattan, Miami Beach, and Tel Aviv. Among the Polish Jews she meets she finds great resentment and anger, but instinctive attachment, too, to Polish literature, language, the particular street life of prewar Poland, and even the country's distinctive smells and tastes. Singer, of course, only returned to Poland via his stories and novels.

"He wrote a few stories about the lives of Jews in America," Tuszynska tells us, but "it took him over a quarter of a century to decide to do that. And he still was not certain if he really knew anything."

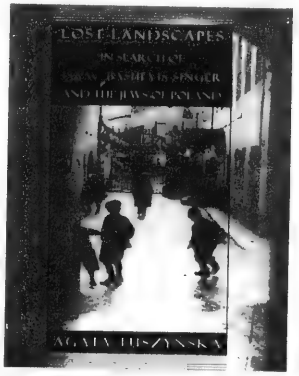
Singer's literature, then, is of a piece with the "memory books," or "yizkor bikher," created after the war to recall devastated communities and to stand in for absent gravestones.

To convey the importance of this kind of memory work, *Lost Landscapes* describes in detail the devastation of Singer's ancestral places. These include Leoncin, his birthplace; Bilgoraj, where his parents were married; Radzymin and its environs, where the Singer family lived for a time; and Warsaw's Krochmalna Street, where Singer's father was a poor but respected rabbi.

Tuszynska unearths what she calls "cemeteries of memory," the fragile traces of the large, centuries-old communities of central and eastern Poland. These traces include the whisper of a mark on old wooden houses where mezuzot once hung. The appearance of looted gravestones as part of the foundation of Polish houses. The stories of Poles who found what they knew to be Jewish babies abandoned in their farm fields, and kept them safe through the war. The voices of Poles – as if in a trance – remembering their Jewish childhood playmates.

In one long anecdote, remarkable for its clarity and sympathy, a woman from Tomaszow recalls prewar Jewish life, as well as the brutal, drawn-out slaughter of the town's 5,000 Jews by the occupying Germans. Tuszynska presents many such voices in *Lost Landscapes*, employing in her memoir an ethnographic method that attempts to capture voices, lifeways, and the unique texture of a culture through recorded interviews.

When interviewing Poles, her own voice is mute. We do not hear the questions that lead the elderly people she interviews to reveal themselves. When she talks to Jews who were once Poles, but are now known as survivors, her own persona as a Pole seeking out dialogue with Jews becomes more problematic.



For many of the people she meets, Poland is simply a graveyard, a site of betrayal and murder. Yet when she speaks Polish in a certain kind of restaurant in Tel Aviv or the Upper West Side, she finds herself buried in an avalanche of memory, as old-timers assail her, repeating, "I remember, I remember…"

Singer's career in America was not welcomed by all Jewish readers. Like Philip Roth, and Mordecai Richler in Canada, he offered a portrait of postwar life that was discomforting, an extension of his own feelings of disorientation in his new home. His characters undergo crises of faith, they live unfaithfully with one another, and many are haunted souls, trapped in bodies whose impulses they cannot control.

This was Jewish writing for the goyim, some of Singer's enemies pronounced. At the most extreme, they suggested he was nothing but a "pornographer… depicting Jews as sinners, fornicators, worthless individuals, vile creatures." Tuszynska patiently hears out these denouncements of her literary hero, but one senses in her response an attentiveness to the peculiar stakes a writer sets for himself in relation to his community.

Quoting a Polish-born poet who knew Singer, she conveys what the reader might recognize as her own judgment: "He had no desire to co-operate, to create something in a common effort for Jewish culture; he had no interest in that. What was he interested in? Writing. Writing and being translated into English."

Lost Landscapes suggests that while Singer maintained an intimate link with his Polish-Jewish past, through his publications and his devotion to Yiddish, his potential audience severed that link. "At his funeral," one of Tuszynska's interviewees tells her, "they all talked about themselves. And everyone spoke in English. Rabbi Berkowitz. His son. No one spoke Yiddish."

A new stage of recovery of the prewar life of Jewish Poland is taking place. A new museum of Jewish culture is planned for central Warsaw, and the Jewish community of the city is in the process of recovering numerous properties that were Jewish-owned before the war.

In some sections of Polish culture there is a willingness to rethink the meaning of Poland's Jewish past. Tuszynska does not hesitate to describe the ignorance about Jews that is common among Poland's youth, which is often complicated by age-old stereotypes and resentments. But *Lost Landscapes* represents a counter-tradition in contemporary Polish culture, in which Jewishness must be recovered as a vital aspect of the country's past.

Norman Ravvin's recent novel is Lola by Night. *He is co-editor of the* Canadian Jewish Studies Reader *and chairs the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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Young actress stars in challenging one-woman play

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

Toronto's Jane Milman is already a seasoned actor at 20 years of age.

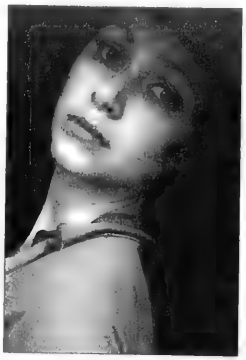
The Russian-born performer has notched up an impressive CV, starring in, among other things, Phoenix productions of A.R. Gurney's *Sylvia* and the Olga Chevoda play *The Devil Of Fantasy*, but her latest and most difficult role is one that any actor would find challenging.

In the one-woman play *Death Occurred*, which Milman co-wrote with her father, Vladimir, she not only plays a woman who dies of cancer, she also portrays the woman's family and friends, looking at how the disease affects an entire community.

"It's been emotional," says Milman of her work on the play to be produced at the York Woods Library theatre Aug. 22 to 28. "I haven't had to face what it would be like to lose a loved one. I have more to learn from this play than anyone else. You really see how… people react to death."

With such a heart-wrenching subject, it's understandable that the young actress has had difficulty playing this role. But as the play's co-writer, she says this production is as much a labour of love as it is a chance to tackle a challenging character.

"It's hard, but I love it so much. When you really love something, it doesn't matter how difficult it is," she says. In this play, "you have a whole bunch of people looking at the same situation in different ways. It's a matter of going back in people's lives and developing their character."



Jane Milman

Attempting to convey the emotions of several different characters is taxing in itself, but Milman says her biggest challenge was getting accustomed to starring in a one-person play.

"This is the most difficult [role I've played]," she says. "It's such a different thing to be on stage alone. We have a lot of friends in the arts, and [one of them] said even really experienced actors don't go for this because it's hard to be on a stage alone for 40 minutes."

However, there are some bright spots to working without a cast.

"It's almost more gratifying to work with this because I don't have to be with anyone else. With ensemble casts, you're frustrated because you want to work your character but someone [else] wants to work theirs. In this case, it's always about working my roles and my characters."

As the play's co-writer on the other hand, she says, collaboration was the key. The fact that her writing partner on *Death Occurred* was her father presented distinct challenges of its own.

"We both have really strong characters," she says about her dad. "It's just a matter of staying calm when you talk about things, and it's difficult to do that. It's hard to say this is not a family thing, just be open about this."

While the disputes with her co-writer might not be about family, there's no question that her desire to entertain came from her father.

In Russia, Vladimir Milman had a successful career as a poet, but he moved the family to Canada just before the Soviet Union collapsed.

"There were so many people saying it's the Jews' fault, and we all know what happens when a country starts whispering it's the Jews," says Jane, who was five when she moved.

In Canada, Vladimir Milman started translating plays from Russian to English and quickly fell in love with theatre. He soon started writing his own plays. *Death Occurred* is the first that's made it into production.

Milman and her father started working together five years ago when he asked her to help translate plays, but by then she had already caught the acting bug. Her first stage experience came in Junior High.

Continued on page 35

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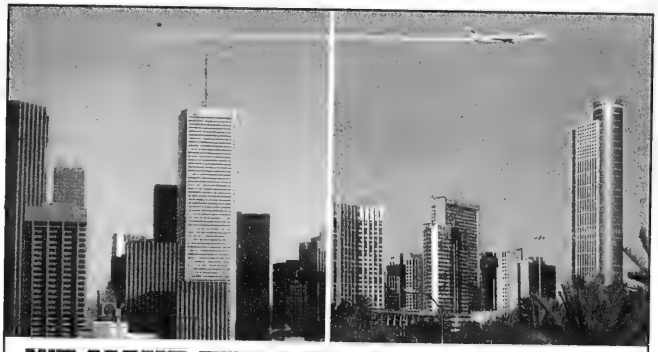

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JEWISH FOLK CHOIR IS 80 YEARS YOUNG

As it enters its 80th season, the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir** is preparing to mark the anniversary with a special program. It has commissioned composer **Sid Robinovitch** to create a new work for choir and klezmer band, based on the book *In Kanade (In Canada)* by the late Canadian Yiddish poet **Sholem Shtern**.

Conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky** and accompanied by pianist **Lina Zemelman**, the choir focuses on music with Jewish themes, mostly in Yiddish but also in Hebrew, Russian, Judeo-Spanish and English. Its repertoire also includes classical works on Jewish themes and music of other cultures.

The mixed choir (men and women) welcomes new members. Ability to read music is an asset but not compulsory. Members are encouraged to tape rehearsals and learn their parts at home. Rehearsals begin at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave., Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. Barbara Blaser, 416-398-3405 or tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca

***

Names in the News: Former talk-show host **Rosie O'Donnell**, whom the *New York Times* recently described as a "brassy Irish-American comedian from Long Island," is slated to step into the role of Golde next month in a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Minskoff Theater in New York.

O'Donnell will play opposite **Harvey Fierstein**'s Tevye in the 1964 classic of life in the shtetl, based on the popular *Tevye the Dairyman* stories by Yiddish writer *Sholom Aleichem*. Producers are hoping her appearance, as of Sept. 20, will boost flagging ticket sales.

The $8-million production opened 19 months ago and is scheduled to close in January unless O'Donnell can turn things around. The original *Fiddler*, with music by **Jerry Bock**, lyrics by **Sheldon Harnick** and a book by **Joseph Stein**, opened in 1964 and ran for nearly eight years.

***

Folk-Roots Festival: The Toronto City Roots Song Celebration offers two days of roots music, with free daytime concerts and four stages of live performances in the evenings. Also includes daytime street fair and craft exhibition. Evening programs, $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Distillery District, 55 Mill St. Labour Day weekend, Sept. 2 & 3, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. 416-364-1177, www.thedistillerydistrict.com

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Arts in Brief

• A Celtic Sounds Music Festival unfolds at Black Creek Pioneer Village, Aug. 27 & 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free with general admission ($11 for adults). Parking $6. 1000 Murray Ross Parkway, south of Steeles Ave., east of Jane St. 416-736-1733, www.blackcreek.ca

• Toronto's historic St. Lawrence neighbourhood along Front Street welcomes clowns, musicians and all kinds of fun as part of the the sixth annual Buskerfest in aid of Epilepsy Toronto, Aug 25 to 28.

• The Shakespeare in the Rough production of *The Merchant of Venice* continues in Withrow Park (south of Danforth, between Pape and Chester subway stations) until Sept. 5. $15 or PWYC. Call for times. 647-438-6742 or www.shakespeareintherough.ca

• Arta Gallery presents "Women: Wanton, Wild and Wonderful," a group exhibition by **Lilli Gillman**, **Edie Harlang**, **Leah Landau** and **Marcia Schnoor**. Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 9, Suite 102. Artist reception, Aug. 27, 2 to 5 p.m. Show runs until Sept. 8.

• Singer-composer **Amy Sky** performs at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, Saturday, Nov. 12, 8:30 p.m. and comedian **Don Rickles** appears at the same venue, Thursday, Nov. 17, 8 p.m. www.livingartscentre.ca

• Seneca College offers evening acting classes taught by skilled professionals through its continuing education department on the York University campus. Orientation, Thursday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. 416-491-5050, ext. 4112.

Actress tackles challenging role

Continued from page 34

"*The Snow Queen* [was being put on] in a Russian school, but I wasn't invited because I was really young. I was watching the rehearsals and the lead wasn't learning her lines, so they told me to learn them. I got so into it that I got the part."

Since that fateful day she has starred in several plays and has appeared on TV in *Wonderland* and *1-800 Missing*.

Just as she's starting to get the TV spots, however, Milman is thinking about ditching the acting gig to concentrate more on her psychology degree.

"I don't know what to do," she says, clearly frustrated. "I got an agent a year ago, and if I can keep the acting career up, I will. If I get an audition, I will miss class and go. My first year of University was hard for me because I couldn't act. For the first time in my life this isn't [as big] a part of my life."

Catch Jane Milman in *Death Occurred* at the York Woods Library Theatre, 1785 Finch Ave. W. (east of Jane Street), Aug. 26, 27, 28, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 to $30, students and seniors, $10. Ten per cent of each ticket sold goes to the Canadian Cancer Society. Call 416-395-5473 or 416-395-5512.

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Filmmaker Jacobovici offers biblical archeology with a twist

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When you think of Simcha Jacobovici's finely wrought documentaries, words like earnest and serious immediately come to mind.

Over the past 15 years, Jacobovici, one of the founders of Associated Producers, has made films running the gamut from *Deadly Currents*, which dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, to *The Selling of Innocents*, which revolved around child trafficking and prostitution.

But now, in a shift of gears, the award-winning Toronto filmmaker has turned his talents to biblical archeology. He has churned out a 26-part series, *The Naked Archaeologist*, the first episode of which will be aired on Vision TV on Sept. 5 at 9:30 p.m.

Normally, this is a weighty topic, encumbered by religion, history and politics. But in Jacobovici's hands, it is a subject of some levity.

Expect the unexpected in *The Naked Archaeologist*.

"It's a very big departure from what I usually do," he said in an interview in a bare, sun-splashed room with a great view of Toronto's garment district and Chinatown.

In a break with the past, he acts as the host of the show. He is also irreverent, funny and, sometimes, a bit over the top. And in a quirky dream sequence that may raise hackles, he submerges himself in the identity of a Jewish rapper.

Jacobovici stretches himself in new and different directions so as to "expose" biblical archeology, one of his passions.

"I want to serve it up naked, stripped of the bullshit," he said in a burst of Jacobovician rhetoric. "I bring a kind of simplicity, an outsider's perspective, the skills of an investigative journalist, to it."

He gravitated to the subject of archeology after making *The Quest for the Lost Tribes* in 1996, a film that explored an intriguing dimension of Jewish history.

But what really got him going was his perception that archeologists generally treat chunks of the Bible as fiction rather than fact.

Continued on page 37

Simcha Jacobovici in Israel

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

JEWS IN MILITARY LIFE IS THEME OF LONDON-AREA MUSEUM

England's Ajex Museum, operated by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, moved two years ago and reopened recently in Hendon, just in time to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

As befits an institution that highlights the Jewish contribution to nearly three centuries of British military history, the museum's cabinets are filled with medals, uniforms, insignia and even weapons. Various panels focus on heroes and heroines who were awarded the Victoria Cross, for example, or served in the Punjab or were rescuers at Belsen.

Among many other canvases, the museum has a portrait of Sir Alexander Schomberg, who served as a frigate commander in the Royal Navy in 1759 when the British stormed the Plains of Abraham to capture Quebec from the French.

One of the exhibit's most extraordinary items is a flag from a German U-boat captured off Rhodes in 1945.

The museum keeps an archive for research purposes. Resources include an index of 60,000 Jewish men and women who served in World War II, as well as an honour roll of those who served in World War I. 020-8202-2323, www.ajex.org.uk

* * *

Clandestine Immigration Museum: The David Ha-Cohen Clandestine Immigration and Navy Museum in Haifa highlights the history of Israel's period of secret immigration from 1934 to 1948, when the British imposed strict quotas on Jewish immigration. About 116 vessels smuggled some 122,500 immigrants into British Mandate Palestine during this period, mostly between 1945 and 1948.

Canadians may be interested to know that the museum's centerpiece is a Canadian-built tank carrier that once carried Holocaust survivors to Israel. It was named Af Al Pi Chen, which means "Nevertheless" or "In Spite of It All."

Built in 1941 at the Polson Iron Works in Toronto, the carrier served in North Africa during World War II and was later utilized by an Italian shipping company. Pressed into service to smuggle immigrants in 1947, the ship was intercepted by British destroyers. The vessel was towed to Haifa Bay and the 434 Holocaust survivors on board were interned in Cyprus. Most made it to Israel after 1948.

After a decade-long naval career, the Af Al Pi Chen was cut into sections and moved ashore. It went on display outside the museum in 1968 and is visible from Haifa's famous promenade and other points.

The David Ha-Cohen Clandestine Immigration and Navy Museum is located at 204 Allenby Street, Haifa. Telephone 972-4-853-6249.

* * *

Notes from All Over

• "British Drawings," an exhibition that spotlights three centuries of superb draftsmanship, is on view at the National Gallery in Ottawa. Featured artists include William Hogarth, Benjamin West, Thomas Gainsborough, J.M.W. Turner, Samuel Palmer and Henry Moore. Until Nov. 20.

• The guides at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 90 Orchard St., bring this building's former tenants to life while they teach about immigration. 212-431-0233, www.tenement.org

• Another wonderful immigration-related tourist site is the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, where visitors retrace the steps of the 12 million immigrants whose descendants make up almost half of the current U.S. population. The play *Remember the Dream* is running at the museum until Oct. 29. 212-363-3206, www.ellisisland.com

• The New Yorker Festival is a weekend literary and arts celebration at various Manhattan locations. Sept. 23 to 25, 877-847-TNYF.

• Peerless Travel of Toronto is offering its first trip to Beijing, geared for seasoned travellers who would like to shop for pearls, silks and other commodities while learning about the city. The seven-day tour starts at $2,499 and includes airfare and airport transfers, accommodations and sightseeing. Optional add-on trip to Shanghai available. Travel dates Nov. 23 to 29. Nirda, 905-886-5610, ext. 319.

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Proof the Exodus is not a figment of the imagination

Continued from page 36

"The received wisdom of academia on biblical archeology is that the earliest parts, from Exodus onward, are mythological stories and fairy tales."

Archeologists who indulge in such practices are falsifying the truth, somewhat like Holocaust deniers who deny that six million Jews were murdered during World War II.

Jacobovici, who became an Orthodox Jew more than a decade ago, stands firmly in the camp of the believers.

"From a historical aspect, I take the Bible as history, unless someone demonstrates it's not. I have no reason to believe the stories in the Bible didn't happen." He paused, asserting, "If you don't think it's true, prove it!"

He argued that some biblical archeologists are motivated by crass politics and a dislike of Jews.

Modern archeology emerged with the rise of fascism, and some archeologists were plainly anti-Semitic, he said.

And in the case of Palestinians seeking to delegitimize Israel's claim to the land, archeology is merely another tool in their arsenal, he added.

Jacobovici, who recently finished filming, shot on location in Israel, Egypt and Greece. In all but one case, local officials did not co-operate.

The Israel Antiquity Authority was useless. "The IAA didn't help. I made the series despite them."

He reckons the IAA ostracized him because it did not appreciate one of his previous documentaries, *James: Brother of Jesus*.

Nor were the Egyptians co-operative, though they issued the permits he required to poke around archeological sites in the Sinai Peninsula. "Egypt is also trying to control the flow of history."

Only the Greeks co-operated, he said.

Currently, Jacobovici is editing and polishing his next documentary, *The Exodus Decoded*, which will be broadcast on the Discovery Channel come November and privately screened around the same time.

There is not a single shred of archeological evidence to support the thesis that the events in Exodus occurred, he allowed.

But in his forthcoming 90-minute film, a mix of *The Matrix* and *The Da Vinci Code*, he excavates proof that Exodus is not a figment of the imagination.

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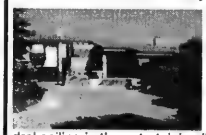

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Withdrawal may determine Sharon's place in history

Continued from page 1

Ben-Gurion's successor, Levi Eshkol, is remembered for stammering in a key address to a frightened nation days before the outbreak of the Six Day War. For years, the perceived nervousness tarred Eshkol as a weak leader.

Though later research did much to rehabilitate Eshkol, a new book by the historian Tom Segev restores his image as a ditherer and blames him for missing a chance for peace with Jordan's King Hussein that might have sidelined former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organization decades ago.

Golda Meir is associated with two failures: the inability to read the signals leading to the 1973 Yom Kippur War and insensitivity toward Israel's Sephardi underclass. Together, these shortcomings generated a process that led to the emergence of Menachem Begin in 1977 as Israel's first prime minister from the right-leaning Likud Party.

Begin is remembered primarily for the land-for-peace deal he struck with then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat soon after coming to power. He also was able to build an abiding alliance between his Likud Party and the Sephardim. And it was Begin who made the decision to bomb Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981, a move that at first was criticized around the world but which, in retrospect, was praised by western officials as far-sighted.

But Begin too had his failures. The 1982 Lebanon War that was meant to crush the PLO turned sour as Israel got sucked into an occupation that lasted 18 years, at a high cost of soldiers' lives and international support.

Begin resigned as prime minister and remained a recluse until his death, in 1992.

His successor, Yitzhak Shamir – who voted against the peace treaty with Egypt – is remembered for his reluctance to take the peace process forward. "The sea is the same sea and the Arabs are the same Arabs" was his dictum.

But when Shamir started a peace process with the 1991 Madrid conference that the Israeli public felt he would never complete, they turned again to the left, bringing Yitzhak Rabin to power.

Rabin, the general who led the Israel Defense Forces to victory in the Six Day War, is remembered for the Oslo peace process that cost him his life. He was the first Israeli leader to negotiate with the PLO, beginning an ambitious project that was meant to bring recognition from the entire Arab world in return for most of the territory captured in the Six Day War and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Twelve years later, however, many Israelis have come to believe that Rabin was naive in rehabilitating Arafat as a potential peace partner and even arming him, without clear evidence that he had abandoned terrorism.

Many now see Oslo as a carelessly negotiated process that, in retrospect, raises questions about Rabin's reputation for clear strategic thinking – though it's not clear how Rabin would have proceeded had he lived to see the peace process unravel.

Oslo's collapse nearly five years ago brought Sharon to power. His mandate was to crush the armed Palestinian uprising and try a more careful approach to peace that Israelis could live with and Palestinians couldn't abuse.

When the "road map" peace plan was formulated, for example, Sharon insisted that – unlike Oslo – it be performance-based, meaning that the process would not advance from stage to stage if the Palestinians failed to keep their commitments.

But the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank is the main thrust of Sharon's approach, and how it turns out will to a large extent determine how he's remembered.

Sharon's career so far has had many defining moments: the young officer who created Israel's first elite commando unit, on which much of the Israel Defence Forces' fighting doctrine is modelled; the silver-haired general, his head bandaged, crossing the Suez Canal and turning the tide in the 1973 Yom Kippur War; the hero turned villain who, as defence minister, misled Begin in the Lebanon War and was forced to resign in disgrace after Israel's Lebanese Christian allies massacred Palestinians in refugee camps; and the inveterate builder of settlements.

Up to this point, Sharon's political philosophy has been based on peace through projection of power. The current withdrawal is an attempt to marry power – Israel was tired of waiting for a Palestinian partner and now is setting the agenda unilaterally – to the return of land to spark a future peace process.

If it works, Sharon will go down in history as an Israeli de Gaulle, a right-wing general who rolled back an untenable occupation when the cost in soldiers' lives and international opprobrium became too high. In Sharon's case, he also will be praised for solving Israel's demographic problem by paving the way for a smaller Israel with an undisputed Jewish majority.

If it fails, however, and instead of a new peace process Israel gets more and worse terrorism, Sharon will be seen as a gambler who gave in to domestic and international pressure – and lost.

The stakes for Sharon and his place in history are high.

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Pullout foes use guilt on Jewish soldiers

By DINA KRAFT
JTA

NEVEH DEKALIM, Gaza Strip – The soldier with a honey-coloured ponytail tucked under her hat was surrounded by weeping teenage girls asking her where her Jewish heart was – but she didn't flinch.

"How can you evacuate my grandmother? She was in the Palmach," one teary-eyed girl with dark hair and a long red skirt pleaded last week, referring to the elite Jewish militia that fought to establish Israel in 1948.

Liron Ben-Dor, the 19-year-old soldier, replied calmly, "I love this country no less than you do. We are doing this so we can continue living here."

Unconvinced, the growing crowd of girls and young women continued to bombard her with the slogans and arguments that the anti-pullout movement has drilled them to repeat.

One asked her how she could carry out such a crime, referring to the ongoing evacuation of Gaza's Jewish settlements. Another told her she was being used by the Israeli government.

A third asked her, "Why do I have to defend my home from soldiers?"

The scene was replicated countless times last week and in the weeks leading up to the pullout as the anti-withdrawal camp used what it hoped would be its most effective weapon: psychological guilt.

The pullout foes see it differently, saying they were merely spreading the truth – one, they say, given to them by God.

The main slogans of the movement are: "A Jew does not expel another Jew," and "Soldier, policeman, refuse orders."

Another popular chant is "Shame on you," as activists asked soldiers and police officers how they'll live with themselves in the future after having allegedly betrayed the Jewish people.

An IDF soldier listens to an emotional settler during the evacuation in Morag. [Israel Sun photo]

In most cases, police and soldiers did not engage their questioners and stared directly ahead, their eyes hidden behind reflective sunglasses. Some appeared bored by the repeated verbal abuse and even began to yawn.

But some were stung. One soldier, visibly upset by the verbal warfare, wiped a tear from her eyes during the scuffles last week in Neveh Dekalim. Her friend and fellow soldier gave her a hug.

As security forces marched up the main road in Neveh Dekalim last Tuesday trying to break up a crowd blocking the road, one man with a beard and a small boy on his shoulders yelled out in a booming voice, "Get out of here! Leave our homes, criminals!"

The troops kept moving forward.

Further down the road, a teenage girl spotted a soldier with a kippah. As he passed by, she yelled, "He's wearing a kippah. How can that be? He should take it off."

Iskar Lugar, 15, from Petach Tikva kneeled in the sand behind a row of soldiers on break sitting on a curb, their backs toward her.

In a voice hoarse from crying, Lugar yelled out at them, "I'm your sister. Why are you doing this? As long as we are connected to the land, we are connected to God."

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Israel makes history again at Rogers Cup tennis

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to the CJN

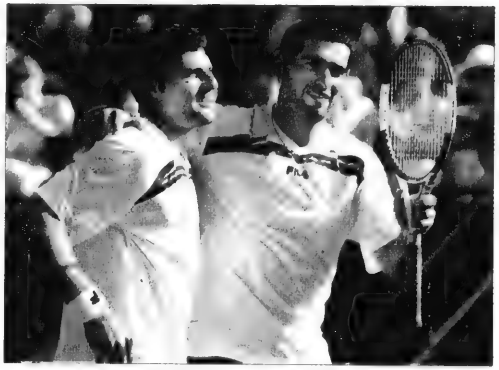
MONTREAL — For the second consecutive year, the Israeli doubles Davis Cup team of Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram made history by their stellar play in Montreal at the recent Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Jarry Tennis Stadium. Erlich and Ram became the first Israeli and all Jewish doubles team to finish as runners-up in the 125-year-old tournament, besting their quarter-final finish in Toronto last year.

Ehrlich's and Ram's achievement ranks as one of the memorable highlights of Israelis competing in tennis in Canada. Harel Levy has been the only Israeli to finish as a runner-up in singles at the 2000 Rogers Cup tournament in Toronto. In Montreal, the best finish by an Israeli in singles came at the 1981 tournament when Shlomo Glickstein finished as a semi-finalist.

Erlich/Ram began the tournament by defeating the South African team of Huss/Moodie 7-6 (2), 2-6, 7-6 (4), fifth seed team of Paes/Zimonjic of India 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), avenged their loss at last year's tournament to Canadian Daniel Nestor and partner Mark Knowles of the Bahamas by defeating them 4-6, 7-6(8), 7-6 (4), and the number two seed USA Davis Cup team of twin brothers Bob and Mike Bryan 7-6 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-4 in the semi-final round before losing in the finals to the fourth seed team of Wayne Black and Kevin Ulyett of Zimbabwe 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-0.

The duo earned $25,825 (US) for their runner-up finish and moved their doubles rankings upward to 10th in the world. In their three years playing together, Ehrlich/Ram have won six doubles titles and have been runners-up four times.

Erlich/Ram's performance was especially impressive since rain postponed matches and they had to play their three final doubles matches in two days.



Jonathan Erlich, left, and Andy Ram

"Andy (Ram) and I are very pleased, given the circumstances. It is not often that we can beat the number two, three and five seeds all at the same tournament," said Erlich.

Unlike singles play, doubles competition involve co-ordination of players in net play, speed, power and concentration. "It is so important that we play with an understanding of what we can do against our opponents. Jonathan and I know each other for many years, since we were juniors. I never had any success until I started playing with him in 2003," said Ram.

Remarkably, the duo played the maximum three sets in all of their matches and, with the exception of the semis and final matches, rallied for victories in the third set tiebreaker due to inspired net play and a belief that they would break their opponents.

"We knew it was only a matter of time before we would break our opponents. In the match against Knowles and Nestor, we read their serves well and knew we could beat them if we pushed them far enough with volleys and backhands. Our strategy worked and the good level of play gives us confidence in our play," said Erlich.

In their quarter-final match, Erlich/Ram were also battling a hometown crowd that was rooting for Nestor and Knowles. Nestor/Knowles at one point in the second set relinquished two match points and never recovered.

Erlich, 28, and Ram, 25, have been a formidable duo since teaming up two years ago. They have won three doubles titles together and finished as semi-finalists at Wimbledon in 2003. Andy Ram also finished as a mixed doubles finalist in 2003, losing to tennis legend Martina Navratilova and Leander Paes.

Both players immigrated to Israel as children from Argentina (Erlich) and Uruguay (Ram) and share a love of Israel. Erlich and Ram were proud to represent Israel in the 2004 Olympics and were disappointed not to finish in the medal round.

"It means so much to our people back home to do well. We feel that when we perform well, it reflects well on Israel," said Ram.

One of their opponents believes that with their runner-up finish in Montreal, it is not far-fetched for them to win a Grand Slam tournament.

"We saw how tough they (Erlich/Ram) were in our match," said Nestor. "They are so difficult because they never give you free points based on mistakes. As a result, you can never let up against them. They have been playing together for longer than most of the doubles teams."

Two Jewish players (Noam Okun of Israel and Glenn Weiner of the United States), entered the singles tournament through the qualifying rounds. Only Okun survived to the main draw and lost in the opening round to Germany's Karol Beck 6-2, 6-2.

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Former Winnipegger builds career as golf pro in Israel

By MYRON LOVE
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Israel won a gold medal in men's golf at the 17th Maccabiah Games last month thanks to the efforts of Andy Nemiroff, a 33-year-old former Winnipegger who is Israel's only professional golfer.

Nemiroff won the medal with a record score of 13 under par over four rounds. The match was held in Caesarea, home to one of only two courses in Israel.

"This was my first Maccabiah Games," said Nemiroff, who was back in Winnipeg visiting family. "It was a special two weeks. This year's games attracted the largest number of athletes and the largest number of spectators in the history of the games. It was also the strongest field ever in all the sports."

Nemiroff took up golfing when he was six. By the time he finished high school, he knew he wanted to try the professional ranks.

"My parents were always very supportive," he said.

As a junior, he played in competitions throughout North America. Ten years ago, he turned pro.

It was love that first brought Nemiroff to Israel. While on vacation in Mexico, he met Sharon, an Israeli girl who was also on holiday. He visited Sharon in Israel and fell in love with the country.

"I went back and forth a few times before deciding to make aliyah," he said. "I have no regrets. It was the best decision I have ever made."

He made aliyah five years ago. He and Sharon were married in 2003.

So what does a professional golfer do for a living in Israel? After all, the country is not exactly a hot bed of golfing.

Nemiroff lucked out. He was hired by Kibbutz Ga'ash (near Netanya) to be the pro at the kibbutz's golf course.

"I was teaching Israelis to play golf," he said. "Most of my students had never played before. It was a lot of fun and really interesting. You wouldn't think Israelis would have the patience for golf. Yet the sport is becoming more and more popular."

Eighteen months ago, after acquiring several sponsors, Nemiroff was able to resume his career as a professional golfer. He has competed in tournaments in Spain, Greece and Turkey and is entered in the European tour qualifying tournament in Cologne, Germany, next month.

The European Tour is every bit as competitive as the North American tours and some of the world's top golfers play the European circuit, he said.

Despite being a full-time player now, Nemiroff still makes time to hold clinics in Israel for adults and children.

He generally comes back home to Winnipeg in the summers to see his family and compete in local or Canadian events. He missed qualifying for the Telus Open in Edmonton and the MTS Classic in Winnipeg this summer by one shot each.

Nemiroff pointed out he is just entering his prime years as a professional golfer. "Usually golfers are at their peak from their early 30s to mid 40s," he said.

The sound of music

I've just joined the MP3 phenomenon, and let me tell you, it's wonderful. Musical technology has come a long way since cassette tapes.

I remember saving money from my minimum wage after-school job to buy a Sony Walkman. It was bright yellow and waterproof – and it was the coolest mechanical device I ever owned.

A decade later, my Walkman was replaced by a Discman. Some friends chipped in and got me the new toy for my birthday. Unfortunately, I didn't own a single CD at the time. It seems I am always slightly behind when it comes to new technology. I still use a VCR and a small 12-inch television from the early '90s.

I was upset when cassette tapes finally became obsolete – I had such a great collection. Before that, I had a bunch of shiny black records that I played on my parents' record player. Paul McCartney, Duran Duran and Michael Jackson filled the silence on the rare occasions I was alone in the house. I even had a collection of 45s, the ones that needed little yellow plastic things in the centre in order to play them.

But none of these devices come close to my brand new silver iPod. I love it.

After I had hinted for months that I "needed" one, my boyfriend surprised me with it. Then a friend loaded it up with songs he had downloaded for himself. (I must figure out how to use this technology.)

On Day 1, I had the little white earphones in my ears for hours. On the subway, I became one of dozens of people dancing in my seat ever so slightly. I never realized how many people own iPods. It's astounding where music takes you. I couldn't stop smiling. I went to another world. I created a documentary in my head to an inspiring song.

I didn't want to go back home to do work, so I went to the supermarket and skipped down the cereal aisle. I hummed along to '80s tunes in the canned food section. I became briefly emotional listening to a Spanish lullaby in the vegetable aisle and locked eyes with a woman listening to a blue iPod. She gave me a look of approval upon seeing mine. After that, I noticed many more iPod-listening people smiling my way: in the elevator of my building, at the gym, at a coffee shop. We grinned at each other like old friends. We were iPod-bonding.

I later learned iPod's are not just for music. My friend recently downloaded the Torah for his father to listen to. Jewish classes and Torah lectures are also widely available. Another friend orders two audio books a month and listens to them on her way to work. You can download radio shows from around the world in different languages. There are recordings of many famous political speeches, including those of Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy. You can create your own mixes and stream your own broadcasts.

Unsigned artists can use the format to distribute their music. "Podcasting" is a method of publishing audio broadcasts via the Internet that allows users to subscribe to a feed of new files.

Another friend made his own playlist for a huge outdoor party. He explained: "I created two, 40-song playlists so the music would fit the mood. I plugged my iPod into my stereo speaker system and just let it play." Wow.

He continued: "Everything becomes more cinematic listening to songs when doing errands. [The] music [lets] you experience things in a much more visceral way. You have a soundtrack going on, so riding the subway is like being in a film. It colours the way you see things. You connect to things differently. It's a diverse sort of engagement."

I couldn't agree more. My only advice to offer regarding this MP3 trend is download and use responsibly. And as soon as I figure out how to download my own songs, I'll let you know.

E-mail Miriam@jtvproductions.net

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salt and pepper to taste

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"Jews in history"

By JOE KING

René Cassin (1887-1976), a leading world figure in the struggle for recognition of the rights of the individual, was largely responsible for the drafting of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

A native of Bayonne, France, Cassin was the son of a Jewish merchant. He was a brilliant student at the Lycée of Nice and at the University of Aix-en-Province where he took degrees in humanities and law. In a competitive examination given by the law faculty, he placed first. And in 1914, he received a doctorate in juridicial, economic and political sciences.

He began a legal career – interrupted by World War I in which he was gravely wounded and decorated with both the Croix de Guerre and the Médaille Militaire for bravery – and then began to teach law. He served the French government-in-exile during World War II (apparently he was the first civilian to leave Bordeaux in response to Gen. Charles de Gaulle's broadcast to the French people from London) and, after the conflict, held high positions in both France and Europe.

René Cassin

From 1965 to 1968, he was president of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. He served on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in various senior roles from 1946 to 1957, and was credited with being the most important contributor to the wording of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

In an article written to help mark the International Year of Human Rights in 1968, Cassin concluded: "Now that we possess an instrument capable of lifting or easing the burden of oppression and injustice in the world, we must learn to use it." (One cannot help but wonder how René Cassin would react to the activities of the UN Human Rights Commission in the 21st century with a majority of its members among the foremost violators of human rights on the globe.)

Excerpted from The Jewish Contribution to the Modern World.

Joe King is a veteran Montreal writer and publicist.

Frozen Jews?

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

We are afraid of the increase in anti-Semitism yet most of do little to stymie it. Are we frozen Jews?

Why have our community leaders centralized the job of fighting anti-Semites and in the process excluded most of our members from helping ourselves? Why is there no communal plan to teach us to become soldiers for peace and our own line of defence, rather than leaving the job of strengthening us in the hands of a few. Frozen Jews?

Fellow Jews, it is time we recognized our ability to change our plight; to take a stand on our own behalf rather than watching, waiting and hoping for others to scrap on our behalf.

Where is the Jewish equivalent of a non-Jewish committee recently created by Tony Comper, CEO of the Bank of Montreal, and his wife Elizabeth, to battle anti-Semitism? Why are we watching our own destiny from the sidelines and indifferently allowing others to do the work? Where is the front-line initiative and creativity of more of our Jewish businessmen and women? Frozen Jews?

Why do we regularly invite Eli Wiesel and other voices of valour to speak at our organizational launches, dinners and events? Their message is generally the same – we as Jews cannot be indifferent to injustice, especially our own. Why are we not responding to Wiesel's call to arms when he says, "Indifference is not a beginning, it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor – never his victim, whose pain is magnified when he or she feels forgotten. The political prisoner in his cell, the hungry children, the homeless refugees – not to respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human memory. And in denying their humanity we betray our own."

Anti-Semitism is growing around the world. Why are we simply complaining? Frozen Jews?

Here are some ideas. Please consider them whether you are a stockbroker, housewife, cantor, student, teacher, mechanic, doctor, actor, computer techie or truck driver. Start a group among your friends and/or colleagues just as Tony and Elizabeth Comper did and offer your services to B'nai Brith or Canadian Jewish Congress to guard our cemeteries and institutions. Expand your group's agenda to enhance friendships with non-Jews who are intrigued by the Jewish people and influence those sitting on the fence, who might just appreciate the beauty of partnership and comradeship.

Let's insist that every participant on March of the Living and birthright speak on their return to schools, churches and any audience that will listen to their stories of the virtues of the Jewish people and Israel. This is not apologetic. It is called making friends. Ultimately, it marginalizes evil, giving it little room to operate within.

Rabbis, why do you stand before us on Shabbat and the High Holy Days speaking painfully about the Jew beaten in France and the Jewish man terrorized in Markham by a hateful person, yet rarely call upon your congregants to become activists?

Community leaders, let go of the reins you hold so tightly and empower us to stand tall like the biblical Jacob, who fearing an attack strategically, with foresight, separated his camps when he learned his malevolent brother Esau was coming to meet him. Community leaders, divide up our camps cleverly, show us how to find peace and means of seeing and countering destructive forces. Show us how to help our Jewish brothers and sisters suffering from anti-Semitism around the world.

No more indifference! In 2005, knowing what we know, having what we have, leaves no room for frozen Jews. Please.

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Anatevka and Toronto – both shtetls?

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "community" as "an organized political, municipal or social body" and, alternately, as "a body of people having religion, profession, etc. in common."

Indeed, in the Jewish community of the Greater Toronto Area, there are certain characteristics that bind us inexorably together.

Some of those qualities are: a pull toward Israel; a sense of being a family; certain rites and traditions, such as brit milah and Yom Kippur; even the game of "Jewish geography" that seems to come up whenever two Jews get together.

Yet, the term community can be extremely misleading, because it implies that a group is largely homogenous.

Feature

When it comes to the Jewish community, that's definitely not the case. We have Ashkenazim and Sephardim; people who keep kosher and people who don't; those who believe in day schools and those who don't; people who believe passionately in "Greater Israel," and those who believe just as passionately in the need for a Palestinian state. The list is almost as long as the number of Jews who live here.

But one thing most people in the Toronto Jewish community do have in common is that either they or their ancestors came here from somewhere else, often from a small, close-knit community made up largely of Jews.

In eastern Europe, that place was called a shtetl, and the development of the Toronto Jewish community – even to this day as the community continues to move northward along Bathurst Street – can be seen as the re-creation of a shtetl-like atmosphere.

In eastern Europe, and especially the Pale of Settlement, a shtetl was a small place where Jews lived – a relatively self-contained village with stores, a shul (or several), a school and a butcher shop. It also had the people who made life work – the rabbi, the *melamed* (teacher), the shochet, the tailor and the matchmaker. It even usually boasted one or more outsiders, such as the *luftmensch*, (the kindest definition of which is someone with no visible means of support), the freethinker and the beggar.

Continued on page B7

Benji Feldman photos

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Locations: Sundays, Richmond Hill - Alexander Mackenzie, Wednesdays, Richmond Hill - Silver Pines P.S., Tuesdays, Thornhill Woods - Bakersfield P.S. We offer rich, stimulating and challenging programs Sundays and afternoons for children ages 5-Bar/Bat Mitzvah, in Richmond Hill and Thornhill. Small classes, individual attention, special events, and activities are integrated into Hebrew studies. Bar/bat mitzvah preparation.

BETH SHOLOM HEBREW SCHOOL
1445 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Contact: Esther Benari-Altmann
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
Beth Sholom Hebrew School has it all! Hebrew language and writing, prayers, holiday & shabbat celebrations, Israel and Jewish identity and much, much more. Our school-wide family education programs are not to be missed. Enriched program for children with special needs.

BETH TORAH EDUCATION PROGRAMS
47 Glenbrook Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6B 2L7
Education Director: Elliott Michaelson
Tel: 416-782-4495 Fax: 416-782-4496
E-mail: em.btc@rogers.com
Beth Torah Congregation is committed to offering a positive educational experience to members and non-members alike. We run programs from Gr. 1 -Gr. 10 that emphasize the integration of our heritage in our daily lives. "Adventure Judaism: Education for Jewish Kids Who Want to Stay That Way" teaches a living Judaism for the 21st Century.

BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
2760 Bathurst St., Toronto, Ont. M6B 3A1
Education Director: Dr. Uri Korin
Tel: 416-783-3346 Fax: 416-785-8287
E-mail: bialik_school@bialik.on.ca
Serves children from JK-Gr. 8. Through our integrated General and Jewish studies program and, with the most up to date instructional strategies including the use of technology, students learn to value their Jewishness and love for Israel while developing a sense of membership in the Canadian community.

CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto)
Director of Education: Paul J. Shaviv, MA, M.Phil
Tanenbaum Campus: 200 Wilmington Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3H 5J8
Tel: 416-636-5984 Fax: 416-636-7717
E-mail: office@chattc.org
Richmond Hill Campus: 51 Wright St., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4A2
Tel: 905-787-8772 Fax 416-787-8773
E-mail: office@chatrh.org
Toronto's community high school (gr. 9-12) providing courses leading to university entrance. A comprehensive Jewish Studies program is an integral part of our school, including a community service requirement. Our reputation is based on individual care for every student. We offer an extensive program of sports and extra-curricular activities. Please visit our new website www.chat-edu.ca - be sure to click on The CHAT Experience.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (in the new Miles Nadal JCC)
750 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Joan Schoenfeld
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: joan@djcs.org
Website: www.djcs.org
Community school, 200+ students, providing sense of appreciation, enjoyment in Judaism; including concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and feel comfortable in a Jewish setting. JK-1: Sunday morning delightful activity-oriented program. Grades 2-7: Sunday only or Sunday/Wednesday options. New Hebrew for children of Hebrew speakers Program. Unique High School Program Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., on contemporary teen dilemmas and issues of Jewish identity.

EITZ CHAIM SCHOOLS
Dean: Rabbi I. Pliner
Menachel Girls' School: Rabbi M. Gewirtz
Director of Development: Rabbi Y. Steinman
Early Childhood Education Director: Mrs. E. Kaplan
Executive Director: Mr. Elias Levy
Director of Development: Rabbi A. Rothman

Viewmount Campus
1 Viewmount Ave.
Tel: 416-789-4366
E-mail: view@eitzchaim.com

Patricia Campus
475 Patricia Ave.,
Tel: 416-225-1187
E-mail: patricia@eitzchaim.com

Spring Farm Campus & Development Office
80 York Hill Blvd.
Tel: 416-764-6633
E-mail: spring@eitzchaim.com

Yeshivas Eitz Chaim is dedicated to instilling within its students the foundations for living a Torah observant life and to provide the skills to understand and succeed in today's world in accordance with Torah values and ideals. Eitz Chaim strives for excellence in education in all areas of its curriculum. Rooted in tradition with over 80 years of history, Eitz Chaim continues to provide its students with the finest Torah and general education in an environment filled with the love of Yiddishkeit and the Jewish people.

KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 312, Toronto, Ont. M2R 3W5
Executive Director: Joseph Klinger
Tel: 416-787-0197 Fax: 416-781-3166
Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew and Bible and prayers for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that

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EDUCATION CONT'D

beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14 sessions.

THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL
Director: David Prashker
Tel: 905-709-3636 Fax: 905-709-1999

Atkinson Campus,
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9
Principal: Jan Lapedus

Holy Blossom Campus
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Principal: Eric Petersiel
A Reform Jewish day school; sensitive to the educational needs of its children; providing for individual learning styles; music, art, drama and computers enrich a curriculum integrating Hebrew/Judaic and general studies. Students are prepared to be knowledgeable, practicing Liberal Jews and contributing Canadian citizens.

MONTESSORI JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Principal: Regina Lulka
Tel: 416-784-5071 Fax: 416-784-5071
E-mail: info@montessorijewish.ca
Website: www.montessorijewish.ca
The strengths of an excellent Montessori program and an engaging Jewish Studies curriculum are combined in a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. The Montessori Jewish Day School is an inclusive, pluralistic, egalitarian school. Our integrated program includes a certified Montessori directress and a qualified Judaic Studies teacher in each classroom.

OR HAEMET SEPHARDIC DAY SCHOOL
7026 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3
Principal: Sarah Wasserman
Tel: 905-669-7653 Fax: 905-669-5138
Provides a Torah education in accordance with Sephardic Jewish practice, and a quality Hebrew, French and General Studies curriculum. Full day preschool to Jr. High (½ day J.K. only). Our impressive new campus featuring a Beth Medrash, pool, gym, high-tech computer and modern science labs contributes to enhancing the students' overall school experience.

PAUL PENNA DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
750 Spadina Ave., Miles Nadal JCC,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Elysa Cohen
Co-Presidents:
Paula Klein & Michael Miloff
Tel: 416-928-3537 Fax: 416-533-7471
E-mail: info@djds.ca
Website: www.djds.ca
The Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School is Toronto's only Jewish Day School located in the heart of downtown at the Miles Nadal JCC. We are committed to developing and nurturing students who excel academically, express their unique artistic visions and think critically. Our enriched and integrated curriculum weaves together the Jewish and general facets of their lives to develop a meaningful Jewish identity. Registering now for SK to Gr. 6, subsidies available. Personalized tours available upon request.

THE RENANIM YOUTH SINGERS
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation
55 Yeomans Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Director: Susan Michaels
Tel: 416-449-2296
E-mail: susan.michaels@rogers.com
Website: www.renanimchoirs.com
This award-winning, multi-denominational, Jewish youth choir is planning a trip to Israel. Auditioned students earn volunteer service hours through their performances at various community functions. During weekly 2 hour rehearsals, vocalization, literacy and musicianship skills are taught to both the junior and senior choirs through varied Judaic and non-Jewish repertoire.

SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
School Supervisor: Hava Greenberg
Location: Thornhill Secondary School
Tel: 905-889-4975, #26
Fax: 905-889-1575
Website: www.shaarshalom.ca
Highlights: Two days a week. Intensive Hebrew reading program; Excellent Family Education; Special Theme Days; music; synagogue skills; remediation available. We are committed to helping children develop the skills and tools they need to become committed adult Jews. SK-Gr. 8. Classes meet Sunday and Wednesday. Affiliated with BJE and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

TEMMY LATNER HEBREW SCHOOL
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Principal: Rifky Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
The Temmy Latner Hebrew School is an afternoon Hebrew school program at the Forest Hill Elementary School. Your child will love our exciting, stimulating environment, where Hebrew school is fun, without compromising solid learning and growth. Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. SK-Gr. 6. Call now to register!

TORAH HIGH
7000 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7L1
Principal: Rabbi Yisroel Rabinowitz
Tel: 905-761-6279, x. 31
Fax: 905-761-9115
E-mail: rabbirebo@ncsy.ca
Website: www.ncsy.ca
NCSY's Torah High School is a unique Jewish Studies program for high school students, affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education and offering Ministry-approved credits. Classes feature interactive discussions, experienced educators and a warm environment. In 2 short hours each week, students access Torah High at 12 locations, close to their homes and schools. $100 registration fee.

THE TORONTO HESCHEL SCHOOL
55 Yeomans Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7
Principal: Ms. Gail Baker
Tel: 416-635-1876 Fax: 416-635-1800
E-mail: office@torontoheschel.org
Website: www.torontoheschel.org
Ideology: pluralistic. Affiliated with the BJE. The Toronto Heschel School is a multi-sensory, integrative, arts-based Jewish Day School. The educational philosophy of The Toronto Heschel School is based on the principle that the students can learn only in a supportive and validating atmosphere and that arts play a major role in the transmission of academic knowledge. Small classes ensures high academic achievement within a positive, joyful, relaxed learning atmosphere. JK-Gr. 8.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL
Administation House:
3072 Bayview Ave.
Head of School: Lucy Cohen

Bathurst Campus
1700 Bathurst St.

Bayview Campus,
3080 Bayview Ave.

Richmond Hill Campus,
9711 Bayview Ave.
Tel: 416-224-9737, ext. 137
Fax: 416-225-9108
Website: www.usds.ca
JK - Grade 8. Offers a warm, stimulating, Jewish environment where students can develop socially, cognitively, physically and emotionally. Quality general and Jewish studies programs integrating computers, creative arts, music, physical education and family education. Teaching strategies enable students to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Association: Conservative movement.

YESHIVA DARCHEI TORAH OF TORONTO
2327 Dufferin St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6E 3S5
Development Director: Jeff Toledano, MSW
Tel: 416-782-7974, ext. 27,
Fax: 416-782-7811
E-mail: toledano@bellnet.ca
Website: www.darcheitorah.org
Yeshiva Darchei Torah operates a High School offering a multi-leveled Limudai Kodesh program with a low student-to-Rebbe ratio. Our General Studies program is university preparatory, exceeding Ministry of Education guidelines and features separate Sciences and Humanities tracks. For more information, please call Rabbi Breitowitz, 416-782-7974, ext. 21.

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Toronto, Ont. M3J 2P1
Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin
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E-mail: info@benjamins.ca
Website: www.benjamins.ca
Since 1922, Benjamin's has been part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow and stress. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved Jewish families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

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When economy is a major consideration, you should know that Hebrew Basic Burial offers the lowest interment costs available from any Jewish establishment. Guaranteed. Families who have used Hebrew Basic Burial's services have all found that dignity and observance of Jewish law were exactly as they should be. Hebrew Basic Burial - a non-profit organization.

STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL
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Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1A1
Managing Funeral Director:
Carol P. Saucier
Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

HEALTH

L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR JEWISH WOMEN
21 Midvale Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3H8
New Contacts Co-ordinator:
Clara Shore
Tel: 416-630-0203 Fax: 416-785-8285
E-mail: lchaim_group@hotmail.com
L'Chaim is a support group for Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment. L'Chaim's volunteers are Jewish women cancer survivors trained to provide **confidential** support via phone or visit. L'Chaim is also dedicated to raising cancer awareness through events and our educational DVD entitled "What Every Jewish Woman Should Know About Cancer".

ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL (ASI) CANADA
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Director of Operations: Danny Boker
Tel: 416-787-9707 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
E-mail: asicanada@bellnet.ca
ASI is the only non-profit organization in Canada supporting the men and women of the IDF on active duty. ASI works tirelessly for the wellbeing of the soldiers, funding social, educational, spiritual, and recreational programs to ease the burdens faced by these young soldiers.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Noreen Azoulay
Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236
E-mail: friends@laniado.ca
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Help provide state-of-the-art equipment by supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
National Office: 4700 Bathurst St., 2nd fl.
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W8
Tel: 416-733-9220 Fax: 416-733-9430
Toll-free (in Canada) 1-800-387-3894
E-mail: weizmann@ca.inter.net
Eastern Region: 14-2340 Lucerne Rd.
Montreal, Que. H3R 2J8
Tel: 514-342-0777 Fax: 514-342-0602
Website: www.weizmann.ac.il
Chairman of the Board: H. Thomas Beck
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Programs & Operations Director: Sheri Federman
The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together 2,500 scientists, technicians and research students devoted to adventuring into the unknown for the benefit of mankind. Visit the Weizmann website to find out more!

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
National Chair: Hank Rosenbaum
Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536
E-mail: yadvashem@bellnet.ca
Website: www.yadvashem.ca
Representing Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, we promote Holocaust education and remembrance. Funds raised support the new Yad Vashem Museum Complex, Jerusalem. We also send educators, annually, to study the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International School. Families are encouraged to inscribe Holocaust victims on our Wall of Remembrance, Earl Bales Park, Toronto.

CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas
Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255
E-mail:cheryl@cdntech.org
Website: www.cdntech.org
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

THE CANADIAN ZIONIST CULTURAL ASSOC. (CZCA)
788 Marlee Ave. , Ste. 201
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Administrator: Sue Ellen Boyd
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
E-mail: czca@on.aibn.com
CZCA is a registered Canadian charity, supporting humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in Israel. CZCA funds summer camps for widows and orphans of fallen soldiers and provides scholarships for deserving youth. CZCA supports men and women in need who have served the State of Israel.

EMUNAH WOMEN OF TORONTO
3768 Bathurst St., Ste. 308,
North York, Ont. M3H 3M7
Office Administrator: Janice Freedman
Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039
E-mail: emunah@kwik.net
Emunah is the largest religious Zionist Women's organization in the world. Provides care for 8,000 children in over 127 day care centres and nurseries across Israel; educates more than 2,000 girls in 6 high schools; supports 5 children's homes and youth villages for more than 600 children.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
700-1000 Finch Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 2V5
President: Ron Hoffman
Executive Director: Ben Prossin
Administrative Co-ordinator:
Lil Jacobson
Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345
E-mail: tor@jnf-canada.org
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. JNF is now embarking upon major developments in the Negev in order to ensure that the barren and desolate landscape becomes habitable and productive and able to accommodate a growing Israeli population. JNF will truly *"make the desert bloom"* with the hep of its supporters worldwide. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

NA'AMAT CANADA
272 Codsell Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248
E-mail: na'am@bellnet.ca
web: www.naamat.com
A dynamic fighter for women's rights in Israel and Canada. Na'amat Israel, with 350,000 members, has dramatically affected the lives of women by providing child care, high schools, shelters and counselling centres for family abuse and legal advisory clinics. In Canada, Na'amat sponsors Bialik Hebrew Day School, Camp Gesher, Habonim-Dror Zionist Youth Movement, a Free Legal Aid Advisory Clinic and provides school supplies for children living in shelters.

NEW ISRAEL FUND OF CANADA
801 Eglinton Ave.W., Ste. 401,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1E3
Executive Director: Jay Brodbar
Tel: 416-781-4322 Fax: 416-781-7443
E-mail: info@nifcan.org
Website: http://www.nifcan.org
The vision of Israel's founders was of a state "based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel." Committed to helping fulfil that vision, the NIF, a philanthropic partnership of Israelis, North Americans and Europeans works for equality and social justice for all citizens of Israel.

SAR-EL CANADA/CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
President: Len Berk
Tel: 416-781-6089 Fax: 416-785-7687

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ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS cont'd

E-mail: cvitor@idirect.com
Website: www.serve.com/CVI/
Montreal tel: 514-735-0272
Sar-el is a voluntary, non-political organization providing Diaspora Jews with the opportunity to directly help Israel. Most volunteers are between 18 and 65. They work and live for 18 days on IDF maintenance bases. Room & board and work clothing supplied.

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS CANADA
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 502,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Executive Vice-President: Yona Gazit
Tel: 416-789-3351 Fax: 416-789-9436
E-mail: toronto@israelbonds.ca
Website: www.israelbonds.ca
Investing in Israel Bonds supports the values of economic growth, belief in the future and giving real opportunity to the people of Israel. Investment funds are used to develop basic infrastructure. Israel Bonds enable us to actualize our love of Israel by helping to physically build the land.

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO
638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 209,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S1
President: Lenore Ivers
Executive Director: Laurie Siegel
Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370
E-mail: info@hadassahwizoto.ca
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO is a women's non-profit organization dedicated to the support of healthcare services, social services and educational programs in Israel, and promoting women's issues in Canada. We've been a part of the national and international fundraising landscape since 1917. Toronto is CHW's largest regional centre with over 2600 members.

MONUMENT COMPANIES

ALEF'S FAIRLAWN MONUMENTS
3331 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2B7
Director: Eugene Shayevich
Tel: 416-784-5268 Fax: 416-782-0668
Alef's Fairlawn Monuments has brought together two trusted names in the monument business, to offer the Jewish Community the finest customer service available in Toronto. Our newly designed showroom, factory prices and top quality granite from around the world, make us the number one choice for your monument or inscription needs. Our expert staff can serve you in a number of languages including Hebrew, Russian and Yiddish.

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Michael Levitt
Tel: 416-780-0635 Fax: 416-780-0638
E-mail: monuments@benjamins.ca
Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca
Benjamin's Landmark Monuments is Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. As the only Jewish monument dealer in Ontario authorized by Rock of Ages to distribute the "Sealmark" granite with the perpetual warranty, our monument counsellors can assist you in preparing an honoured memorial of unsurpassed quality.

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3173 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2B1
Tel: 416-789-0319 Fax: 416-787-0310
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121 Brisbane Rd., Unit 1,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2K3
Contact: David Friedman, Shai Lobart
Tel: 416-667-1474 Fax: 416-667-1470
Serving the Jewish community for many years, Stonecraft Monuments provides factory direct prices and sensitive, considerate service to their customers. Monuments using the finest granite can be made available within one week.

YAD VASHEM AT LANDMARK
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Akiva Balter
Tel: 416-782-8995 Fax: 416-780-0638
Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments personalizes memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION
37 Southbourne Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1A4
Administrator: Sheila Starkman
Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629
A dynamic family-oriented synagogue in Toronto. Daily minyanim, Shabbat and festival services. Hebrew School, with Special High School Program. Religious, social and educational programs for babies & toddlers, youth, teens, families and seniors. Active Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Newly renovated sanctuary & social hall, COR catering by ZB Creative Catering Ltd. New members welcome.

ANSHEI MINSK CONGREGATION
10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market),
Toronto, Ont., M5T 1K6
Contact: Rabbi Shmuel Spero
Tel: 416-595-5723
E-mail: reachus@theminsk.com
Morning and evening services daily and on Shabbat. The beautifully restored sanctuary glows with warmth and tradition. Please join our weekly Friday night dinners, Shabbat lunches, and a variety of educational and family programming. Our spirited shul community fosters a Judaism that is grounded yet spiritual, traditional and creative.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL
9711 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Shul Administrator: Leslie Lewis
School Administrator: Naomi Aptowitzer
Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635
E-mail: admin@beitrayim.org
Website: www.beitrayim.org
Synagogue: Beit Rayim means "House of Friends and Neighbours". Warm, youthful and *haymishe* atmosphere. Participatory services. Programs for all ages. The only Conservative egalitarian Synagogue serving York Region.
School: K-7. Learn and experience Judaism within a Jewish school and synagogue setting. 2 day per week format meets USCJ standards for Bar/Bat Mitzvah at any Conservative synagogue. Innovative programs include Hebrew reading, prayers and synagogue skills, holidays, history, laws and customs, Jewish music and folk dance, Family Education. First and only school in Canada to be presented with the Framework for Excellence Award.

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55 Yeomans Road,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740
E-mail: info@bethdavid.com
Website: www.bethdavid.com
Beth David is a vibrant, Conservative Synagogue where community is embraced. Join us and discover why our members keep coming back week-in and week-out. A multi-generational synagogue, we offer programming for toddlers, seniors, and every age grouping in between, including our Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Yedidim, Kadima and U.S.Y. Youth Groups and Club Chaverut (Seniors).

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE
100 Elder St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5G7
Contact: Julian Lewin
Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153
Website: www.beby.org
More than just a synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (BEBY) is a vibrant centre of Jewish life. We are bound by our commitment to synagogue, community and Israel. Our mission is to be the focal point of the Jewish lives of our members.

BETH RADOM CONGREGATION
18 Reiner Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2K9
Administrator: Miriam Sharpe
Tel: 416-636-3451 Fax: 416-636-1042
E-mail: bethradomadmin@bellnet.ca
The Beth Radom Congregation caters to conservative families seeking an alternative to the larger synagogues. Our 'haymishe' environment encourages "women inclusive" participation in services and interaction in every aspect of Jewish life. Please join us for prayer, celebration and community. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Affrufs, Baby Namings for members and non-members.

BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Executive Director: Barbara Berke
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
E-mail: barbara@bethsholom.net
Website: www.bethsholom.net
We are a warm, friendly traditional, Conservative "family" synagogue where the Rabbi knows your name, the Sanctuary is warm and inclusive. Innovative programming for all ages. Adult education & social programs. Special memberships for young marrieds, young families and young singles. Reserved seating for High Holy Days. 416-783-6103. www.bethsholom.net

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3
Director of Administration:
Lillian Cornfield x307
Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602
E-mail: info@bethtikvah.on.ca
Website: www.bethtikvah.on.ca
We're a full service synagogue in the north end of Toronto. Our beautiful services and life cycle events are led by Rabbi Wayne Allen and Cantor Tibor Kovari. With children's programming beginning at 18 months through to seminars for seniors, the synagogue has something for everyone. Beth Tikvah sports a proud past and a bright future.

B'NAI SHALOM CONGREGATION OF HALTON-PEEL
Tel: 905-824-3783
E-mail: bnaishalom2004@yahoo.ca
Website: www.bnaishalom.ca
B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel is a newly formed conservative egalitarian synagogue. Monthly Shabbat services followed by a kiddush and socializing. Study sessions, preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We are looking for enthusiastic members to help us grow.

BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
Contact: Dale Noble
Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM
3845 Bathurst St., Ste. 301,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3N2
Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel
Tel: 416-630-0375 Fax: 416-630-5089
E-mail: ccrj@uahc.org
Canadian national office of the Union for Reform Judaism, representing over 950 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action, leader development.

CONGREGATION BINA
(A Community of Jews from India)
PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M1W 3Y8
Contact: Noel Reuben, 905-709-8913;
Noel Joseph, 416-293-9700
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held. A quarterly news bulletin, "Contact", is published.

CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM
15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
Offices at 183 Cocksfield Ave., Ste. 4
Rabbi Tina Grimberg
President: Michael Mitchell
Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852
Website: www.darcheinoam.on.ca
Our Reconstructionist community is vibrant, egalitarian and inclusive. Religious services are traditional in form and progressive in content. Women and men participate in all areas of synagogue life. Award-winning social action and stimulating adult learning programs. Solid commitment to our Hebrew School, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Teen and Family programs.

CONGREGATION SHIR LIBEYNU
***Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 72089,**
1562 Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M4J 5C1
Co-ordinator/Leader: Aviva Goldberg
Contact: Eden Nameri
Tel: 416-465-5488
E-mail: shirlebeynu@yahoo.ca
Shir Lebeynu is a progressive, egalitarian and inclusive congregation. We hold our High Holy Days services downtown at Cecil Community Centre. The rest of the year we are wandering Jews, with holiday events, services and study groups at other convenient locations. Elements of Jewish Renewal infuse our joyful, meaningful services where you may do more than just congregate - you can participate!

DANFORTH JEWISH CIRCLE
429 Danforth Ave., Ste. 125,
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1P1
Contact: Kathryn Miller
Tel: 416-825-7431
A progressive egalitarian community based in Riverdale, inclusive of interfaith and alternative unions. We're a friendly, family-oriented group committed to nurturing Jewish life and traditions through holiday and life cycle celebrations, monthly Shabbat services, and education and social action programs.

FIRST NARAYEVER CONGREGATION
187 Brunswick Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 6A7
Tel: 416-927-0546
Celebrate 5766 High Holy Days with the First Narayever Congregation at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (750 Spadina at Bloor). Experience the warmth of our community, our traditional, egalitarian services and creative children's programming. For details visit **www.narayever.ca** To buy tickets please phone 416-927-0546 or visit the MNJCC.

LODZER CENTRE CONGREGATION
12 Heaton St.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 4Y6
Rabbi Matthew Kaufman
Cantor David Edwards
Administrator: Dina Wolfe
Tel: 416-636-6665 Fax 416-636-8861
E-mail: lodzerrabbi@rogers.com
If you are looking for a conservative, egalitarian synagogue, the Lodzer Centre offers a traditional service that is warm and friendly. Daily Minyan at 9 a.m. with FREE breakfast following. FREE Kiddush Lunch following Shabbat Morning Services. Kosher caterer on premises. Social hall seats 300. Young Family Program, social activities, educational programs. Full Bar and Bat Mitzvah Programs including training for any child regardless of past Jewish education. Excellent High Holiday Services.

ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM
Contact: Roby Sadler
Tel: 416-385-3910
Oraynu celebrates holidays, history, culture from secular, humanistic Jewish perspective. Outstanding 2-year B'nai Mitzvah program. Holidays, Onegs, family events, adult educaton, youth group, etc. Oraynu: a welcoming congregation where members express their Judaism in a manner consistent with their humanistic beliefs.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Administrator: Marlene Rosen
Tel: 905-889-4975 Fax: 905-889-1575
WSebsite: www.shaarshalom.ca
Shaar Shalom Synagogue, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Martin Berman and Cantor Ben Silverberg, is a Conservative congregation in Thornhill. We offer full services on Shabbat and holidays, daily minyanim, catering services, active sisterhood, brotherhood, young adults, singles, seniors, youth groups and an afternoon Hebrew School (SK-Gr. 8).

SHAAREI-BETH EL CONGREGATION OF HALTON
186 Morrison Rd.,
Oakville, Ont. L6J 4J4
Contact: Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky
Tel: 905-849-6000 Fax: 905-849-1134
E-mail: bobbie.sbe@bellnet.ca
A Reform congregation with traditional orientation. We offer Hebrew and religious classes under the direction of Ran Salamon, Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, youth activities and adult education and conversion. Many new members of all ages have recently joined from Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Mississauga, Hamilton and Toronto. Interfaith families welcome.

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION
470 Glencairn Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1V8
Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
Tel: 416-789-3213 Fax: 416-789-1728
E-mail: info@shomayim.org
Website: www.shomayim.org
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is a modern orthodox centre of Jewish life with approximately 950 member-families providing the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs. This year, there is a new Mom & Tots program. Special reductions for new members. Please phone 416-789-3213, ext. 209 or e-mail: info@shomayim.org

SOLEL CONGREGATION
2399 Folkway Dr.,
Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2M6
Tel: 905-820-5915 Fax: 905-820-1956
A Liberal Congregation affiliated with the Reform Movement with traditional learnings in services and religious practice committed to providing opportunities to worship, study, and celebrate Judaism in a vibrant, egalitarian, nurturing environment. Services Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, all Jewish holidays, weekly minyanim Tuesday 7 a.m. Children and family participation encouraged. School - Preschool through Confirmation, adult and family education classes throughout the year.

TEMMY LATNER FOREST HILL JEWISH CENTRE
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Contact: Rabbi Elie Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
E-mail: thecentre@on.aibn.com
Located in the heart of the Forest Hill Village (just up the stairs next to Starbucks), the Temmy Latner Forest Hill Jewish Centre provides an escape from hectic Toronto life. Come enjoy our

Community Directory of Advertisers cont'd

Religious Life cont'd

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Rabbi Debra Landsberg
Membership Chair: Phil Rudolph
Tel: 416-449-3880 Fax: 416-449-9831
E-mail: membership@temanuel.com
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Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2R7
Executive Director: Karen Grimm, ext. #4
Tel: 905-889-2252 Fax: 905-889-2258
E-mail: information@templeharzion.com
Website: www.templeharzion.com
A vibrant Reform congregation that attracts members from downtown Toronto north to Newmarket. Temple Har Zion offers preschool for 3-5 yr. olds; Hebrew and Religious School through to Confirmation (gr. 10); Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups; diverse Adult Education Programs; life cycle events. New members are welcome throughout the year.

TEMPLE KOL AMI
8777 Dufferin St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8W3
Tel: 905-709-2620
E-mail: info@templekolami.ca
Website: www.templekolami.ca
250-family egalitarian Reform congregation led by Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb with Cantorial Soloist Dawn Bernstein. Wide range of religious, social and educational programs from JK to confirmation and beyond. Educational Director Chari Schwartz. Interfaith families, Jews by choice and persons with special needs welcome.

YACHDAV
Contact: Marty Kaplan
Tel: 416-483-3363
E-mail: info@yachdav.ca
Website: www.yachdav.ca
Yachdav is a small; participatory minyan. We meet regularly in the Wolfond Centre for Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. We follow traditional liturgy, but are egalitarian in men's and women's involvement in all aspects of the services. Also see our High Holyday ad in this feature.

Seniors

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Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
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Website: circleofcare.com
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Thornhill, Ont. L4J 9G7
Presentation Centre in Promenade Mall
Marketing Mgrs.: Beth Bokser, Reesa Soto
Tel: 905-771-1013 Fax: 905-762-9196
E-mail: constantia@chartwellreit.ca
Website: www.chartwellreit.ca
Conveniently located in the heart of Thornhill's Jewish community at Centre St. and New Westminster Dr., Constantia boasts amenities such as an elegant dining room, theatre/prayer room, beauty salon, greenhouse, activity room, fitness room, lounges and landscaped grounds. We offer 3 meals daily, 24-hr. assistance, housekeeping, laundry, and emergency response. We also offer a host of services and planned activities to suit your lifestyle and make your retirement years as enjoyable as possible. We're here for you!

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Toronto, Ont. M5N 3A5
Contact: Marketing Director
Tel: 416-785-1511 Fax: 416-785-6228
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Contact: Beverly O'Hara
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E-mail: gibson@chartwellreit.ca
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866 Sheppard Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2T5
Community Relations Manager: Marlene White
Tel: 416-636-9555 Fax: 416-636-8211
E-mail:
communityrelations@thekensingtonplace.com
Website: www.thekensingtonplacecom
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718 Sheppard Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S5
Director: Judy Cohen
Tel: 416-398-7898 Fax: 416-398-3909
E-mail: lchaimretirement@rogers.com
Website: www.lchaimretirement.com
L'chaim Retirement Home offers an intimately unique home living environment with 30 private units. For one all-inclusive price, residents receive meals, supervision, daily social and recreational programs, housekeeping and laundry, as well as personal assistance for showering and dressing, physiotherapy, on-staff nursing, and weekly doctor's visits. We say L'CHAIM to life!

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E-mail: vruescas@allegroresidences.com
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Executive Director: Yoav Bohbot
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E-mail: pinevilla@cplodges.com
Website: www.retirementresidences.com
Pine Villa offers renovated private studio and 1 bedroom apartments surrounded by boutiques, restaurants, banks and synagogues. Our warm and caring staff are available 24 hours a day to cater to your needs. Services include 3 delicious meals daily, housekeeping, laundry and physiotherapy, in addition to daily activities, live entertainment & outings. Hotel and respite stays are welcome.

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Services

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Tel: 416-635-2996 Fax: 416-631-5850
E-mail:
jewishpubliclibraryoftoronto@hotmail.com
For over 60 years the library has housed the Jewish people's religious, historical, literary and cultural heritage. Together with the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, which serves the recreational and cultural interests of the Jewish community, the library is co-hosting the 3rd annual Treasures of Jewish Literature Book Review series.

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By appointment only
Contact: Deborah Cohen
Tel: 416-781-0205 Cell: 416-624-7156
E-mail: devoracohen@msn.com
Art & Soul is a gallery specializing in Jewish contemporary art. Originals, Limited Editions, Photography and Papercuts. We carry an exclusive collection from acclaimed Israeli artists: Abecassis, Ben Avraham, Raanan, Yellin, Nothman and more. Our informal setting and flexible hours are a definite asset for the selective buyer. Home consultations & framing services available.

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ISRAELI LAW OFFICE
Contact: Itamar Cohen, B.A., LL.B.
Member of Israeli Bar Assoc.
Tel: 905-709-3896 Fax: 905-709-3898
E-mail: itamarcohen@rogers.com
Israeli Law Office in Ontario is a branch of Law Offices in Israel. We advise clients from Canada on matters of Israeli Law, and represent their interests in Israel. Our office is the only one to be approved as an **Israeli Legal Office** in Ontario by **the Law Society of Upper Canada**.

JEWISH CAMP COUNCIL OF TORONTO
1118 Centre St., Ste. 202,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7R9
Registrar: Denise Harris
Tel: 905-881-0018 Fax: 905-881-9019
E-mail: happycamper@campnbb.com
Website: www.campnbb.com
Provides a variety of camping services to the Jewish community. Camp Northland-B'nai Brith provides a residential camping experience for boys and girls 8-16 in the Haliburton Highlands. Providing many interesting and rewarding staff positions. "Friends of NBB" holds a mini-camp weekend for families with young children in August.

JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto
4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 325,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
Executive Director: Janis Roth
Tel: 416-630-6481
Website: www.jiastoronto.org
JIAS provides a full range of settlement and integration services to help Jewish immigrants and refugees to Toronto become a part of community life.

JVS TORONTO
74 Tycos Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 1V9,
Tel: 416-787-1151 Fax: 416-785-7529
Marketing & Development Manager: Wendy Fields
E-mail: info@jvstoronto.org
Website: www.jvstoronto.org
JVS, a long-standing community agency, assists thousands of individuals each year to identify educational and vocational goals, overcome barriers, and find meaningful work. JVS offers a wide range of career, psychological and employment services with the goal of helping clients to realize their full potential in the job market.

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Universities

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Website: www.cfhu.org
Back by popular demand, **"Best of Hebrew U 2005"** will again provide an opportunity to study with prominent Hebrew University faculty. On September 24 and 25 at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, participants will choose from a multitude of subject areas such as" Politics, Art, Science, Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility. Call Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University for information 416-485-8000.

Rosh Hashanah is approaching quickly. Stay ahead of the game and use our Rosh Hashanah Food Supplements in the September 15th and 22nd issues.

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Community Focus

After just three months, I must leave my new love

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

As my time in Canada slowly draws to a close, I find myself in love.

My summer romance has not only been hot, it's been scorching.

And although I have felt completely at home here, I've also felt excited, amazed, and, most of the time, breathless – breathless at the absolute freedom and independence it has afforded me and breathless at the sheer beauty I see in it every day.

Canada is my beau, and its people and culture are friends that I have come to know well.

In May, I stepped onto a flight from Johannesburg, South Africa, literally flying out of my comfort zone and into unknown territory.

I left a job I am passionate about, as well as friends and family to whom I am very close.

I am a journalist, and journalists are by nature inquisitive about the world around them.

For the chance to focus on my writing, live in a different country, meet new people and experience a Jewish community that is much larger and far more diverse than the one I grew up in, I accepted a summer internship at *The Canadian Jewish News* as the paper's first international intern.

In my quest to become a part of Toronto, I have had to adapt to a new culture and mindset, constantly reminding myself to lift my jaw off the sidewalk and stop being shocked at how safe it is to walk in the streets, or return videos in the early hours of the morning, or go grocery shopping at midnight or later.

It's also been revealing to see how kind this city is to its young adults and children, who can ride buses and subways, and play in gardens that are not surrounded by high walls and electric fences.

These things are integral to Canadian life, but they're so foreign to me.

When asked, I tell people that South Africa is a country in the middle of a major transformation, one that allows for personal growth, opportunity and creativity.

I am living in, and am a part of, history: the journey from apartheid to democracy. I'm old enough to remember some of the evils of my country's past, yet young enough to appreciate the changes occurring in the present.

Those who emigrated feel they traded South Africa's high standard of living for a quality of life in which freedom and safety are non-negotiable.

Many left in the 1970s and '80s, before the end of apartheid was in sight. They could not have imagined the relatively peaceful revolution that we've been undergoing. Others who left later, after the end of legally enforced race-based segregation, could no longer stand the constant threat of crime that we face. For all, the desire for a better life was their motivation.

Lara Greenberg

Young adults and children in South Africa face stresses far beyond those of others their age, with safety and AIDS topping the list of concerns. But for many, there is a desire to be a part of the positive changes taking place there.

There's an energy and buzz in South Africa, with artists selling their wares on virtually every street corner, new businesses starting up all the time and social development projects always on the go.

We're building a nation.

With all the activities available to me in Canada – festivals, parades, random wandering, the beach, Harbourfront, the theatre, excursions to museums and art galleries, etc. – somehow that same *joie de vivre* doesn't exist here.

Yet, Canadians have the advantage of living in a place where things usually happen as they should.

Indeed, there's a sense of structure that runs deep in the culture and minds of Canadians. I see it all over, even at the bus station, where people wait in straight lines.

That never happens in South Africa. We are still learning to make things work.

In its 11th year after the end of apartheid, my country is but a child in the democratic world, and as a people, we don't stand in straight lines or follow desired patterns.

Our challenge and strength is in dealing with the unexpected.

The crime rate is high, and killing or raping to get what they want doesn't seem to bother the criminals.

We protect our homes, our cars and our streets. To avoid trouble, we merely yield at red lights and stop signs at night, and we always keep our cellphones charged and have enough money on hand in case of an emergency.

Despite the fear, we carry on with our lives and enjoy the natural beauty of our country. That is our defiance.

We also have beautiful weather, with summer and winter flowing into one another without much fuss or fanfare.

After experiencing a hot Canadian summer, I can't even begin to imagine winter.

I need to come back to see how the seasons change the face of this country, including the attitudes of its people, who get the chance to live in two very different worlds within a 12-month period.

But more than anything else, during my time in Canada, I've learned that, with all their differences, people are basically the same everywhere, and that every country has its own challenges and virtues.

I've also learned that home is any place that you are happy and comfortable.

As I prepare to return to South Africa, I now feel like I have two homes – the one I grew up in, and another that in only three short months has become mine.

And so, from across the ocean, the love affair will continue.

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Community Focus

From Kensington to Bathurst

Continued from page B1

If this sounds like something out of the classic musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, it is. The fictional village Anatevka is what we imagine when we think of a shtetl, and it's a place people remember with nostalgia and a warm feeling.

Yet, poverty and persecution in the shtetl were among the main reasons people left to come to America. (Who knew the difference between the United States and Canada?)

The first Jews in Toronto came from England and the United States in the middle of the 19th century. They settled along King Street, mainly east of Yonge Street and south of Bloor Street. When eastern European Jews began in arriving at the end of the 19th century, they settled north of Queen Street between Yonge and University Avenue in an area known as the Ward, largely in row housing close to their work in the area. When things became better for them financially, they began to move to what we tend to think of today as the shtetl of Toronto – Kensington Market.

Stephen Speisman, founding director of the Ontario Jewish Archives and author of *The Jews of Toronto; a history to 1937*, (and, as it happens, my husband), led this reporter on a voyage of discovery to find out what happened to the old Toronto shtetl.

As we walked and drove through the Kensington Market area and then north along Bathurst Street, he explained that people moved to the market area in the decade before World War I because the housing there was better and larger, with brick fronts, lawns and indoor plumbing – all luxuries compared to the cramped conditions of the Ward.

While wealthier Jews lived on streets such as Beverley Street, most in the Kensington-Spadina community were "generally lower and lower middle class," Speisman explained – "labourers, pedlars, storekeepers, people who operated small businesses from their home."

The area certainly fit the description of a shtetl. There were shuls, schools, landsmanshaften (mutual benefit societies), political societies, labour organizations, athletic clubs, amateur and professional theatres, and retail shops.

Whatever you wanted could be found there, from butchers, hardware stores, grocers and egg stores to ice cream shops and restaurants.

But while Jewish immigrants wanted to create a European-style shtetl in their new land, a place where they would feel secure, in fact it was different in one major way: shtetls were, by and large, homogeneous, but in Toronto, as in the rest of the New World, the Jewish community included people from all parts of Europe.

Kensington Market-Spadina was the heart of the Jewish community until the 1950s, when people again felt the urge to live in "nicer" areas with lots of green space.

Viable communities, Speisman explained, tend to move into contiguous areas. (This is not only true of Jewish communities. The Italian community, for instance, first settled in the Dufferin and Keele street areas around College Street, and Italians moved north up Dufferin and Keele and many eventually settled in Woodbridge.)

Chabad LED sign in Vaughan

Jews also moved into contiguous areas, but by and large, they didn't move directly up Spadina Avenue, mainly because it ran through expensive neighbourhoods such as Forest Hill, but also because some of those areas still had "restrictive covenants" that unofficially barred Jews from living there. Instead of moving up Spadina, they moved north into newer neighbourhoods along the more affordable – and socially accessible – Bathurst Street.

So, although there were pockets of Jews in, for instance, areas such as Bracondale near Bathurst and St. Clair Avenue, the first significant postwar area of settlement was around Bathurst and Eglinton Avenue. It never became like Kensington – there were no corner stores, only a few shuls (Beth Tzedec and Holy Blossom, both of which had moved north from the older neighbourhoods), and there was no sense that your whole life could be contained in a few streets.

Today, we can find several stretches along Bathurst north of Glencairn Avenue that fit the definition of a shtetl.

(This is also not to imply that the northeast part of the old City of North York, between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street, is not really a Jewish community. Of course it is, as are the pockets of Jews that one finds nearly everywhere in the city. But, by and large, the needs of the Jewish community are met along Bathurst.)

Continued on page B8

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Tanenbaum's vision comes to reality

Continued from page B7

As you travel north along Bathurst from Glencairn to Wilson Avenue, for instance, you will have no doubt that you are in a Jewish area. Every few feet, you find yeshivas, storefront shuls – such as Zichron Shneur, the Gerer shtiebl and the "Boat Shul" – kosher butchers and grocers, bakeries, landsmanshaften, monument makers, bookstores, restaurants and bookstores. You will also find retirement and senior citizens homes, and the world famous Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

While the Orthodox population is well-represented here, not just in businesses but in the people we passed on the street, the Arbeiter Ring (also called the Workmen's Circle) and the Morris Winchevsky Centre, both of which are religiously and politically left-wing, show that Jewish independence of thought is alive and well in this part of our little shtetl.

The relatively large green spaces between Wilson and Finch Avenue may be one of the reasons that this stretch of Bathurst never became as shtetl-ish as others. Yet, Earl Bales Park, which we entered through a street named after the quintessential righteous gentile Raoul Wallenberg, is home to a stark and brooding Holocaust memorial, as it soon will be to a new monument to Jewish war veterans.

The park, a favourite with Jewish seniors, also hosts community marches, memorials, picnics, marathons and concerts. It is also a gathering place for card players, kibbitzers, dog walkers and people-watchers.

Kiever Shul

Earl Bales Park and the West Don River Valley force the shtetl to jog northwest of Bathurst and Sheppard Avenue into Bathurst Manor, where shuls, schools, retirement homes and large house lots are part of that neighbourhood's appeal.

The Lipa Green Building, located in the valley adjacent to the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, is the current hub of the organized Jewish community, housing, among others, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, the Ontario Jewish Archives, JIAS, Board of Jewish Education, Jewish Family & Child Service and the Kashruth Council of Canada (COR).

The new Russian community is concentrated mainly between Finch and Steeles Avenue. There you can find Russian stores selling Russian goods and featuring Russian-language ads. The Jewish Russian Community Centre is located in the area as well, offering a shul and meeting place, a newspaper and classes.

Years ago, Bathurst Lawn Cemetery just south of Steeles was so far out in the country that the drive there felt like an epic journey. Now, it's virtually in the centre of Jewish settlement. Roselawn Cemetery, just north of Eglinton, once held the same distinction, but it's now so surrounded by houses and apartments, not to mention being so far south compared to the rest of the community, that many don't even know it is there.

In the early 1980s, the late developer and philanthropist Joseph Tanenbaum started to bring to reality his vision of a Jewish community – a shtetl – centred around a shul and complete with schools, shopping and homes.

In an interview with *The CJN* in the early 1990s, he said that when he began to gather land in southern York Region, "everyone laughed at me. No one is laughing now."

The Spring Farm development, which is indeed centred around Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation (BAYT) – named for Tanenbaum and his father – and the Spring Farm Plaza, have proved his vision right.

And a shtetl it is. Restaurants, stores, schools, shuls, kosher products in non-kosher stores, including Asian stores that sell greenery to decorate sukkot, and pomegranates to welcome Rosh Hashanah. Local firefighters come to help burn chametz before Pesach, and a bewildered sheriff has given several families permission to cut down bulrushes on city land to use on their sukkot.

Continued on page B9

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Community Focus

Streetscape at northwest corner of Bathurst and Lawrence. [Benji Feldman photo]

Community moves north

Continued from page B8

There is one significant difference between this and a traditional shtetl, where different groups – such as Chassidim and Mitnagdim – didn't really mix, either socially or religiously. Perhaps because Thornhill is a pioneering community, there is a tremendous sense of camaraderie between its members. Most – Sephardi and Ashkenazi, Lubavitch and other Orthodox, observant and non-observant – see themselves as a unit, attending each other's programs and services, carpooling, cooking dinners for new mothers, chatting at the supermarket.

A word must be said here about Lubavitch. When Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the late Lubavitcher rebbe, told his followers to spread Yiddishkeit to undeveloped areas, they took up the call energetically. Not only are Lubavitchers part of existing communities, but they are in the forefront of new ones, often appearing before many of the houses do. Their facilities do not serve only Lubavitchers, or even only Orthodox people. They reach out to all people in the community.

Their shuls, schools and community centres cover Bathurst from Edinburgh Drive just north of Wilson, through northern Toronto and Thornhill, to the newest outposts in Aurora and south of St. Clair.

The organized Jewish community has recognized the northern push of the shtetl and has begun work on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Richmond Hill. It will include communal offices, the northern branch of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, seniors housing, athletic facilities and medical services.

Even farther north, development has started on a new 200-acre cemetery, Pardes Chaim, under the auspices of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park.

Fiddler on the Roof ends with the heartbreaking *Anatevka*, a song describing what a miserable place the shtetl was, as well as how precious many of the memories of it would be and how much its inhabitants would miss it.

In Toronto, immigrants tried to recreate the good parts of the European shtetl, and even though they couldn't do it completely, it's significant that they tried.

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Community Focus

Immigrants often unprepared for new challenges

By ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF
Special to The CJN

Toronto is a haven for Jewish immigrants.

The numbers speak for themselves. Approximately 20,000 Jews have immigrated to the Greater Toronto Area since 1990. Nearly 180,000 Jews live in the Greater Toronto Area. More than one-third of them are foreign-born.

Immigrants come from all over looking for a better life, but are often unprepared for the challenges awaiting them.

Many organizations exist to help them when they get here. And perhaps none is more crucial than the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) Toronto. JIAS exists to provide contacts and information and helps newcomers find jobs.

The Kisel Family

According to Janis Roth, executive director of JIAS Toronto, the biggest hurdle for immigrants is "getting a good, meaningful job."

The other concern is integration. "[Newcomers] want to become part of the community. They want to know about education for their children, about Jewish neighbourhoods. They want to be part of things quickly," Roth says.

JIAS wants the community to be more proactive in assisting newcomers, she says. "The community has risen to the occasion when it has been asked to. But we're trying to work with the community to always be ready."

The Teitelbaun Family at JIAS office in Toronto

A new JIAS programs, Jumpstart, will pair newcomers with businesses willing to provide them with experience in the local labour market.

Rabbi Yisroel Landa, executive director of the Chabad Israeli Community Centre, works closely with Toronto's Israeli population. One of the biggest challenges in his community involves religious practice.

"[In] Israel, where there's no separation between religion and state, Jewish education is part of the public system. All of a sudden when they get here, to get a Jewish education they need a lot of money. This is very difficult. Some take it as a letdown," he says.

And even when they get into Jewish schools, it's sometimes hard for children to adjust to their new surroundings.

Sivan Tamir, 29, came to Toronto from Israel with her family in 1987 when she was 11. She still remembers the hardships of her first school experience.

"Kids treated me badly, made fun of us because we were Israeli and we didn't understand [Canada]," she recalls. "[Toronto culture] was definitely colder.

"It took me a long time to make friends at school. Kids who had their own circle of friends did not open to new people. That was very hard. Even harder when you didn't know the language."

Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, founder of the Jewish Russian Community Centre of Toronto, has heard newcomers express similar frustrations. "[Newcomers] don't expect much. They don't expect someone waiting at the airport with a red carpet," he says. "But sometimes [the reception] could be warmer."

He says immigrants are initially puzzled by the cultural differences they encounter. "Their neighbour asks how are you? The newcomer proceeds to answer him in depth, thinking it's the polite thing to do. The next time the neighbour asks him the question, before he responds he is stopped. [The neighbour] explains they don't want their whole story.

JIAS teens walk with Israel

"The [newcomer] walks away thinking, Am I a fool? That guy asked me a question, but doesn't want to hear my answer? Why did he ask? So it feels cold… a different culture."

For others the transition is less jarring. Graciela Tetelbaun, a 39-year-old graphic designer, moved her family to Toronto, via Winnipeg, from Argentina in 2004. Despite the cultural, and climate, change, she still felt welcomed by the community. "The weather… absolutely yes, it's colder," she says with a laugh.

"But not the people. It's a different culture with different habits, but they are not cold people. Actually, I feel that people here are more open than they are in Argentina. When someone new comes to Argentina, nobody cares. Here they worry about you, they try to help. I think the people here are so beautiful." It's a sentiment that underlies the experiences of many immigrants, regardless of initial hardships.

Lia Kisel, 36, works in in-take at JIAS Toronto. Kisel emigrated from Mexico with her family in 2003 and credits JIAS with the success she's had making the transition to living in Toronto. She reminds newcomers that Toronto can be accommodating; you just have to figure out how it works.

"In Mexico, you didn't need to make appointments – you didn't need to call someone before going to their house, you just go and you visit. Here you have to call and set a date in advance," she says.

"But you know what? Once you [get to] know your neighbours, they're as warm as Mexicans."

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Immigrant finds Toronto Jews cold and unfriendly

By YOSEF BEN-ELIAHU
Special to The CJN

Comment

It has been 28 years since my father immigrated to Canada from Israel, where he was born. He came to Canada with such high hopes, and yet now, after nearly three decades of living in Toronto, he wants to move back to Israel. The reason, he says, is that he feels alone and isolated from Canadian society at large, and from Toronto's Jewish community in particular.

Shortly after arriving in Toronto, he found that life in his new home was different than he thought it would be. He married my mother at Temple Sinai, a Reform synagogue that my mother's family had belonged to since its founding. My father was uncomfortable with the Reform Jewish traditions of Temple Sinai. Though not religious, he and his family were used to attending Orthodox synagogues in Israel, in which the men and women sat separately, the rabbis were all male, and the service was conducted entirely in Hebrew.

My father did make a concerted effort to fit in to Canadian society, but at the expense of his Israeli roots. When I was a young child, he refused to speak to me in Hebrew. "He didn't want to be different," my mother said. As a result, I had to take the initiative to learn Hebrew on my own. I found out later that I was not the only one to be deprived of my Israeli heritage. In a Hebrew class I attended at the University of Toronto were three students, who unlike myself, were born in Israel, but who were not taught Hebrew by their parents upon moving to Canada at a young age.

In spite of my father's efforts to fit into the community, he felt increasingly isolated. He has found it hard to forge friendships with other Jews and has repeatedly complained that Toronto Jews are cold and unfriendly. In Israel, he said, it was much easier to get along with people and socialize. Israel, my father claims, is a country where friends and neighbours often drop in to your home unannounced, whereas in Canada people have to plan social engagements weeks in advance. In a way, I think my father has a point. I, myself, have found it much easier to socialize in Israel, where people seem to be warmer and more open.

Feeling ever more isolated from fellow Jews, my father has often sought the company of non-Jews, most notably members of the Italian community, perhaps because he feels that the Italians, as a Mediterranean people, are similar to Israelis in their mentality. Over the years, he has grown more attached to the Italian community and has moved further away from Toronto Jewry. A few years ago, he even considered moving to Italy. Now, however, his mind is set on moving back to Israel to be reunited with his sister and the rest of the family that he left behind when he immigrated to Canada.

My father's story should certainly not be taken as the norm amongst Jews who immigrate to Toronto. There are many Jews who have come to the city from abroad and have successfully integrated into Jewish communal life. This includes many Israelis who now call Toronto home.

Unfortunately, however, there are also many cases of Jewish immigrants who do not feel they have a place in Toronto's Jewish community and who may even consider moving away. Hence, it is clear that Toronto Jewry still has to make concerted efforts to ensure that Jewish immigrants feel that they belong and that they should actively participate in the life of their community.

Yosef Ben-Eliahu is a pseudonym.

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Israelis have difficulty integrating into Canadian society

By SHERI SHEFA
CJN Intern

While there are many Jewish communities in Canada that come from different corners of the world, one group has always had more difficulty integrating into Canada's multicultural society.

Even though the Israeli population in Canada continues to climb, some Jews feel that when Israelis move to Canada, it is a step backward for the Zionist goal of having every Jew live in the State of Israel.

Zionism aside, the reality is that more and more Israelis are moving to Canada, mostly to Toronto and Montreal, and they are slowly establishing themselves as a community after so many years, said Rabbi Yisroel Landa.

Rabbi Landa, who came to Toronto as an emissary of Lubavitch-Chabad, is the director of the Beth Chabad Israeli Community and leads an Israeli minyan every Saturday at the Lubavitch shul at Chabad Gate in Thornhill.

He said that his 15 years of living in Toronto among the Israeli community has taught him that they are not well integrated into the larger Jewish community for several reasons.

"There is no established community for the Hebrew-speaking Jews, even after so many years here. They are not integrating easily and fast enough into the local community," Rabbi Landa said.

He said that although efforts are being made by organizations, such as the UJA Federation, to change this perception, many Israelis feel like they are not accepted into the Jewish community.

"With the general establishment of the local community, the Israelis felt for many years that they are being treated badly," he said.

"They feel the establishment thinks negatively about them because they ask, 'Why are you coming here? We sent money to support a State of Israel. Stay there.' And the Israelis always felt that they did their part. They say, 'Let us establish ourselves here and you go there to serve.' This is why Israelis feel so unaccepted here."

Don't feel respected

Rina Cohen, a sociology professor at York University and an Israeli herself, has done extensive research about the Israeli community in Canada to get a better understanding about why they immigrated, and how they fit in to the host society.

In accordance with a study Cohen conducted about Israeli Jews in Canada called The New Immigrants: A Contemporary File, she said that immigration is especially difficult for Israelis because there is a collective struggle to bring people to Israel, so they feel like traitors for leaving.

"They come from a young nation that has struggled to be a Jewish state. It is the antithesis to the Diaspora. To settle outside of Israel is negatively stigmatized. It is discouraging for Canadian Jews to see good Israelis leaving Israel."

She added that Israelis come to Canada for the same reasons that other immigrants do – because of the better standard of living and more opportunities.

"Some Israelis immigrate because they are looking for a change," said Rabbi Landa, who is here on a mission to help the Hebrew-speaking community integrate into the local Jewish community and help them in whatever ways they need.

"It is painful to say, but some are coming because of the situation in Israel. As parents, they think they want to give them [their children] a different environment for the future."

Cohen also noted that immigration usually increases during periods of political turmoil and recession.

"The poor economy and the two intifadahs are pushing factors," she said.

She said she estimates there are 40,000 Israelis in all of Canada, but the number varies from source to source. The number ranges from 20,000 to 60,000.

Rabbi Landa said it is hard to count how many Israelis live in Canada because the new immigrants tend to be unaffiliated.

"They poll the UJA, shuls, [the Jewish Community Centre], but how do you count Israelis that are unaffiliated? The fact that we don't know how many Israelis there are is a big problem."

Cohen thinks that the difficulty is in defining what it is to be Israeli.

"Some people make aliyah, live in Israel for three years, come back home, but call themselves Israeli. What about Russian Jews? Many Russians come to Canada via Israel and live there for 10 years. The younger generation will define themselves as Israeli, while their parents will call themselves Russian," she said.

Continued on page B13

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Maintaining culture important to Israeli immigrants

Continued from page B12

Rabbi Landa said Israelis continue to migrate to Canada because there is already somewhat of an established Israeli community and there is strength in numbers. It is comforting, he added, to know that they are not the only ones.

More than half of the Israelis in Canada live in the Greater Toronto Area. Israelis tend to go to the big cities, said Cohen, because most of the immigrants come from urban areas and hope to succeed in the same environment. Most have a good command of the English language and a large number of them are university graduates.

"Israelis tend to become businessmen, accountants, dentists and doctors. There are a lot of teachers, music teachers, specialists, engineers and psychologists."

Although the Israeli Jewish community is different from the Canadian Jewish community, it is also important to note that there are distinctions even within the Israeli community itself.

Cohen described the very different mentalities of the first- and second-generation immigrants.

"First-generation immigrants tend to create their own enclave and are less likely to be affiliated with synagogues. Mostly, they are secular. The way they associate with each other is completely informal – within groups of friends and parties. They are not well integrated into Canadian society."

Although there is not much of a language barrier, as most Israelis speak English, they do tend to form friendships with other Hebrew-speaking Jews.

Rabbi Yisroel Landa

"They try to preserve their language, traditions and culture. They read Israeli newspapers, so it's not hard to be immersed in the Israeli society."

She added that some immigrants feel they are doing the wrong thing by leaving Israel and convince themselves that the immigration is temporary.

The second generation is changing. They tend to form relationships with mainstream Jews and tend to be more religious than first-generation immigrants.

She said that many second-generation immigrants gradually begin adopting Jewish traditions, yet they remain distinctive from the rest of the community.

Rabbi Landa said that maintaining a part of their distinctive culture is very important.

"The Israeli mentality and culture is unique and they enjoy sticking to it. They are not looking to become Canadian. If there is a feeling of keeping away, it is because for so many years, there was a feeling that they were unwanted guests here."

He blames Jewish establishments, not individuals, for making Israelis feel unwanted.

The structure of society and the Jewish community are completely different here than in Israel, Rabbi Landa said.

"Israel is a place where there is no separation between religion and state, so the government will provide for religious needs as well. For a child to get an education with the Tanach, he doesn't have to go to a private school."

"There the government will build a synagogue, will provide prayer books, so in Israel there is no need to do anything to belong. Here, every Jew knows he needs to belong somewhere… They go [to shul] – whether they participate is another question – but they belong. In Israel, there is no such thing. If you want to go to shul, you just go. You don't have to pay a membership.

"Also in Israel, the atmosphere in the streets reminds you what time of year it is… There, being a Jew is part of the air that you breathe. Here, it is completely different."

As difficult as it is for Israelis to adapt to a new life in Canada, Rabbi Landa also said that Jewish organizations are making strides in building stronger relationships with Israeli immigrants and hopes the relationships continue to grow.

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Community Focus

Language main barrier for integration of Argentine immigrants

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

The story of Argentine immigration to Canada is one of courage, hope and a real desire to become part of another country, culture and people.

These individuals and families came striving for a better life in a new homeland, a place where their children have a viable future.

In general, Argentines are not observant but they are interested in communal life.

"They're used to being part of Jewish culture but not religious activity," says Janice Roth, executive director of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) Toronto.

On arrival in Toronto, most aim for full integration into the Jewish community. They have not created separate Argentine organizations, congregated at certain shuls or moved into specific areas of the city, as the South African and Russian immigrants have.

For many Argentines, the move to the city has not been a pleasant one, and they find language is the main barrier when they get here.

For those with only a basic knowledge of English, chances of employment are limited. To make a living in Canada, most of them have to start over.

Another challenge is that most have left their entire support base of family and friends.

For Gabriel and Silvina Appelbaum and their two sons, Nicolas,14, and Federico, 12, of Buenos Aires, the move has been far from easy.

In October 2001, Gabriel Appelbaum lost his job, and after Argentina's economic crash in December 2001, the chances of his finding paid work became non-existent.

"With all the crime, corruption, poverty and violence, there are opportunities for only a few people."he said.

It was then the Applebaums decided to leave.

Although a country like Spain would have been the natural choice for Argentine immigrants because of the language, for most, their only real choices are Australia and Canada because of the countries' open immigration policies.

In the case of the Appelbaums, Silvina had cousins here, who arrived in the 1970s, to give them support when they arrived in Canada.

They applied for residence to Canada in February 2002, but their visas took a year and a half to come through. "There was a lot of wasted time because I spent a year waiting for the visa, and in that time I couldn't find any permanent work in order to make money for my family. I felt very in limbo," said Appelbaum.

One help for the family were Internet forums started by former Argentines who had moved to Canada. The forums are for those thinking about immigration or waiting for their papers to come through. Potential immigrants speak to those living here and get information about life in Canada and what they need to bring and do.

The very first of these forums was Toronto-Baires, but there are many others, including TodoCanada and Argentinos in Toronto.

Eventually the visas came through for the Appelbaums and Gabriel arrived on Canadian shores in December 2003 to begin scouting things out.

Deborah and Ezekiel Diamant (Marcos, father not pictured)

During the three months he was in Toronto on his own, he lived with his wife's cousins and did workshops on how to write a resumé Canadian-style. Within a month and a half, he had a three-month contract position. He said the position was work but not good work for a man with a family – he wasn't earning nearly enough to support a family.

He returned to Buenos Aires in March for his son's bar mitzvah and brought his family back to Toronto.

He now has another temporary job but hopes to find a better and permanent one soon.

The Applebaums have yet to become members of a shul but so far, feel most comfortable at Beth Torah, where they have booked Federico's bar mitzvah for April 2007. "Many Argentines go there and it is similar to the shuls in Argentina," he said.

They have found it pretty difficult to make friends with Canadians. "Canada is a country that accepts immigrants, but I don't know how accepted immigrants are by Canadians," Appelbaum says.

However, slowly they have begun to meet people and form friendships with them. "We have some relationship with people, but it's not friendship yet. Friendship builds up over time," says Appelbaum.

Continued on page B15

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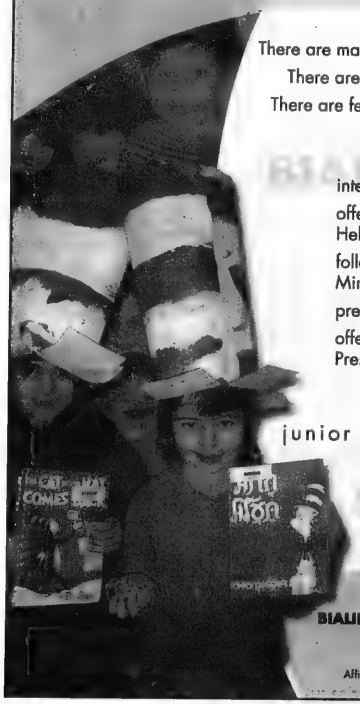

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Community Focus

Argentine immigrants find Canadians warm, friendly

Continued from page B14

But as the Appelbaums meet more Jewish families in Canada, they are beginning to feel a part of the community.

Marcos Diamant, who arrived with his family in April, is quick to say that he and his wife moved for their children, aged two years and eight months.

"Our two choices were Canada and Australia, but Canada had the larger Jewish community and that was very important for us," he said.

They did an exploratory family visit a year before making the move and found that it helped a lot because they were able to speak to fellow Argentine immigrants and get information on day-to-day living in Toronto.

"We received very useful and realistic information and have had no surprises so far," says Diamant.

They have found Canadians to be very welcoming and are eager to become involved in the community.

The Diamant family go to Beth Tzedec or Forest Hill shul every week and say that they chose their shul according to which one would be best to help them integrate with Canadians.

The live near Bathurst Street and St. Clair Avenue, an area where many Jews live, although they are not specifically Argentine. Living in the area is part of the family's integration technique.

As with Appelbaum, Diamant's greatest hardship was finding a job. Now that he finally has one, he aims to work hard to make the temporary position permanent.

Grace Tetelbaum tells a different story.

She and her family came to Canada from Buenos Aires through a Manitoba immigration program, two years ago. It had taken them two years to organize their immigration.

She, her husband Guillermo, and their children, Guizo and Sharon, lived in Winnipeg for their first eight months in Canada, but after realizing that there were no jobs, they moved to Toronto.

Her husband got a job as a driver, while Grace is a freelance graphic designer who works from home.

She says that they felt comfortable in Toronto because it is a "big and beautiful city" and they come from a big city in Argentina.

She says that even though in winter the weather is so cold, "the people are just so warm."

In Argentina, religion didn't play very much of a role in their lives, but today they live close to many other Jewish people in Richmond Hill and are looking for a shul to join.

"For now, our community connection is through JIAS, but soon we hope to become more connected with and involved in the community," says Tetelbaum.

Appelbaum, Diamant and Tetelbaum praised JIAS for the work it does in helping immigrants to settle in and agree that the organization does its best to make it easier for immigrants to integrate into Canadian society.

JIAS was established in 1922 to promote and facilitate the lawful entry of Jewish refugees and immigrants into Toronto, Canada.

According to its mission statement, JIAS works "to advance the well-being of these new arrivals by providing transition and orientation services for integration into the Jewish community of greater Toronto and Canadian society at large."

Today, JIAS is working with 73 Argentine families (although there are an estimated 80 or 90 families in Toronto), helping them to find employment and affordable accommodation, and putting them in touch with settled fellow Argentine immigrants for support, as well as Canadians.

"The difficulty for JIAS," said Applebaum, "is that every immigrant family has a different story and needs help with different things."

He added that the immigration process begins once an application for residence has been sent and he says that help in those earlier stages would make the integration easier.

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Community Focus

Being South African in Toronto

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

Immigration can be a horrendous experience no matter who you are, where you come from or the circumstances surrounding your move.

"One is never immediately accepted into a new community and has to work hard to become part of one," said South African immigrant Alan Sandler in a recent interview.

Quite a strong comment from a man who has held some of the top Toronto community lay leadership positions over the years, including that of president of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and is currently chair of JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Society).

Colin Baskind and Heather Super
[Benji Feldman photo]

He believes South African immigrants are often successful here because they come as educated English speakers who are aware of the inner workings of community organizations through past involvement. They then get involved wherever else they can as an extra means of integration.

"There were a whole slew of South Africans who were involved in the South African community, and so they naturally did the same here. For many, it was natural to move into UJA Federation positions and it provided an easy integration route," Sandler said. As an example, he mentioned David Zion, vice-president of UJA finance, who has two other South Africans working with him.

Keith Landy is another community leader who came here from South Africa – among other positions he has held, he is the immediate past president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Landy, a partner in the law firm of Landy, Marr & Associates and a member of Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill, was born in England and lived in South Africa for 13 years before moving to Canada more than 30 years ago. While in Johannesburg, he was active in several youth groups, including Habonim, Betar and Bnei Akiva.

Immigrants with school-aged children took on positions on the school boards and within the parent bodies – as they would have done in South Africa.

Former 'Joburger' Mark Skapinker, a managing partner of Brightspark Ventures, a venture capital company for the software industry, immigrated to Canada with his wife after first spending six years in Israel.

When their children reached school age and attended Bialik Hebrew Day School, Skapinker became chairman of the school's board, a position he held for five years.

He noted that both the principal and head of the senior division were also former South Africans.

Former Johannesburg high school English teacher and head of English at one of the biggest Jewish day schools there, Bernice Goldstein, moved to Canada four years ago, and within 10 days had a job at USDS.

She says it was an easy transition for her "because the Jewish day school systems are so similar."

She has since met many old friends from Johannesburg teaching circles, and "all have done well and are happy teaching in their respective Canadian schools."

Although there has always been a trickle of South African immigration to Canada, there were two main waves that brought the vast majority of "boeremanne" – one after the Soweto riots of 1976 and another after the state of emergency was declared in 1985.

For most, if not all, political unrest and fear for the safety of their children spurred them to leave.

"When we left South Africa in 1973, there was no end in sight for the apartheid era. If someone had said that [F.W.] De Klerk would allow [Nelson] Mandela out of prison and open up democratic elections, nobody would have believed him. We just didn't feel that there was any future there for us as Jews," said Sandler, who made the move with his wife Lorraine and their two children, then aged nine and seven.

Continued on page B34

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Community Focus

Doula provides information and support during pregnancy

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Chaya Smukler with twins she helped bring into the world.

Call her a doula, labour coach, labour support, or, the latest term, monitrice – Chaya Smukler isn't particular. What matters, she said, is the emotional, physical and information support she gives a woman and her family during this "intense time."

"People need information and support so that they can stay calm," she believes.

A doula, she stressed, is neither a nurse nor a midwife, although some have had extra training that enables them to check heart rate or to do internal examinations to determine dilation. Most, however, don't do these things.

Doulas learn their craft from mentors – experienced doulas who offer on-the-job training and instruction.

Smukler has been doing the job for some 30 years and talks enthusiastically about seeing babies she helped give birth to having bar mitzvahs or coming to her for help with their own deliveries.

She became a doula almost by accident. When she and her husband, Henry, now a chiropractor, were first married, they were superintendents of an apartment building while he finished his education. Several of the residents were pregnant, and some unexpectedly went into labour and had their babies in their apartments. Smukler was called to assist. And the rest is history, she said with a chuckle.

Women call to book her services almost as soon as their pregnancy is confirmed. While she is available by phone from then on, the first face to face appointment is between 11 and 13 weeks, when, she said delicately, the chance of miscarriage is low.

Smukler has taken a number of courses on nutrition, and that is one of her focuses. She advises on proper diet, exercise and ways to combat the nausea of early pregnancy. Some of her suggestions include ginger tea, vitamin B6, cool air (for example, by using a hand fan) or acupuncture wrist bands.

A pregnant woman, she said, must get enough sleep, at least eight hours a night, adding a nap in the ninth month. ("You need a lot of stamina to go through labour.")

Smukler said she likes it when the couple come to see her together, so that she can answer questions from both of them.

She offers prenatal classes, which she begins in the seventh month. If a couple take classes elsewhere, she has an intensive session, lasting two to three hours, at 36 weeks.

"We make a labour and delivery plan – do they want, for instance, to deliver in a Jacuzzi, do they want to labour at home for most of the time or come into the hospital right away? Or do they want to have the baby at home altogether?"

She goes over the stages of labour, makes sure that they have the breathing down pat, and deals with questions and anxieties.

During the last month, and especially after each doctor's visit, there is frequent telephone communication. "I have a 24-hour pager with a special code, so that I know if it is an emergency, just a general question or something in between."

When labour starts, Smukler goes with the couple to the hospital, and forms part of the team, which includes the doctor, nurses or midwife.

"We help the team to be a unit and to function smoothly," she said.

After the birth, she visits the family, and offers advice about such matters as breastfeeding.

Smukler, a follower of Lubavitch (two of her seven children are shlichim, emissaries of the rebbe) sees childbirth as profoundly spiritual. "At the moment of childbirth, the gates of heaven are open, and you can pray for other people. We think of a bride doing that under the chupah, but not at this time."

Many of her clients – not all, by any means – are Orthodox Jews. According to Halachah, a husband is not permitted to touch his wife during labour. A doula can take his place, touching, stroking, applying pressure, washing the face with a cool cloth – anything it takes to make the woman more comfortable.

There are now a number of Jewish doulas, Smukler said, many trained by her. In fact, she said, "we want to start a Jewish doulas' association."

Being a labour coach is not Smukler's only activity. She is also a reflexologist (reflexology is a form of natural healing that says points on the feet and hands correspond to various parts of the body, and stimulating and applying pressure to those points act positively on those body parts). She noted that she sometimes uses reflexology on her labouring patients, with very good results.

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Community Focus

Kosher food guru tests her creations on family

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Esther Schwartz got married 57 years ago, she learned to cook to please her husband Murray.

She still surprises him with new dishes, but she has turned what was then a hobby into a string of cooking accomplishments that are attested to in a two-page curriculum vitae and a wall full of plaques in her home office.

Perhaps most well known in the Jewish community as the kosher food consultant to the Kashruth Council of Canada, Schwartz prepares the menus and recipes that are mailed out four times a year before major Jewish holidays, and she works on the Kashruth directory, a guide to kosher establishments in the city.

She says that along with Cynthia Gasner, director of information and public relations at the Kashruth Council, they send out about 6,000 recipe flyers at a time. She can't even estimate, though, how many people actually see and use the recipes, because recipients copy them and send them on to friends and relatives around the world.

Esther Schwartz with her collection of cookbooks

Her involvement in the community doesn't stop there, though. After attending meetings of the Canadian Diabetes Association, Schwartz, who is diabetic, started up a Jewish diabetes chapter because she realized that there was no information available for kosher diets.

"I held a meeting for people interested in starting a Jewish chapter and I got good response. We now get between 75 and 100 people at each meeting.

"We have speakers and we offer recipes specific to a particular Jewish holiday. [Our mandate] is to educate people beyond their doctor's advice. We want them to know they can eat well and control their diabetes."

Continued on page B19

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Taught kosher cooking for 32 years

Continued from page B18

Over the years, she has also taught home economics at Eitz Chaim Schools, developed a cooking program at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, and taught kosher cooking classes at synagogues and community organizations. She was also a bronze medal winner at Israel's First International Conference and Exhibition on Jewish Culinary Art in 1978.

In 1996 she teamed up with Thelma Barer-Stein and Risa Vandersluis to write *To Life: Setting A new Standard for Delectable Healthy Eating within Cherished Kosher Tradition*, a cookbook that promotes healthy kosher eating.

Her professional cooking career took off, Schwartz says, after taking a baking class with well-known local cook Lillian Kaplun. "I had just taken a public speaking course to boost my self confidence, and when Lillian needed someone to do a talk on eggs, I volunteered."

Shortly afterward, Gasner asked her to conduct kosher cooking classes at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, and although the venue changed over the years, she continued the classes for 32 years.

"I developed some recipes, I adapted others, and I tested all of them on my husband, my four children, and my [now] eight grandchildren. They are my tasters, testers and critics. I test and retest until it is up to par. If one of my children says, 'What smells so good?' I know I'm on the right track."

Her standards are high, she says. "Every recipe has to be interesting, nutritious and delicious. The Chinese have a saying: 'You appeal to the eye through the colour, to the palate by the taste, to the ear by the crunch, and to the nose by the aroma.' I follow that whenever I can. A good recipe is like sterling silver. It grows on you."

She advises her students to be organized, and to not be worried about failure. "You can always try again. If you're a novice, follow the recipe exactly, then when it is perfected you can add or subtract some ingredients."

Cooking today is different than when she was a young bride, says Schwartz. "Everything now is fast, fast. We also get wonderful foods from around the world. When I was growing up we never even used squash or eggplant.

"Especially in the past 20 years, people want low-fat, easy-to-follow recipes. No one uses schmaltz anymore. I remember melting down my schmaltz, adding onions, and putting it in the fridge to harden. My husband once took a drink of it before it solidified.

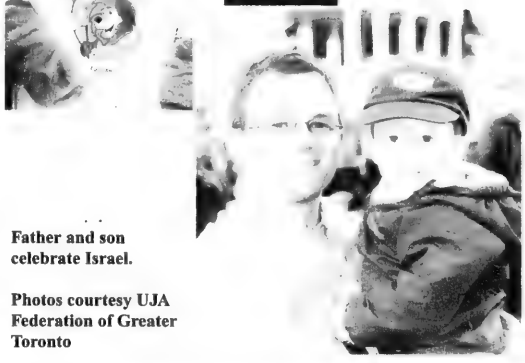
"My mother used to use lots of butter when she made blintzes. Now, I put a teaspoon of oil in the batter, and just grease the pan a little. As for kishke, I would never teach that now. I used to show them how to stuff it, sew it together and drop it in boiling water."

Jewish food is a tradition, she says, "and I want to teach people tradition. I think it is important for children to learn to cook. My daughter is an excellent cook, and I've taught my children and grandchildren how to make challah buns."

Throughout her career, she has never looked for fame and glory, she says. "I just want satisfaction."

Does she ever think about retiring? "I think about it, but I don't plan on it."

Rabbi Ronald Weiss, director of chaplaincy for JF&CS and Jewish chaplain with Toronto Police, poses with the Walk with Israel mascot ARR-YEAH the lion.



Father and son celebrate Israel.

Photos courtesy UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

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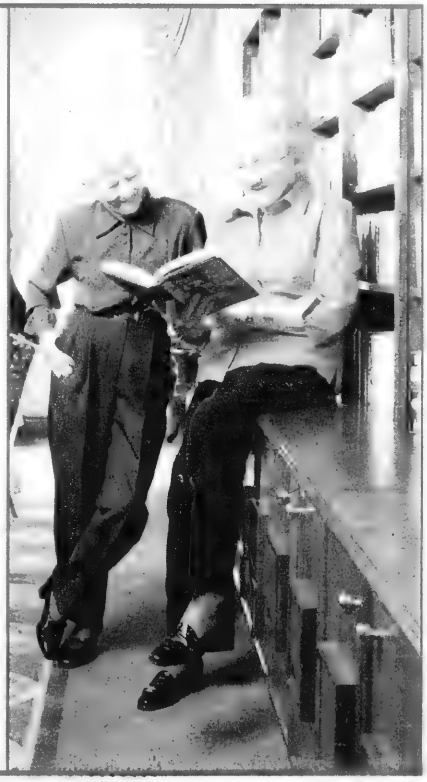

Textbook co-author loves to learn

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Don't call Jack Lipinsky a lifelong learner. The United Synagogue Day School teacher, who received his PhD in history two years ago from the University of Toronto, is not fond of the term, apt as it may be.

"I actually like to learn," he said in an interview earlier this summer. "I'm excited about what I learn, and I pass that on to my students. I think that what I teach is interesting."

In April, Lipinsky, 48, was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. Then, in May, he was named a Teacher of Excellence, a privately sponsored award for Toronto Jewish day school teachers.

He is the co-author of a new junior high textbook, *Telling Our Story: A History of the Jews in Canada to 1920*, that will be used in some Jewish day schools this year. The book – a four-year project inspired by the BJE's *Etgar* (Challenge) program for teachers – was co-authored with two colleagues, USDS teacher Donnie Friedman, and Meir Balofsky, a teacher at Associated Hebrew Schools who has since made aliyah.

"I have my fingers in many pies," said Lipinsky, who also teaches Canadian history at U of T's School of Continuing Studies; serves as adult education chair and brotherhood president of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation; and runs Shabbat morning and holiday services at the Stashover-Slipia Congregation.

But his most important role, he said, is "playing Daddy" to his three children, Baruch, 19, Yoelit, 17, and Yehezkel, 13. In fact, he missed his PhD convocation to attend the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto awards night, where Baruch was among those students honoured.

Lipinsky's interest in Jewish education was sparked as a 17-year-old, first-year university student, when he began teaching afternoon Hebrew school at Adath Israel Congregation. A graduate of the Jewish high school program there, he found he liked teaching. "It was a nice source of extra money, and it was fun."

Later, when he was working on his master's in history at U of T, he took the BJE's "Midrasha L'Morim" program over three summers to become certified as a Judaic studies teacher.

Lipinsky's PhD thesis focused on the organizational behaviour of Toronto Jewry from 1933 to 1943. He entered the PhD program in 1980, but put things on hold after his oldest son was born. At the time, he was a teaching assistant at U of T's Scarborough campus, taught at two Hebrew schools, spent his Saturday mornings at Stashover-Slipia, and worked part-time at USDS as a librarian.

His introduction to teaching at the day school started when he was asked to pinch-hit for a sick colleague. According to Lipinsky, Aaron Nussbaum, then educational director of the school, walked into the classroom expecting to see "pandemonium," but to his surprise students were busy working on an assignment that Lipinsky had devised on the spur of the moment.

Eventually, he ended up teaching junior high classes in both Jewish and general studies. "Junior high kids are full of hormones, but they're also full of ideas. If you get them onside, you can have such fun with them."

The secret, he says, is respect, not intimidation.

Lipinsky, who attended public school in the Keele Street and Sheppard Avenue area and later went to William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute, tries not to be like the Hebrew school teachers who told him, "Don't ask so many questions," and "When you get older, you'll understand."

Despite that, he always had an affinity for tradition. But, he said, "life is like a craps game, and I want to stack the odds in favour of Jewish survival. The more kids learn about how intelligent our religion and culture and heritage are, the less likely they are to 'dis' it."

Although Lipinsky and his wife Barbara have become more observant over the years, he stressed that although he teaches at a Conservative school, he's "not there to proselytize Orthodoxy. I'm there to get them to choose a Jewish lifestyle in a knowledgeable manner."

Judaism is a smorgasbord, he said, and his job is to put the dishes in front of the students.

One of the most meaningful services he has attended, he said, was at Congregation Darchei Noam, Toronto's only Reconstructionist synagogue. "The people there were incredibly into their service."

Because of his Judaic skills and knowledge, Lipinsky has been, on one occasion, mistakenly referred to as a rabbi.

He's not, he clarifies, although he hasn't ruled out the possibility of studying for smichah – for fun.

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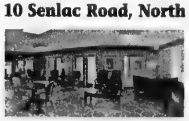

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Wardrobe doctor dresses the whole woman

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The best way to describe Marilyn Wetston (pronounced Weston) is that she has a firecracker mind that ignites with creative ideas.

Known to her friends and clients as the wardrobe doctor, Wetston is a successful entrepreneur, retailer, teacher, closet organizer, radio and television personality, and a facilitator who helps women to become successful.

The brown-eyed blond, who has a passion for everything she does, says that her parents' lives have been a great influence on her on a personal level and in the business world.

Her Polish-born parents, Pola and Oscar Schlenger, both Holocaust survivors, met and married in a displaced prison camp in Austria after the war. They each had suffered through many concentration camps and lost most of their families.

You dress the whole person— not just the outside

Wetston was born in the camp in Austria and the Schlengers came to Canada when she was a year old. She says her father had little education but a tremendous talent for business. From her father she inherited his business acumen and from her mother Wetston got her love of literature and music.

The family moved to Toronto where, Wetston says, her father began selling small items from a baby carriage to people in the Polish community, as he spoke only Polish. Then they moved to Welland and he opened a retail store there called Oscar's Bargain Centre.

"My father lived by a handshake, and so do I. From the time I could walk, I was in the store. I made selling a child's game. I came by the world of business honestly," Wetston says.

Wetston attended the University of Toronto, where she majored in English, and her parents moved back to Toronto and opened Oscar's Surplus Jobbers on Spadina Avenue at Dundas Street.

"I always worked with my father, even after I was married and my son and daughter were born," she says.

"My first solo business venture was in 1975, when I bought a bankrupt stock of ladies and children's clothing. I opened in the basement at 195 Spadina Ave., where there was no storefront, no signage, no heat and people had to change in the bathroom."

From that humble beginning, and an odyssey through several upgraded facilities and more and more buying, she now operates a large women's clothing store, Marilyn's, at 200 Spadina Ave. Her office is near the entrance of the store because she says that she gets energy from people.

"I took the path of dressing women. You dress a person – not just the external features but the whole entity of who they are," Wetston says.

She presents fashion-image workshops, speaks at fundraisers and has written for magazines and local newspapers. She has written about how to organize a closet – "because I like healing dysfunctional closets," she says – and how to pack a suitcase. She currently writes a column for *Women of Vision* magazine.

Marilyn Wetston is a successful entrepreneur, retailer, teacher, closet organizer, radio and television personality, and facilitator of opportunities for women.

Wetston's radio show, *From a Woman's Perspective*, is on AM 740 Sundays from 8 to 9 a.m. On the show, she explores different topics with Canadian guest experts. She also has an Internet radio show, *A Woman's Perspective: Image, Fashion, Life Style*, at ladybuglive.com.

To add to her busy schedule, Wetston is dedicated to helping women who desire to be in business but don't have the time or money. "My incubator program is designed to educate and empower women and support women entrepreneurs. I'm happy to share my experience with women from all walks of life," she says. Her program includes seminars at which women can demonstrate their projects and expertise.

Wetston will soon appear on a CHEX-TV show, *Durham Today*, on which she will choose a new outfit for the host to wear.

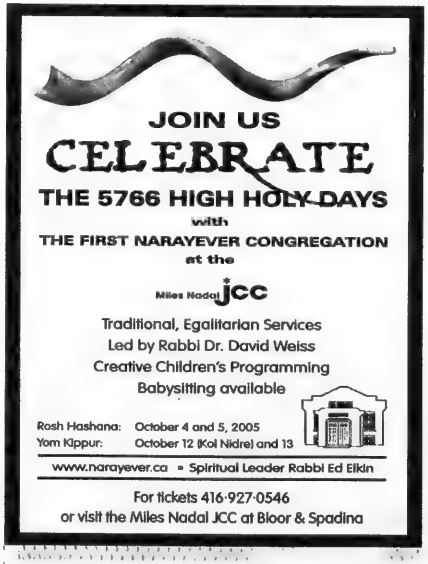
"I'm a clothing addict," she says. "I love dressing well, and I always use real women to demonstrate the art of dressing."

It is ironic that her parents' lives were destroyed in Poland and Wetston was recently invited twice to lecture to university students in Poland on deportment, image and entrepreneurship.

"I am a very curious person, and I am on a learning.curve and always explore new avenues," she says. "I take every day as it comes – you do what you can and you go forward."

With so many activities on her agenda, she still finds time to play golf and looks forward to the time she spends with family.

"I would like to continue on a joyous adventure through life, and I am very lucky that my husband, Sam, supports me in everything I do and lets me be the best I can be," Wetston says.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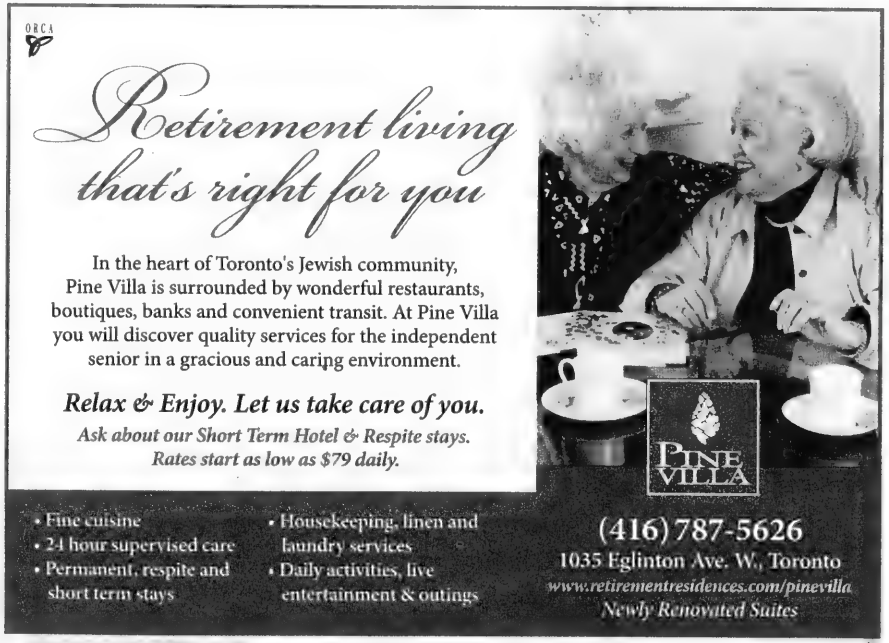
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Cantor Trubashnik's role extends beyond the temple

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

If Anna Trubashnik, cantor and music director at Temple Emanu-El for the past 15 years, could start her career over, she'd change only one thing.

"The end result would be the same. Only the path would be different," says the 44-year-old mother of three.

Recently certified by the Hebrew Union College Institute of Religion in New York, Trubashnik is now the only certified female cantor in Canada with an active pulpit.

The certification process, a five-year exam-based course, is designed for people working full time, she says.

"It is a very exciting course, but it is twice as hard as going to school, because there is no teacher support and there are no classmates. It is basically self-study.

"I have a husband, I am raising a family and I am working, and I had to travel to New York for exams. If I had known what it entailed, I might have thought harder."

Her mentor, Cantor Benjamin Maisner, of Holy Blossom Temple, has played an important role in her career, she says.

Born in Moscow, Trubashnik lived in Israel and Belgium before moving to Canada 25 years ago.

Music is in her genes from way back, she says. Her father is an oboist, her mother is a pianist, her grandfather was a violinist, and her grandmother performed in Yiddish theatre in Odessa. "There were rabbis on my mother's side of the family, so I've come full circle."

Living in Belgium, Trubashnik started training at age 14. She received her artist diploma from the Brussels Conservatory in voice, piano and choral conducting, and then joined the Brussels Opera Company.

"I was headed for an operatic career, but when I moved to Canada I became close friends with [the late composer] Srul Glick, and he told me they were looking for a cantor at the temple. He encouraged me to audition.

"I was extremely pregnant at the time with my second child, and they hired me right off. It was an interesting challenge to sing at the High Holy Day services shortly after my daughter was born."

She had never been involved in the Reform movement, she says, "and I took to it completely. I love the philosophy. To me, an egalitarian service is very important.

"[The temple] has become a little more traditional since I arrived and it appeals to me. They are using more Hebrew and more traditional prayer chants, and all the men are wearing kippot and tallitot."

Continued on page B23

Anna Trubashnik, Temple Emanu-El cantor and music director, has music in her genes. Her father is an oboist, her mother is a pianist, her grandfather was a violinist, and her grandmother performed in Yiddish theatre in Odessa.

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Community Focus

Music is integral to the service, cantor says

Continued from page B22

Becoming a cantor has fulfilled a tremendous passion, she says. "A cantor is central to the service. What would [a service be] without music? It would be words and speeches.

"Music is an integral component. Even if a person does not understand the words, the music gives them a feeling of what is going on.

"Niggunim are chassidic melodies without words, and they uplift the spirit through the melody."

She stresses that a cantor is not a performer. "That is not my intention; it is my intention to uplift the congregation through prayer. I pray with them."

Trubashnik performs at all life-cycle events, she says, and now that she is a certified cantor, she is recognized by the government as a cleric so she can perform marriages.

After being with the congregation for 15 years, she has officiated at congregants' baby namings, bar or bat mitzvahs weddings and funerals.

"I feel it is a great honour to officiate at a funeral because it is the last thing I can do for a congregant. It is a great mitzvah."

There are also pastoral elements to her position, including counselling and hospital visits. "I often take the hand of a sick person and sing to them. People are gratified when I come."

As well, she teaches bnai mitzvah students and works with the choir.

'I often take the hand of a sick person and sing to them'

Her congregants are her friends, she says. "I see them through the wonderful and the not so wonderful. They become part of my life."

A member of the Toronto Council of Chazzanim and the American Conference of Cantors, Trubashnik also gives private voice lessons, and is on the faculty of Kolel – the Institute for Adult Jewish Learning, and Camp George, operated by the Union for Reform Judaism.

At Kolel, she has started a program in which members of the Russian community can learn about Judaism and the Torah in Russian.

Being a cantor is a good life, she says, "as long as you don't expect a nine-to-five job. You have to give of yourself. I cannot stress 'serving the community' enough.

"A beautiful voice is a bonus, but it is not enough. You start with the voice, and then you ask yourself [if it's for you]."

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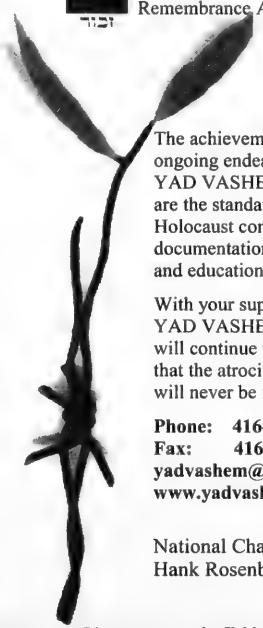

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Community Focus

Young adults take leadership roles at Shaare Zedek, UJA

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

More and more young adults in their 30s and 40s are taking major leadership positions that will help ensure the future of Jewish communities in Canada and Israel.

Brad Fox, 39, and David Smith, 42, have recently completed five years as co-presidents of the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation. Both are members of the hospital's international board of governors.

Fox is now the vice-chair of the 2006 UJA fundraising campaign and on the professional advisory committee of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"Eventually, your charitable work and your professional life interface," says Fox, who is a financial advisor with CIBC World Markets.

"My experience in the service industry, combined with my interest in the community, has enhanced my focus on planned giving."

Born in Vancouver, Fox moved to Toronto in 1989. "I didn't know a soul in the city – no friends, family, or even an acquaintance to call upon for help. In the face of adversity, I reached out, particularly to Jewish Family and Child Services of UJA. They helped me through my first difficult year in Toronto.

"Now, with a solid career established, I am able to give back to the community that was there for me when I was in need. My hope for our Jewish community is that there will always be a place for people to go to when they are in need."

Shortly after he arrived in Toronto, Fox was invited to a wine-tasting and awareness-raising event for Shaare Zedek Hospital.

"That's when I met David and some 30 people. I became involved because there were a lot of people who where very passionate about the hospital, and I learned a lot from them. It's very hard to find the level of commitment of volunteers that you find at Shaare Zedek."

Fox chaired a golf tournament and the hospital's new leadership group, and stepped into the co-chair position with Smith in 2000.

In 1993, Fox married Rona Schwartz, a retired lawyer. They have three children, twins Adam and Zoey, 8, and Rachel, 5.

"My family may suffer because I am so involved. They may lose some time with me, but what they gain through my activities [is that] at a young age, they are developing their values and beliefs, as I include them whenever I can."

Explaining why many things are linked in communal work, he said one of the reasons he became involved with the federation was to have their missions to Israel take the groups to the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem to see the outstanding services it provides.

Pictured, from left, are Brad Fox, Jeffrey Rosenthal and David Smith.

Smith, who is the senior executive at Maple Leaf Firelog Products Company of Canada, is responsible for all aspects of the operation, and he oversees sales in Europe.

In addition to being active at Shaare Zedek since 1989, Smith has worked for State of Israel Bonds and has been one of the top fundraisers for the Baycrest Challenge and is currently helping with Baycrest's Boardwalk.

Born in Toronto, Smith moved to Ottawa in 1984 to open the first of five Benetton Group stores. In 1988, he returned to Toronto and married Karen Solursh, the leasing manager at Runnymede Development Corporation. The Smiths have four children, Joshua, 14, Jeremy, 12, Annie, 8, and Jesse, 5.

Smith became involved in Shaare Zedek when his father-in-law, Harvey Solursh, was the national president.

"He suggested that I consider the new leadership group."

Before long, Smith became the new leadership chair, founded the organization's annual golf tournament and served on several committees.

Smith says the most important thing in life is balance. "At times," he says, "it can be a challenge balancing schedules, but with the support of my wife who is also on the Shaare Zedek board, I can dedicate the time.

"Karen and I work together. She may not be able to attend all the meetings, but she remains involved. We both feel we need people to come forward and offer their support to the many great institutions in Israel -- and we have chosen Shaare Zedek."

He adds that his children have also been involved. "They have helped out at the Shaare Zedek office with mailings and they have seen some of the presentations made by doctors from the hospital.

"Shaare Zedek is our connection with Israel. It is important to give back to your community, be it in Canada or in Israel. If we don't, who will?"

He enthusiastically notes the advancements at Shaare Zedek. "Their many areas of excellence include the Women and Infant Centre for pre- and post-natal care, the Heart Centre and the recently opened Department of Emergency Medicine."

As Fox and Smith complete their term as co-presidents, they note that another young leader, Jeffrey Rosenthal, 41, who is a managing partner and co-founder of Imperial Capital and has been active on the board, was recently elected national president.

"Jeff brings a wealth of business and community experience to Shaare Zedek," Smith says. "I know that he will be successful in leading the organization to even greater levels of support for the hospital and our community."

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Frum bubbie hooked on Guyana

By LARA GREENBERG
CJN Intern

After her first mission there, Leya Aronson was hooked on Guyana, in South America.

Before that first mission, her family thought she was going through a midlife crisis and an Israeli nephew addressed a letter to her as "Doda [Aunt] Tarzan."

But after going on her seventh two-week-long mission this year, the Orthodox mother, bubbie and registered nurse who is a volunteer for Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee has proven her dedication to the people she helps deep in that region.

Since 1998 Ve'ahavta volunteers have travelled to the impoverished country sometime between mid-January and mid-March to treat acute illnesses, improve health-care infrastructure and enhance communities through education and community development. They work in partnership with other groups, setting up travelling clinics to treat the local population.

Leya Aronson with a young patient.

The name Ve'ahavta refers to the Torah injunction to love one's neighbour, or stranger, as oneself. The organization was established in 1996 and is registered in Canada and the United States. Its goal is to play a role in tikkun olam (repairing the world) through partnerships with the Canadian and American Jewish community, as well as with non-Jewish and international organizations worldwide.

"We try to show the world that the Jews aren't insulated and only interested in helping themselves," said Aronson.

All the people who go on the missions are volunteers, with groups ranging in size from 12 to 18 members.

"The plane we fly on is only an eight-seater – my husband's old car was bigger," Aronson said with a laugh.

But Ve'ahavta and Aronson's efforts are not only focused on Guyana but other projects too.

Recently, Ve'ahavta partnered with the Herbie Fund of the Hospital for Sick Children and the Salvation Army to facilitate the transportation, accommodation and surgery required to separate conjoined Zimbabwean twins, Tinashe and Tinotenda, in Toronto.

When the twins arrived at Sick Kids, Aronson, who is clinical nursing leader of ward 7C at the hospital, began looking out for the babies to ensure that their transition into the hospital would be smooth.

The twins have since returned home to Zimbabwe following a successful operation.

The program model for the Guyana mission is unique and successful, ensuring that year after year, at least half of the team consists of returning volunteers, some of whom are participating in their fifth, sixth, 10th or 33rd trip to provide free medical care to some of Guyana's neediest communities.

Aronson is one of these die-hard returnees.

One would imagine that being an Orthodox Jew on such a mission could be nothing short of a challenge but Aronson said "not at all."

She and Dennis Scolnik, an emergency-room physician at Sick Kids who also goes on the annual missions, take kosher supplies with them – dehydrated foods, utensils and foil to cover counters when they prepare meals. For Shabbat, they take matzah, a challah cover, challah for the first Shabbat candles and candlesticks, a havdalah set and wine.

Most of the locations at which they work have cook fires, so they are able to boil water. "More of a problem is finding drinkable water," Aronson said.

Regarding Shabbat, most of the region's people are Seventh Day Adventists, "which means that Shabbat is Shabbat," she said.

One Friday afternoon, a few minutes before Shabbat, Aronson and Scolnik heard bells ringing "like the bells of Jerusalem calling in Shabbat," she said.

All the Guyanese people came out dressed in white, at least, as white as their clothing can be, considering it is difficult for them to find clean river water in which to wash their garments, and made their way to their evening service.

Someone saw Aronson lighting candles and called all the women, who stood around her and watched. Then when Scolnik recited kiddush, all the men stood respectfully in line before going home.

"When you have experiences like this, how can you not go back," said Aronson.

Although they do not work on Shabbat, if a patient shows up needing urgent care, there is no question it would be dealt with, Aronson said.

The work they do is nothing short of extraordinary, but that is nothing new for this lady.

After all, Aronson started nursing school when her youngest daughter went to Grade 1.

"We would sit at the table and do our homework together – we went through school together," she said.

Nursing was not an option for observant people in the past as hospitals did not have kosher food and trainee nurses had to work on Shabbat.

But nursing had been Aronson's childhood dream. She even has a photograph of herself and her cousin bandaging a cat as children. Her cousin is kneeling on the floor bandaging, while Aronson, dressed as a nurse, is assisting.

Over the years, Aronson would apply and reapply to nursing school, but inevitably, something would be standing in her way.

A mother of six, Aronson nursed her daughter, sick with Tay-Sachs, a fatal inherited disease of the central nervous system, until she died. "Nursing her just came naturally and so, after she died, I started to volunteer at Sick Kids as a special volunteer."

After a while, she applied for nursing training again. She was accepted and started within three days.

When her children were younger, Aronson worked full-time while maintaining her family life. She took off the summers and went to camp with her children as the nurse.

Looking forward, Aronson said her dream travel destination is China.

"I want to go to Kaifeng and see what happened to the Jewish community there. I am also studying elementary Cantonese and can speak very basically to the grandmothers who bring children into Sick Kids."

But for now, she will continue going to Guyana, she said.

"We are the only medical personnel that these people see and I have met phenomenally interesting people. The friendships just keep pulling me back."

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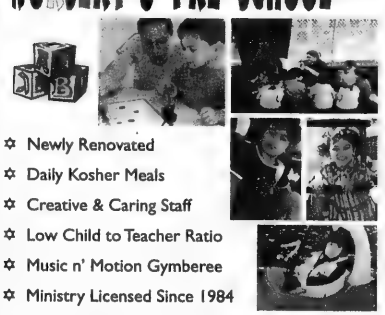

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Community Focus

Psychologist is a woman of multiple intelligences

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

If Karen Oster had to describe herself using the criteria associated with multiple intelligences – a theory put forth in the 1980s by Harvard University education professor Howard Gardner – she would say she's "a very visual and auditory learner, and very kinesthetic."

The latter quality is reflected in her ceramic work and the verdant garden she enjoys tending at the home she shares with her husband, Ray, a retired businessman. The house itself, a 77-year-old former rooming house replete with wood, stained glass and quirky nooks is filled with plants, pottery, and textile art from faraway places.

An educational consultant who has a long association with the Bloorview MacMillan Centre (formerly the Hugh MacMillan Rehabilitation Centre), Oster is a veteran academic, researcher and conference presenter. She has travelled to the Philippines and Sri Lanka to work with local teachers as a volunteer adviser with the Canadian Executive Service Organization, a branch of the Canadian International Development Agency and, as of last year, is co-ordinator of student support services at United Synagogue Day Schools (USDS).

Oster's background is mainly in the area of integration of special needs children. At the Hugh MacMillan Centre, she was founder and director of Play and Learn, the first integrated infant and early childhood education program in Toronto.

At USDS, where Oster has been an educational consultant at the preschool level since 2000, her focus is on supporting diverse learning styles, an approach based on the principle of multiple intelligences. Oster helps teachers develop a "differentiated classroom," so that each student can learn in an optimal way, whether he or she understands new material best through visual, auditory, tactile or other means.

"I'm totally excited about looking at education in that way," she said. "You can't do every lesson in eight different ways, but based on who you have in your classroom, you can ensure that for some subject areas and activities, there are choices that reflect the different multiple intelligences that exist in your classroom. You're teaching to strengths, but you're also creating opportunities for kids to grow in all different intelligences."

Karen Oster

Although Oster didn't set out to work with special needs children when she began her graduate studies in psychology, her interest in the field dates back to her teenage years. A native of Saskatoon, where her father Sam Lifshen was a longtime president of the local Jewish community, Oster spent many summers on staff at Camp Easter Seal, just outside her hometown. She said she was "totally inspired" by how hard the campers worked to succeed at everything they did.

More recently, her international work in the field has been humbling. "You have to take what you know and rework it for a culture and a group of people that are very different than you. You have to honour who they are and what they bring to the table. It has been an incredible learning experience for me," she said.

Oster moved to Toronto in the 1960s to pursue her master's degree at what was then a fledgling psychology department at York University. "They offered scholarships, and Toronto seemed like a big, sophisticated city. I knew nobody, and I thought it would be a wonderful adventure. I had no plans to stay, but life presents itself in different kinds of ways."

Her husband, she said, was one of the few native Torontonians that she met as a graduate student. They have two sons, now in their 30s, and recently became grandparents for the first time, with another grandchild on the way.

She credits Ray for shouldering much of the child-care and household duties when their boys were young and she was working on her doctorate, which she completed in 1984.

When Oster began her master's program in the mid-1960s, it wasn't common for women to do graduate work, nor to try to balance work and parenting.

"I think we were a group of women who felt it was important to try and do everything and be everything, so we worked very hard at trying to balance work and play and home life... [The 1970s and early 1980s were] a time of change and transformation, and at the same time a wonderful opportunity to explore."

An active grandmother, Oster is a biker and swimmer who took up kayaking this year. "I think you're never too old to try things."

Musing on her 60th birthday, which she celebrated in January, Oster said, "I think our milestone birthdays give us a chance to reflect. I think there's a wistfulness about it, in terms of recognition of the life span, and at the same time there's an incredible gratefulness. I am so lucky."

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Community Focus

Big Brothers/Sisters are friends, mentors and role models

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

One of Robert Galambos' two boys – the eight-year- old –loves cars and everything to do with them, so when they go out on the weekend, chances are they'll end up at a car dealership, kicking tires and checking out the new models. The other, the 12-year-old, loves action, so a trip to White Water Kingdom would be his outing of choice.

Robert Galambos

For Galambos, weekend excursions are a regular feature of his life and those of the two brothers. It gives them a chance to bond, to talk, to have fun and to grow together.

For all, it's a special time, particularly because Galambos doesn't have to be doing what he's doing. Galambos, after all, isn't the boys' father. He's not even their uncle or a relative. Galambos is the boys' Big Brother, a volunteer with Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) who spends at least four hours a week with the brothers.

Galambos does what a big brother would do; he's a mentor and a role model – someone the kids can look up to.

It's something he does because he loves kids and, even though "it sounds corny, give back to society."

Pamela Shulman

Galambos, 48, came to JF&CS a little over a year ago, ready to volunteer and eager to get involved in community work in Toronto after he'd moved from Montreal. He'd been involved as a volunteer in community activities in Quebec and had heard good things about Big Brother programs.

"I thought I'd be good at it too," he said.

Pamela Shulman is Big Sister to an 11-year-old girl who she's been with for two years. While Big Brothers and Big Sisters are supposed to be giving of themselves for the benefit of others, she, like Galambos, readily admits she gets a lot out of the relationship.

Her little sister is really fun to be with, she said. "She is very energetic, she gives me energy and she makes me feel young. She's great company and fun to be with. I love her very much."

Thanks to her time with the 11-year-old, "I get to enjoy things I wouldn't otherwise do," Shulman, 34, said.

Among the activities the two have enjoyed are shopping, movies and going to the kids' play amusement park on Centre Island. Although she's committed to spending four hours a week with her little sister, "mostly because we enjoy each other's company, the activities actually take longer than four hours."

Andrea Pines, co-ordinator of volunteer services at JF&CS, said getting a good match between Big Brothers and the kids is the key to success. The best partnerships occur when both sides share the same interests, skills and hobbies.

"It has to be an appropriate placement, the best match for the child," she said.

Once their paired, it's up to the big and little brothers to set their own agenda and schedule, she continued, whether it's throwing a ball around, swimming, skating, enjoying arts and crafts, cooking or going to movies. They're also free to attend the regular events, particularly around the Jewish holidays, sponsored for them by JF&CS and funded by the Larry Grossman Foundation for Kids.

Having a Big Brother or Big Sister can have a major impact on children, she said. A positive role model can teach kids how to interact better with others, give them guidance about personal issues and demonstrate how to behave properly in the wider world.

"We look for a level of maturity, someone we can trust, someone who understands working with kids," she said.

Often, the JF&CS clients who need a Big Brother or Big Sister have something missing in their lives. It might be a broken home, an illness in the family that makes the parent unavailable, abuse, or some other unfortunate circumstance.

"Big Brothers and Big Sisters are there as a friend, mentor, role model. They teach life skills," Pines said.

Applicants for the role are screened extensively before they meet a child. They are interviewed, asked to present letters of reference, undergo a police check and afterward are evaluated on a regular basis.

JF&CS assigns from 25 to 30 adults to kids in need, but there is a shortage of both Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Ten boys are currently waiting for Big Brothers, while half that many girls need Big Sisters. Big Brothers are needed in York Region, and women are being sought in the area south of Lawrence.

Though JF &CS asks applicants to commit to at least one year, "most stay longer." Many find they develop close attachments to their young charges. One little sister marched in her Big Sister's wedding procession, Pines noted.

In at least two other cases, a little brother and a little sister grew up to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters themselves.

"They want to give back to the community," she said. "[They know] they can really turn around a kid's life."

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Community Focus

Beth Emeth's ritual director is a technology maven

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Danny Allman is the effervescent, multi-tasking ritual director of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

"My life is bound up in my job 60 to 70 hours a week," he says.

Since he took the position as ritual director in 1993, his job description has evolved. Along with his many activities as ritual director, he is the building manager and the shul's technology and computer maven.

"We have a computer committee at Beth Emeth. We led the way and have been in the forefront of technology, which meshed with my background," he says.

Allman, 54, was born in Edmonton. He attended the Edmonton Talmud Torah, which then went to Grade 6, and continued evening classes to Grade 9.

In 1971, he spent a year in Israel on Bnei Akiva's Hachsharah work/study program. On his return to Canada, he studied electronics technology at Toronto's Devry Institute of Technology.

"My passion is technology and everywhere I worked, I became involved in this field," he says.

In 1974, he interrupted his studies to volunteer in Israel on Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzchak after the Yom Kippur War as there was a shortage of young men. He drove a truck hauling agricultural products to market.

As a teenager, he attended Camp Moshava, where he met Miriam Wisebrod. He worked for the Toronto Jewish Congress (the predecessor of the UJA Federation) and married Miriam in 1976. For the past four years, she has been the director of Camp Moshava, where Allman is the chair of the site management committee.

Ardent Zionists, the Allmans moved to Israel in 1978. Their son, Elyasaf, was born the following year on Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzchak. They then moved to Hebron, and Allman served in the Israel Defence Forces' infantry division.

They returned to Canada, Allman says, after buying a house, which was to be completed in one year, in Ma'aleh Adumin. "We came back to Canada because of parnassah. It was a time of hyper-inflation, and although we were paying the mortgage, in four years the house was still not finished." Allman says.

Danny Allman

In Toronto, where his daughter, Danit, was born, he worked for Golan Alarms. Then he moved to Calgary and became a mashgiach for the community. "Our time in Calgary was a very fulfilling four years. Calgary is a small but very caring and active Jewish community," he says.

After four years, the Allmans returned to Toronto, so their children could have a Jewish education. His son has made aliyah and recently completed army service. His daughter enters York University next month.

Allman says that he never thought about becoming a ritual director, but a friend suggested he consider the position at Beth Emeth. "I asked what the job entailed and my friend said I had to know how to scramble eggs. I decided to apply."

He adds that although he had the religious requirements for the job, "when they discovered my knowledge of computers, I think that's what did it."

And he has never regretted taking the position. "I am Orthodox. I have developed an appreciation for the scholarship of the Conservative leadership. Beth Emeth is one of the few Conservative traditional synagogues in Canada."

When Allman speaks of his work at the shul – his responsibilities include the weekday minyanim, teaching bar mitzvah boys, involvement in life cycle events and the care of ritual property, including 21 sifrei Torah – he is filled with joy.

"I enjoy the administrative work which brings me in contact with the membership of 1200 families," he says, and he is pleased to meet the members who don't come often.

"When they come to say Kaddish to honour a parent, or to plan a simchah, some people become involved and some are now on our board."

An ebullient and communicative man, Allman says, "I don't know when, but our goal is to move back to Israel someday."

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Artist was friends with Einstein's daughter

By Cynthia Gasner
Special to The CJN

Frieda Sohn's sculptures can be found in collections in North America and Europe.

She recently had an exhibit at Toronto's Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence, where she lives.

A year ago, Sohn, who is 94, moved to the city, where her daughter, Judith Ostrower, lives.

About Toronto, she says,"I guess I can be described as an alien here. If you put me on the street here in Toronto, I don't know where I am as I'm not familiar with the geography of Toronto because my daughter always takes my everywhere."

She is familiar with the city's museums and galleries as over the years she visited Toronto regularly to see her daughter.

Sohn says that she became fascinated with art at an early age. "And the fascination has never lost its hold on me," she adds.

Some of her sculptures and several of her prints are on display in her apartment.

Sohn describes her work as naturalistic. "You have nature in mind, but change it into sculptural form. It can take many different sculptural forms," she says.

"My sculptures are abstract. They are taken from reality and changed into abstract forms."

Frieda Sohn became fascinated with art at an early age. "And the fascination has never lost its hold on me," she says.

She has worked in stone, wood, clay, alabaster, marble, ceramics and bronze.

Sohn, née Rosengarten, was born in Lithuania. Her family came to New York when she was 12 years old. She was then enrolled in high school, where she learned English.

"I took English classes for one month. The other subjects were easy because I had taken all the other subjects in Lithuania," she says.

She was a German major, French minor and later an art major at Hunter College in New York. She worked toward a master's degree at Columbia University and studied at Beaux Arts Institute in New York, as well as attending other art schools.

After she married, she became the art director of Bronx House in New York. She also taught sculpture at the Baltimore Museum of Art for 20 years.

As a student at Columbia University, Sohn became close friends with Margot Einstein. Sohn has a photograph of Albert Einstein, Margot's father, along with an article about him, on one of her apartment walls.

"I was invited to spend several weekends with their family in Princeton. He was wonderful. He called me Friedel and told me many great stories," Sohn says.

She is a member of the hall of fame of the Alumni Association of Hunter College and has been honoured by the Baltimore Museum of Art.

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Community Focus

Specialist focuses on relationship between eating disorders and psychological disturbances

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Dr. Allan Kaplan, head of the program for eating disorders at Toronto General Hospital, still recalls, almost 30 years later, his first experience with a girl with an eating disorder.

"It was the first year I was working on a ward, and this girl had been placed on the internal medicine floor. She was losing weight and no one knew what was wrong."

After he was assigned to her, he says, she revealed that she had been inducing herself to vomit. "I immediately began reading up on the subject."

He then heard a talk on anorexia nervosa by Dr. Paul Garfinkle, now president and CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, "and he became my mentor. He influenced me tremendously in my future work."

After completing a residency in psychiatry, Kaplan, 53, originally from Providence, R.I., went on to get a master's degree in nutrition at University of Toronto.

"I was trained as a doctor and a psychiatrist, but I needed training as a researcher and a nutritionist."

He was always interested in the interaction between the brain and behaviour, he says, "and I saw myself focusing on one area.

"I wanted to treat seriously ill people, and I wanted to study the connection between what went on in the brains [of young, sick people] and their behaviour. I actually saw myself doing what I'm doing now," says Kaplan, now the Loretta Anne Rogers chair in eating disorders and a professor of psychiatry at University of Toronto.

Allan Kaplan

The prevalence of eating disorders has increased since the '70s, he says, but that is almost exclusively due to bulimia, a condition in which people maintain their normal weight through binge eating and purging. "This is a condition that can go on for years."

Bulimics tend to have a difficult relationship with food; when they're not eating, they're binging, he says.

Over time, problems will show up, but the disease is not as acute as anorexia. People with bulimia, which is often romanticized by Hollywood, do not tend to die, says Kaplan.

The evidence of anorexia is much clearer, he says, because patients lose a lot of weight. "They look skeletal and clearly unwell, they run into all kinds of [internal] medical problems, and they may collapse. By definition, however, they deny that anything is wrong.

"Medical problems occur much more quickly in young people than in adults because they have less weight to lose. If a 13-year-old loses 30 pounds, she could be in big trouble.

"Anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric problem. Next to accidents, it is the second-highest cause of deaths in adolescents, and those with anorexia have a 12 per cent higher rate of dying."

People with eating disorders not only have a disturbed eating behaviour, they also show characteristic psychological disturbances, he says. "They have problems with self-esteem and impulsivity, and [often] act out.

"An eating disorder is much more complicated than wishing to be thin. It is a way of coping with psychological problems. It is not about thinness – no weight is good enough."

Some studies have shown that up to 70 per cent of those with eating disorders have been influenced by their genetic makeup. "Eating disorders run in families, and women are more at risk because their brains are more sensitive."

Kaplan says he can pick out a child who is at risk of developing an eating disorder. "It is a girl who may have a mother with an eating disorder, a father who is an alcoholic, and there [is a tendency] for mood disorders to run in her family. This starts to create a picture.

"It does not mean, however, that she will develop an eating disorder. Genes only load the gun, environment pulls the trigger. We all have genetic predispositions. We want to make our environment as healthy as possible."

Especially in the Jewish community, Kaplan says, there is more stigma attached to eating disorders than to any other psychiatric problem.

"There is even more stigma than with schizophrenia. People tend to think that those with anorexia can just start to eat. There is a lot of parent bashing going on.

"The problem is way more complicated than that. We must destigmatize eating disorders so people will come forward for treatment, and we can do what we can do to prevent environmental factors."

Prevention includes speaking to girls about self-esteem, respect for others and healthy eating. "They need to learn not to focus on superficial appearances.

"We need to reach these kids when they are young, because once adolescence sets in, the risk factors are in place."

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Community Focus

Cantor's 'day job' is endocrinology

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

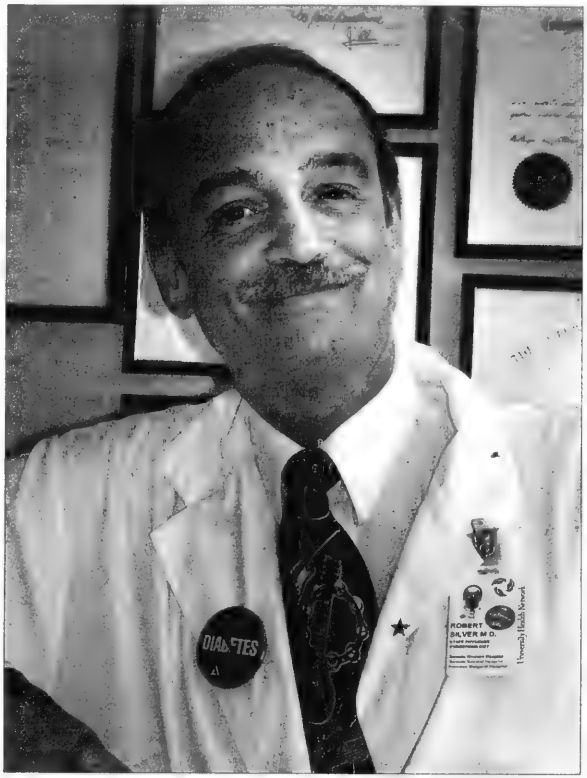
Members of Darchei Noam Congregation know Rob Silver in his role as part-time volunteer cantor, but his patients know the Toronto endocrinologist and University of Toronto department of medicine professor in a different capacity.

And supporters of LifeBeat, an annual fundraiser for a rotating array of medical causes, may recognize Silver as one of the musical variety show's longtime singers. He spent seven years as LifeBeat's musical director, and for this year's performances in June, was one of the principal vocal arrangers. The show, which features a cast of health-care professionals, has been held for the last several years at the Premiere Dance Theatre at Harbourfront Centre.

Silver, a native of Saint John, N.B., comes from a medical family. His late father, Samuel, was an ophthalmologist, and his two brothers are also doctors.

"For as long as I remember, I wanted to be a physician. It just seemed to be a natural evolution for me," said Silver in his office at the University Health Network's Toronto Western Hospital, surrounded by framed diplomas, teaching awards and LifeBeat posters.

Although his initial area of interest was neurology, Silver changed course as a medical student at Dalhousie University. A Type 1 diabetic since age 11, Silver, who is now 51, began his studies "very determined to stay away from endocrinology."



Rob Silver says extracurricular involvements make life complete.
[Frances Kraft photo]

His intentions changed after an interactive seminar on diabetes in his third year of medical school. Because of his personal experience, he basically "took over" the session.

On his way out, the seminar facilitator, walking with him, said, " 'You know, Rob, it would be a damn shame if you didn't pursue endocrinology as a career.' And that really had an impact. It's funny how a moment here, an experience there, can be life-changing."

Silver said he feels "very blessed" to have the support of his wife Joelle and their three children, who range in age from 13 to 20, as he juggles his "day job" with duties at Darchei Noam and, seasonally, for LifeBeat. Without his family's support, he said, his involvements, which extend professionally to program development and numerous committee memberships, wouldn't be possible.

"I'd like to think my involvements have served as a kind of model to my children as to how they can accommodate extracurricular things into their daily schedule, and how it really makes their lives complete.

"And they've really done that very well," he said, noting that his two older children each received special high school awards for completing more than 500 hours of community service (750 hours in one case), well beyond the minimum requirement.

Silver's membership and volunteer work at Darchei Noam, where he is one of two "roshei chazzanut" (heads of chazzanut), keeps him sane, he said. He estimates that he reads Torah on Shabbat about 40 to 50 per cent of the time, and leads services even more often. He has also served as chazzan at a number of life-cycle events.

Darchei Noam – which has grown from 60 to more than 300 families in the two decades that the Silvers have been members – reminds him of Saint John because of its sense of community.

Silver had little in the way of formal music training while growing up, but became very involved in amateur theatre, including musicals, in high school and university. At one point, he appeared in five productions in nine months. Playing Hamlet in Grade 12 still stands out for him as "the ultimate."

"I've always been the kind of person [who], the busier I am, the more effective and efficient I become. I love to keep myself busy."

Silver credits his mother, Sylvia, a nutritionist by training and "a stickler for organization," for his ability to multi-task effectively.

His theatre background is directly related to his affinity for teaching, in terms of being able to communicate and perform, he believes. There are 19 teaching awards listed on his 24-page curriculum vitae.

Would he want his children to pursue a career in medicine? "Our feeling as parents is that we don't want to overly influence them. We want them to be happy and productive. [That said], I still think medicine is a wonderful career, and I'm as excited about what I do now as I was 20 years ago."

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TORONTO REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

A world War II veteran salutes the colour party at Yom Hazikaron services.

Candles in memory of Holocaust victims **[Photos courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]**

Community Focus

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Community Focus

Families leaving for safety, and a better life – not politics

Continued from page B16

Most of the immigrants at that time were married men and women in their 30s and 40s who came with school- or university-age children.

Today, immigrant families are leaving less for political reasons and more for fear of their children's safety and a desire to provide them with a better life.

Many are also leaving in order to try to keep their families together by moving now, while they can, rather than being left alone with their children spread throughout the world, later.

South African groceries ... and Neil Odes the grocer [Benji Feldman photos]

Some older people arrived to join their families who have already been here for a number of years.

Mannie Stein arrived with his wife in 1988, when he was 68. They came to join their sons Michael and David, who had come as young single men years before.

In Durban, where he lived, Stein was a surgeon with his own practice who was involved with the first kidney transplant and vascular work done in Durban.

A year ago, he published his autobiography, written after his immigration to Canada.

There has also been an influx of young adult immigrants, mainly due to a lack of jobs in South Africa, but also because they want to succeed in a "First World" country.

The times have changed. Since the "early settlers" knew how hard the integration period was for them, they formed a group, primarily under Ronnie Rath, a South African émigré employed by UJA Federation, and began Sajac (Southern African Jewish Association of Canada – including those from Zimbabwe), which has now been running for close to 30 years.

Sandler, who is one of the original Sajac founders, said the organization was created "as a means of helping South Africans find their feet and become part of Toronto society and Jewish Canadian society," rather than as a mutually exclusive club keeping them connected to home.

The group ran with that focus from its inception in 1976 until the early 1980s when immigration from South Africa declined.

Although certain Sajac activities, such as the Sajac Seniors Social club (today known as the Sajac Social Club) continued, major activity decreased in the early '80s and was only revived again at the beginning of 1987 under Colin Baskind, who became and remains president.

From then on, the focus of Sajac changed somewhat.

"Because so many of us had left our families in South Africa, we had to find friends here who would essentially become our family," said Heather Super, Sajac secretary and editor of the biannual Sajac news magazine, which ran from 1977 until 1982 and was revived in February 1989.

A "welcome wagon" was established, where someone who was more settled in the country would go to meet a new family, with a small basket of goodies and information on life in Toronto.

Sajac would also host picnics and braais (or barbecues as they are known here) and individual families would invite those "just off the boat" for Shabbat dinners and other family-oriented get-togethers.

An important objective of Sajac was and continues to be helping new immigrants find accommodation and employment, which in turn, helps them to settle in more easily.

"The key is that we really do make the effort, and today we have Canadians coming to us looking for South African staff because they want people with the good South African work ethic," said Baskind.

The Sajac magazine is an important part of the organization. This advertisement-funded magazine is sent out free of charge to everyone who chooses to be on the database before Pesach and again before Rosh Hashanah.

Sajac sends out magazines to 2,500 homes, but Super and Baskind stress that there are many others who either have opted not to be on the mailing list or have not heard about the organization. They estimate that there are probably no more than 25,000 Jewish South Africans here.

The 140-page publication generates $16,000 and includes a directory of former South Africans offering certain services or with companies or practices in Toronto.

All revenue goes towards the Sajac Bursary Fund, which awards bursaries to Jewish children of South African origin who need funds to help them further their university or college education. "As long as people support us, we are able to support these students," Super said.

One comment made by every immigrant interviewed – whether they have been here for 30 years or four – was that, if anything, it was a crime for their children to have left South Africa because they have grown up to do really well in both the business and the professional worlds.

"The loss of these young people is a 'brain drain' on South Africa because they could have contributed so much to present day society there and helped to build up the fledgling democracy," Baskind said.

Socially and culturally, former South Africans have adapted well to life in Canada. Many feel they are fully integrated and have many good Canadian friends, while others seem to stick to the South African crowd that dominates the Thornhill area (called "doornkop" – Afrikaans for Thornhill – by many) where many former South Africans have settled. "It all depends on where you live and work" said Baskind.

For those who arrived during the main immigration waves, many, like Super, only have friends who are former South African emigrés.

However, in most cases, the children who came with their parents and attended school here have integrated fully into Canadian society through friendships with their Canadian peers. Others who chose to live in areas not populated by many South Africans, have made friends with neighbours and work colleagues.

In some cases, immigrants have chosen not to be involved with former South Africans at all. Today, one would be surprised to hear these people are not born and bred Canadians.

Continued on page B35

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Community Focus

South Africans maintain their customs in synagogues

Continued from page B34

One area where South Africans have made marked changes to create an environment that makes them feel comfortable is in the synagogues.

In South Africa, there is no Conservative community and the Reform community is very small. The shuls, Jewish venues and such are all run on Orthodox principles, but many people who go to shul will drive there and most do not keep strictly kosher although they are very traditional.

Some found Canadian shuls where they felt comfortable and they got very involved. For example, Stephen Held, who moved to Canada 30 years ago with his British wife, Barbara, has been involved with the Shaar Shalom congregation ever since.

"We arrived a few days before Rosh Hashanah," he said. "We chose to attend Shaar Shalom for yom tov and went to pick up our tickets. By the time we had left the shul, we had meals booked for the whole of yom tov. We were just made to feel so welcome."

Other South Africans would go to Orthodox shuls and feel ostracized because they weren't shomrei Shabbat and did not observe the kashrut laws, yet at the same time, they didn't feel comfortable at the Conservative shuls.

To make themselves more comfortable, a group of South Africans got together and created a "South African style" shul.

That first one was Kehillat Shaarei Torah, founded 25 years ago.

"In South Africa, shuls are the focus of the community, in Canada they are not," said Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, the spiritual leader at the shul.

Another difference is that in South Africa, Friday night is the most popular Shabbat service, not Saturday morning, while in Canada, the situation is reversed.

Today the congregation is about half South African and half people from other groups, including some Torontonians, with all the founding members still at the shul.

"We have lots of membership turnover because of people becoming more religious and not wanting to drive to shul," said Rabbi Tradburks of the synagogue, which is on Bayview Avenue near York Mills Road.

As is the case in most shuls, the attendance is split – a third go every Shabbat, a third go occasionally and another third only go for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

On the High Holy Days and at other special times, a choir is brought into the shul to give it a further South African feel.

Rabbi Tradburks said the unique thing about South Africans is that they are a community that has really transplanted itself and maintained its traditions. However, he was worried about the nature of traditional South African community life in years to come, as he feels the power of communal structures is not enough to carry people along in their traditions for the next generation. "The next generation needs to become more observant or they will be lost", he said.

South African choir **[Benji Feldman photo]**

Today, Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is considered "the South African" shul, since 75 per cent of its members have a South African background.

Nineteen years ago, Rabbi Avraham Plotkin was fresh out of a kollel in New York when the Rebbe sent him as a shaliach to Toronto.

In December 1985, he bought a house and opened up a shul in his house.

In September 1987, he met with a few South African families and started Friday night services. "South Africans know how to make a good Friday night," he said.

The match was complete. "They were a community looking for a congregation and I was a congregation looking for a community," Rabbi Plotkin joked.

Although the community is very traditional, most are not observant. The shul is Orthodox.

Everything at the shul is done South African style and the rabbi says he has learned to appreciate the South Africanisms and their way of doing things. The shul has a choir which, the rabbi says, has become a tool for outreach because even those who can't read the siddur well, feel "included and inspired" by the choir.

Funerals are also arranged in the traditional way common in South Africa, with the shul offering a "middleman" to help take care of things so that the family doesn't have to.

They also have a "rolls royce" kiddush every Shabbat, similar to those at shuls back home.

"The South Africans have a strong sense of community and they are there for each other in good times and bad and the shul provides them with a focal point to be able to really rally around one another," said Rabbi Plotkin.

In all spheres, the South Africans have come, set up roots, become a real part of the Jewish community and embraced Toronto, really making the city their own.

The immigrants all said that no matter what the circumstances, the initial transition is hard, the weather is completely different and most either love or hate the winters.

But if one comes with an open mind and is realistic about one's expectations, life in Canada becomes full of opportunities, freedom and an overall good way of life, they added.

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